

# EnergyConnect Community Newsletter

Q3 2025



## A message from the Project Directors

### Celebrating milestones on EnergyConnect

Construction on EnergyConnect continues to make remarkable progress, with several recent milestones reached and more on the horizon.

At the end of August, our teams completed the assembly of the 800th and final tower on Line 2, the transmission line linking Buronga Dinawan substations. Stringing works are well underway, bringing this section of the project closer to completion.

Based on our current program in October, the very last tower on Line 5 between Dinawan and Wagga Wagga substations will be assembled. This moment will mark the assembly of all 1,500 towers across the full 700-kilometre alignment – an extraordinary achievement in scale and complexity.

Our substation program is also advancing. Buronga, now one of the largest and most sophisticated substations in the Southern Hemisphere, has been completed, with energisation testing underway ahead of its connection to the grid. At Dinawan, construction is progressing with the arrival and installation of major equipment. Each of these milestones represents the dedication and expertise of thousands of people working millions of hours.

As the program moves eastward, our workforce accommodation camps at Buronga and Balranald have been demobilised, signalling the transition from construction to commissioning. The remaining three camps will continue to support our teams as they deliver the final stages of work.

These achievements are only possible through the commitment and collaboration of so many. We thank our delivery partners, subcontractors, suppliers, and the communities who have welcomed and supported us along the way.

Together, we are delivering infrastructure that will strengthen the grid, unlock renewable energy, and benefit Australians for generations to come. And we are proud to be achieving this safely and sustainably.

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Felipe Delgado  
*Felipe Delgado*  
Major Projects  
Delivery Director,  
Elecnor.



John Burke  
*John Burke*  
Program Director,  
Transgrid Australia





## Project Snapshot



### 1500 steel towers

#### West

(Buronga to the SA border):  
Complete

#### East

(Buronga to Wagga Wagga):  
More than 50% complete



### Buronga Substation

the largest in Australia, now linking NSW, SA & VIC grids at 150mW capacity



### \$235M+ invested locally

including with First Nations businesses, across Riverina, Murray & Sunraysia



### 1500+ jobs created

via Legacy 100 and CSU engineering scholarships



### 6 worker camps

to ease housing pressure, 2 now demobilised the West



### Almost \$300,000 in community grants

awarded to organisations local government areas



### 15,000 hectares of land preserved

under biodiversity stewardship agreements



### Line 1 Buronga to SA Border completed

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

1

### Buronga substation

- Stage 1A
- Stage 1B

SA border

Red Cliffs

4



### Line 4 Buronga to Red Cliffs completed

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

2

### Line 2 Buronga to Dinawan

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

5

### Line 5 Dinawan to Wagga Wagga

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

Dinawan substation

Wagga Wagga substation upgrade completed



Indicates progress of works completed





## Project Update

### Overhead transmission lines

EnergyConnect's transmission line teams and delivery partners continue advancing the construction program at a steady pace and are now bringing the finishing line into focus. Recently, the 800th and final tower was completed on the line that connects Buronga and Dinawan substations. Next month the final tower on the line

between Dinawan and Wagga Wagga substations will be completed. This will also in fact be the final and 1500th tower on the entire project. These milestones reflect the collaboration of thousands of people and millions of hours of work.

#### Line 2 between Buronga to Dinawan near Bundure

- On August 31st, crews **completed assembly of the last tower** - curiously, referred to as Tower 1, adjacent to Dinawan substation.
- Stringing on this line is now **75% complete** with approximately 285km strung. The remaining 85km is expected to be completed before the end of the year.
- Planning of the easement rehabilitation is also underway.

As the works are now complete in this part of the project, we demobilised our workforce from Camp 5, situated at Balranald.

#### Line 5 between Dinawan and Wagga Wagga:

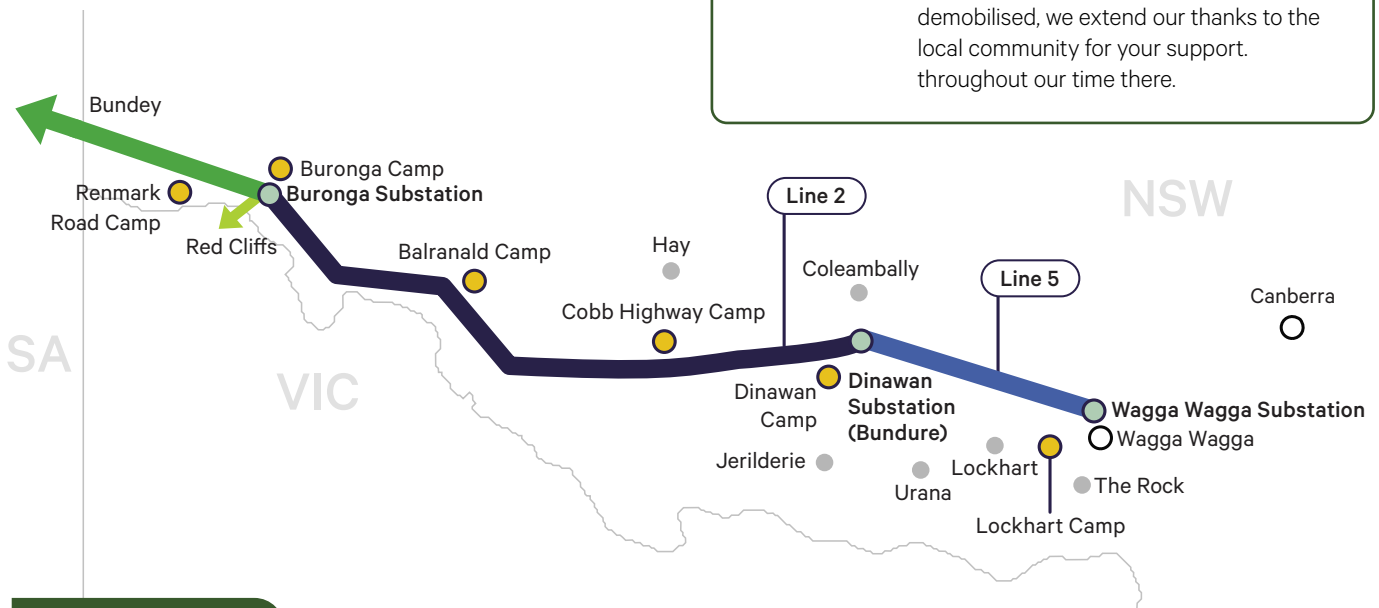
- Assembly and erection is close to **90% complete** with 311 of the 350 Danubio towers in place. The final tower on this line, and the final tower of the project, is expected to be completed in October.
- Stringing of the conductor is almost **50% complete**. By the end of the year this line is expected to be fully strung.



#### Did you know?

Almost \$11 million spent with local businesses of Balranald.

Although our camp at Balranald has now demobilised, we extend our thanks to the local community for your support throughout our time there.



#### Look ahead

One of the key construction activities currently underway is stringing, which will involve road crossings on Line 2 and Line 5 in the coming weeks. We're sharing this information in advance to keep the community informed about our planned work, helping you plan ahead and reduce any potential inconvenience. Please note all road crossing schedules are weather permitting and therefore subject to change. More information about these works, including confirmed dates will be provided as plans progress.

Line 2 Quarter 4 Road Crossings:

- Kidman Way
- Yanga Way
- Romani Road

Line 5 Quarter 4 Road Crossings:

- Federation Way

- The Rock Collingullie Road and Hanging Rock Road
- Columbo Creek
- Newell Highway
- Thurrowa Road
- Bundure Road





## Substations Update

The substation program on EnergyConnect passed through another major milestone marked by the construction completion at Buronga. With commissioning testing in its final stages at Buronga, various work crews have now shifted to Dinawan where major equipment installation continues to advance.

### Buronga

Construction of one of the biggest and most sophisticated substations in the Southern Hemisphere is complete, an enormous milestone for EnergyConnect and moves us closer to full delivery of the project.

Our project team recently marked this milestone with an onsite event with representatives from Wentworth and Balranald Councils and a journalist from Sunraysia Daily. Guests were given a substation tour where they could see the completed works up close along with the scale and complexity of this world class substation.

### Wagga Wagga

At Wagga Wagga, all construction and commissioning works are complete, with the focus now on finalising remediation work and preparation for the connection to EnergyConnect's transmission lines.

Despite being the smaller of the three substations on EnergyConnect, the expanded Wagga Wagga substation plays an important role in transferring power between the north and south of the State.

### Dinawan

Works at the new Dinawan substation are advancing steadily across civil, electrical, mechanical, and Synchronous Condenser workstreams, keeping the project on track for the next stages of commissioning.



Image caption

### Did you know?

Synchronous condensers are complex pieces of equipment designed to enhance grid stability by providing reactive power compensation and system inertia. This is particularly important as renewable energy generation, from sources such as wind and solar, are developed and added to the network. Built in Austria, they are shipped to Australia in parts and then assembled and commissioned on site.





## Business spotlight

### Darlington Point Accommodation Village



**What do they supply:** accommodation for workers on Project EnergyConnect

**When did they start on the project:** late 2023

**What was it like to work with EnergyConnect?**

For Luke Payne, the issue of good, comfortable accommodation for contract workers strikes a chord, having spent many years in the mining industry where he slept in rooms where “you could lie in bed and touch both walls with your arms outstretched”.

So when he moved to Darlington Point from Queensland some years ago, he recognised an opportunity.

“There was a lot going on in the area, and rapid growth in the agricultural and energy sectors but a lack of good quality accommodation that people can enjoy after a long day’s work and relax and unwind,” says Luke.

He decided to build Darlington Point Accommodation Village, and from firsthand experience as a contractor living away from home, he made sure the accommodation is modern and comfortable, offering a range of self-contained cabins with full kitchens and ensuites.



Luke Payne, founder of Darlington Point Accommodation Village.

“I wanted to make sure it was as comfortable as possible.”

Finished in 2020, the Village was booked by Elecnor for about eight months to accommodate subcontractors at the Dinawan substation.

“It’s good economically because it is consistent. I don’t have to worry about chasing business, and they are good guests – up at about 5.30am and gone, and back at about the same time at night.

For Luke, the vision was always to build the business up to a saleable point and then sell and move back to Queensland, so the business is now on the market.



To read this article in full, click here or scan the QR code

Darlington Point Accommodation Village accommodation.



Darlington Point Accommodation Village outdoor area.





## In the community

### Connecting with Crews: Engagement Roadshow Rolls into Dinawan and Cobb Highway

EnergyConnect's Community and Stakeholder Team has been sharing the lessons of Transgrid's Engagement Month with the project's 1500-strong workforce.

The team has delivered engagement roadshows at accommodation camps at Lockhart, Dinawan and Cobb Highway in recent weeks, presenting to the workforce about the important role they play in positive engagement with landowners and communities on the 700km project alignment.

"These roadshows aimed highlight the importance of positive engagement and provide practical tips to the workforce when engaging with the community and landholders," said EnergyConnect Community and Stakeholder Manager Emma Van Biljon.

"We want to empower our construction teams by providing tools and tips to build trust and goodwill and assure them there is a dedicated engagement team available to support them.

"Essentially we want to be good neighbours and guests whilst we are working in the region and leave a positive legacy for future energy projects."



The Community and Stakeholder Engagement team visiting workers at the accommodation camp.

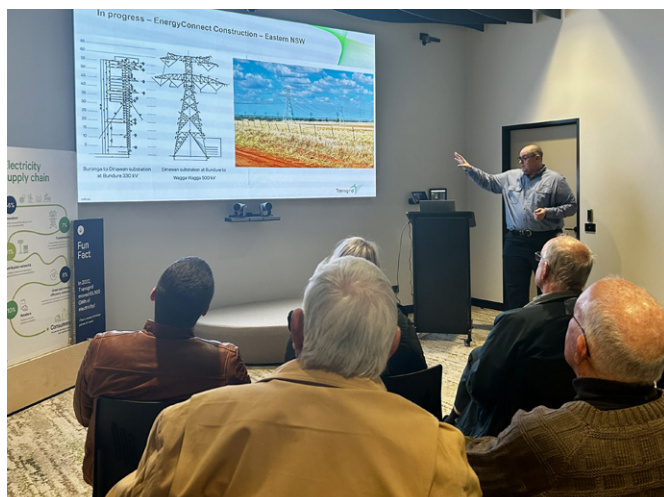
### Conversations with Local Leaders of the Wagga Rotary Club

EnergyConnect's Community and Stakeholder Team hosted an after-hours visit to the Transgrid Discovery Hub members of the Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga last Thursday.

About 30 Rotarians attended the event where they learned about construction progress on EnergyConnect and Transgrid's other major projects in Southern NSW, including HumeLink and VNI West, as well as the work being done in the Discovery Hub.

Community and Stakeholder Lead Jim Hutchinson and Discovery Hub Manager Rebecca Peel presented to the group and opened the floor to Q&A afterwards.

The Transgrid team spoke with Rotarians about a wide range of topics including undergrounding of power lines, easement productivity after towers are erected, solar farms and battery storage in the region, power reliability from renewables, and resilience of transmission towers to severe weather events.



Wagga Rotary Club at the Discovery Hub.

### Strengthening ties at the Wentworth Show

During the last weekend of August, our Engagement and Property Access teams from Transgrid and Elecnor joined the festivities at the Wentworth Show - a much-loved regional event that celebrates country life, farming, and rural traditions.

As proud supporters, Elecnor sponsored the photography display in the pavilion, which featured stunning entries across categories including landscapes, birdlife, and nature & animals.

Over the two days, our team enjoyed many meaningful conversations with community members who stopped by to say hello and learn more about EnergyConnect. We even had the chance to share our story on the show's radio broadcast, which was a fantastic way to connect with the thousands of community members who attended.

### Keeping you posted: What's happening on Holbrook Road

In July and August, the project team completed transmission line stringing works across Holbrook Road—a key route for communities travelling to and from Wagga Wagga.

To minimise disruption and keep the community informed, the project team rolled out a proactive engagement campaign. This included written updates to landholders, local businesses, and residents, variable message signs (VMS) for road users, and pop-up information stalls at Lake Albert, Ashmont, and South City shopping centres.

The initiative reflected EnergyConnect's core values of safety, transparency, and meaningful community engagement. With traffic management in place and consistent communication throughout, the works were completed safely and efficiently.

The project team thank the community for their patience during these works.





## Celebrating culture: Wiradjuri Program at the Discovery Hub

Students across the Riverina are experiencing a unique opportunity to engage deeply with Indigenous culture, language, and traditions through an innovative education program at the Transgrid Discovery Hub in Wagga Wagga.

The Wiradjuri Education Module, delivered in partnership with local Indigenous educators, the Girls at the Centre, and cultural practitioners, aligns with key school curriculum outcomes, aiming to enhance student's cultural awareness and understanding.

Transgrid General Manager Strategic Advocacy, Government and Legacy, Nicole Ryan, emphasised the importance of this initiative in supporting cultural learning and reconciliation.

**“**Transgrid is deeply committed to fostering respectful relationships and understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities,” Ms Ryan said. **”**

“The Wiradjuri Education Module offers a meaningful way for students to engage with and learn about Wiradjuri culture, language and history.

“We have been honoured to collaborate closely with local Wiradjuri Elders and educators to ensure an authentic, respectful and impactful educational experience for all participants.

“This program not only enhances cultural awareness but also builds a greater sense of pride and responsibility among young people to preserve and revitalise Indigenous culture for future generations.”

The workshops, held in July for primary and for secondary students, featured a diverse range of interactive and immersive activities.

Highlights include a Welcome to Country ceremony, yidaki (didgeridoo) playing, Wiradjuri language sessions, traditional storytelling, and hands-on cultural activities the Discovery Hub's

community space and yarning circle.

Wiradjuri educator and animation artist Bernard Higgins from Birdyulang Animations is leading a series of interactive workshops during the two-week program.

Programs included simple Wiradjuri words and phrases and creating a digital avatar video that reflects the diversity of voices engaged with Wiradjuri language.

“Even though Aboriginal people are the oldest continuing culture in the world, we're also embracing new technologies alongside traditional storytelling methods.

“Wiradjuri people are only a small percentage of the population and working with the Transgrid Discovery Hub will help build strong supporters and allies to help preserve and share our language and culture.”

“Through initiatives like this, we continue to champion reconciliation within our industry, creating opportunities for cultural education that resonate deeply with local communities,” Ms Ryan added.



School students at the Discovery Hub as part of the Wiradjuri Program.

## Proud Sponsor of the Wagga Golden Crow Awards

EnergyConnect and HumeLink West proudly co-sponsored the Outstanding Community Organisation category at this year's Wagga Business Chamber Golden Crow Awards. Presented at a gala event at the Wagga RSL Club, the award—recognising contributions to social, cultural, or environmental wellbeing—was won by CareSouth.



Emma Van Biljon presenting the Outstanding Community Organisation award.



## Honouring Country at Buronga

In early July, a smoking ceremony was held at Buronga station to mark an important moment in the EnergyConnect journey. The ceremony honoured the land and its Traditional Custodians in the lead-up to the demobilisation of Elecnor's accommodation camp and laydown area and was led by Damien Kennedy from Barkindji Country.

Buronga substation is one of the largest and most complex substations in the Southern Hemisphere and covers about 15 hectares (37 acres) – equivalent of about 21 soccer fields. Buronga has played a central role in the delivery of EnergyConnect West.

The event was a moment of reflection and respect, recognising the cultural significance of the land and the contributions of the workforce behind this transformative infrastructure.

In May, a special artwork by local Barkindji artist and Elecnor team member Phil Kennedy, a Yardman at the Lockart camp, was unveiled as part of the company's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The acrylic canvas painting was created to represent the

EnergyConnect project and its connection to the land and is a living piece of art.

It was recently completed with the addition of handprints from Transgrid's John Burke, and Elecnor's Felipe Delgado. This act, captured in the photograph, was an important final step in finishing the piece. In Aboriginal culture, handprints are a powerful symbol of a person's presence and a direct link to Country. The act of the leaders adding their handprints shows respect for the artwork itself. It also serves as a visual symbol of their shared commitment to the project and represents a direct link to the traditional lands and the people.

The finished artwork now stands as a visual reminder of the team's work and the project's relationship with the Barkindji and Wiradjuri Nations.



Art and a shared commitment on the EnergyConnect project (Handprints on artwork by Phil Kennedy).



Smoking Ceremony at Buronga Substation

## Acknowledgment of Country

Transgrid acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this great land. We recognise and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first explorers, scientists, farmers, astronomers and storytellers.

We pay respects to the people, the Elders both past and present and celebrate the diversity and successes of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing connections to the lands and waters where we work and live.



## Connect with us

Transgrid and Elecnor Australia are committed to working with landowners and communities through EnergyConnect project. **Please connect with us for more information.**



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