

HUMELINK

Heritage Surveys

FACT SHEET

HumeLink

HumeLink is a new 500kV transmission line which will connect Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle. It will reinforce the backbone of the east coast's transmission network, delivering a cheaper, more reliable and more sustainable grid.

HumeLink is a once in a generation investment in Australia's energy future, increasing the amount of renewable energy that can be delivered to consumers and helping to facilitate the transition to a low carbon future.

Cultural Heritage surveys

We are undertaking cultural heritage field surveys to help identify and assess archaeological sites. These surveys will help us understand the local environment and identify issues to be taken into account during the planning and design of the project.

We are committed to preserving and respecting cultural heritage sites, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.

A combination of public and private land will be investigated as part of the surveys. If access to private land is required, consent will be sought from the landowner prior to access.

What to expect?

Transgrid representatives will work with landowners to understand expectations and requirements prior to undertaking and completing heritage surveys proposed on private land.

This will include establishing requirements to access the property and the types of activities proposed, including duration and timing.

Once necessary permits and approvals are in place, we will schedule work in the survey area as agreed with the landowner.

How are heritage field surveys conducted?

Field surveys are conducted across the identified area of interest by a combination of Transgrid personnel, archaeologists and representatives from Registered Aboriginal Parties, Traditional Owners or local cultural knowledge holders. The typical number of people surveying is around four.

Surveys are done on foot, however some driving of 4WD vehicles may be required to travel to the area under investigation. We will work with landowners to minimise any disruption to activity on the property.

On foot surveys

On foot surveys will be conducted by at least two archaeologists walking orderly lines, spaced apart at regular distances. The exact nature and location of the walkover may be determined by an onsite assessment of the visible constraints and cultural and archaeological sensitivity of the area. However, the walkover will not go outside the survey area of interest into other areas of the property. Based on the nature of each location, the survey team may assess up to six kilometres per day.

The survey is not repeated, and once the walkover is complete, the team do not return to complete any further recordings.

Site recording

All heritage sites identified will be documented as part of the surveys.

Information collected during the field investigations will include:

- Site name, recorder and date
- Site type
- GPS coordinates
- Landscape and landform character
- Site dimensions
- Site condition and potential to be larger
- Site content including numbers and artefact types, raw materials and detailed recording of a sample of artefacts
- Photos
- Any other relevant information, such as oral information and informant details.



Common items discovered are Aboriginal stone tools

Consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties

As part of the field surveys, Registered Aboriginal Party representatives, Traditional Owners and local cultural knowledge holders will be invited to communicate knowledge regarding the cultural heritage values of the area, archaeological and cultural sites and the overall landscape.

The project team will act in a culturally sensitive manner and treat the information provided with respect (and in confidence, where requested and required).



An aboriginal scar tree

FAQs

What happens if you find an item of cultural significance?

If anything of significance is discovered, the team records the artefact by taking a photo and making notes, before continuing to survey the remaining areas of the property. There is no disturbance to the ground or removal of any artefacts. If the find is scattered outside of the area of interest, the team may walk further on to record the finding, however it is usually only a few meters and within the survey area.

The recording is then sent to the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System, which is managed by Heritage NSW. The recording is also included in Transgrid's Environmental Impact Statement that is submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. All personal property or landowner information is redacted.

If any artefacts of Aboriginal significance are discovered, does that mean someone can claim native title over my land?

No, if any Aboriginal sites or artefacts are discovered on private property, there cannot be a claim of ownership made on that area.

Do I have to stop any activities on my land if anything is found?

If Aboriginal artefacts are found, then a due diligence process needs to be carried out on that area. However, you don't have to follow the due diligence process if you are already carrying out a specifically defined low impact activity. This includes activities such as the maintenance of roads and tracks, farm management on land that has been disturbed e.g. cropping and constructing fences and the continued grazing of animals. The full list is detailed in the Department for Environment, Climate Change & Water document Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales.



Find out more at
Telephone: 1800 317 367 (free call)
Email: humelink@transgrid.com.au
transgrid.com.au/humelink