

Meeting Minutes

HumeLink Construction Reference Group – Wagga Wagga

Meeting Title:	HumeLink West Construction Reference Group	Date:	4 December 2025
Location:	Transgrid Discovery Hub, 27 Kincaid Street, Wagga	Time:	4pm – 6pm

Chairperson:	Alec Brown (AB), Community and Stakeholder Manager, Transgrid
Attendees:	Scott Gray (SG), Wagga Wagga City Council Sally Manning (SM), Wagga Business Chamber Rachel Whiting (RW), RDA Riverina David Stratton (DS), community member Katia Salazar Reviakina (KSR), Transgrid Mick Howard (MH), Transgrid Chantelle Garrett (CG), HumeLink West Tim Burns (TB), HumeLink West
Apologies:	Helena Orel (HO), HumeLink West Anthony Goode (AG), Goode's Coaches Max Gordon-Hall (MGH), Inspector of Ranges (Ambulance) Superintendent Stewart Alexander (SA), Fire and Rescue

Agenda items

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
1. Draft Terms of Reference & Code of Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AB gave overview of CRG and purpose. No issues raised by other attendees.AB noted the Terms of Reference are in draft form and feedback is welcome.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All members to review and provide comments or suggested changes via email.CRG members to work collaboratively and constructively and respect confidentiality.
2. Project overview & update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MH gave overview of project scope and status<ul style="list-style-type: none">Final approvals received 26 Sept 2025; full construction commenced late Sept.140 km of line for HumeLink West; ~365 towers (avg. 450 m apart).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TG to share updated detailed alignment maps online and at future CRG sessions.Coordinate traffic management plans for stringing phase

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two operational accommodation camps established (Kunama & Mates Gully Rd). - ~325 km of access tracks (mix of upgrades and new). - Surveying, piling (45 foundations completed), tower assembly underway. - Substation earthworks started at Gugaa and Maragle. - Deliveries of steel and piling cages ongoing. • TB noted tower construction logistics and progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tower steel shipped to port then delivered to laydown areas; towers pre-assembled on ground and erected by crane; stringing to follow once tower sections are complete. - First tower constructed adjacent to Tumbarumba Road - Tower 130 on Line 2. - Stringing likely to commence early to mid-2026. Some roads will need stop-go management while conductors are pulled. 	<p>with Council (stop-go controls).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HumeLink West to publish holiday shutdown and restart dates to stakeholders.
3. West lookahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TB provided the HumeLink West lookahead: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access works largely complete by mid-2026. - Substation builds ~12 months; stringing to commence mid-2026. - Peak workforce expected mid-2026 (~700 personnel). - Clearing commenced in Green Hills (pine) and Bago State Forest (hardwood) with Forestry Corp coordination. Focus on beneficial reuse of hardwood logs. - Relocation of Line 51 (Tumut 3 to Wagga) early 2026. - Road widening at Ashfords Road completed for substation augmentation. <p>Fire Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict protocols aligned with RFS; daily fire risk assessments. • Firefighting trailers and extinguishers deployed. • Restrictions around when hot works can take place. <p>Water Management</p>	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority given to community and emergency needs • Use of recycled water for dust suppression. Road safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IVMS are installed in project vehicles with speed alarms and dashcams. • Weekly driver risk reports are generated. • Corrective coaching is undertaken. • There are clear vehicle identification numbers. 	
4. Community investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AB provided an overview of the Community Investment and Benefits Program and its status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$2M allocated for HumeLink West - 118 proposals received - Shortlist consulted via sessions and surveys. - Focus on projects with lasting community legacy - Announcements pending. • CG provided statistics for employment spending, training and personnel numbers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$9.9m local; \$5.6m Indigenous - 1,200 personnel inducted - NRMA Learner Driver Program (100+ lessons) - 12 scholarships up to \$15k - Pre-employment sessions held for civil trainees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transgrid/HumeLink West to share announcement of successful projects once confirmed

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
5. General project	<p>Renewable energy cumulative impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG outlined issue of pressure from multiple private renewable proposals (solar, battery) seeking proximity to substations and transmission. Community perceives transmission as enabling more projects, raising amenity concerns. • RW reinforced SG's comments noting the roundtable RDA Riverina ran in partnership with the Energy Charter the week previous, and the extensive confusion and disruption some community members/groups are experiencing. RW noted that the communities in the Humelink footprint are likely to experience similar multiple private renewable proposals in the future, mirroring what is happening under the Project Energy Connect transmission line. RW commented that communities probably don't understand that yet and asked if Transgrid have an obligation to prepare communities for this? • SG noted Wagga Wagga City Council is working on amendments to LEP and strategic planning documents. <p>Mapping & transparency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RW asked if the group could be shown exactly where the substations are on a map, in relation to other towns and infrastructure, and suggested that more detailed maps would be of use to the CRG and the community. MH and TB demonstrated that the online maps can be zoomed in for more detail. RW thanked Transgrid staff for this demonstration. • DS observed a very good map, possibly developed by UDL, that showed each and every access point – numbered, that would be very suitable for purpose. • Detailed alignment maps are accessible for community reference on the HumeLink website: HumeLink: Connecting Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle Transgrid. <p>Biosecurity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DS expressed concern about biosecurity, in particular weed spread and property management. DS mentioned the workshops held by RDA Riverina the previous week. • RW noted that PEC project management, environmental, and biosecurity staff participated in the workshop contracted by 	<p>Biosecurity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to discuss biosecurity measures Transgrid/HumeLink West has in place and consider improvements with councils/landowners and table updates at next CRG. • RW to send AB information about the workshop. <p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HumeLink West maintain IVMS/dashcam monitoring and driver coaching <p>Accommodation and workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLW to participate in workforce histogram

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	<p>EnergyCo and delivered in partnership by RDA Riverina and Charles Sturt University.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MH outlined current protocols: Property Management Plans in place; QR code checks at gates. Emphasis on weed prevention. “Come clean, go clean” policy for vehicles and equipment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TB and MH discussed example of stopping piling rig because of residual dirt. - DS noted that biosecurity boundaries do not follow State lines, and that various biosecurity risks have differing boundaries, and that the HumeLink West and East projects intersect several of these. - Opportunity to revisit and improve protocols flagged by AB for next meeting. - RW suggested that Biosecurity was raised to the same level as safety in reporting to the CRG. RW noted that the benefit was not only educating renewable energy projects but also assisting in developing trust between projects and landholders/agriculture sector. <p>Accommodation & workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG raised concerns about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accommodation pressure: Multiple energy projects in the region are competing for limited local accommodation resources. - Workforce strain: Anticipated peak workforce mid-2026 (~700 personnel including office and field staff) will increase demand for housing and services. - Local business capacity: Some businesses are hesitant to engage due to resource constraints and overlapping project timelines. • RW said this is why major projects should participate in the workforce histogram, with an annual update. The workforce histogram can give local government, business and community information to plan for workforce and accommodation demand, and to advocate to state and federal government for more resources. • TB explained that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two operational camps have been established (Kunama and Mates Gully 	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	<p>Road) with capacity for around 350 people each.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One camp is already near full occupancy (~300 people), and the other has about 100, with numbers expected to peak mid-2026. - TB also mentioned arrangements with Rex for flights and accommodation at the pilot school to help ease pressure. <p>Road impacts and driver behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DS noted concerns as to driver behaviour, in particular, on Livingstone Gully Road - the site of the Gugaa Substation. DS expressed concern that project vehicles are not following the speed limit, but are travelling very slowly, and blocking the road to through traffic. DS suggested that project vehicles travel be advised to travel at 80 km/h on the 100 km/h posted road, subject to conditions, to reduce the risk of an accident relating to local vehicles attempting to overtake project vehicles. - TB responded that IVMS and there is an audible alarm if >2 km/h over limit. HumeLink West undertakes speed monitoring and driver coaching. The community is encouraged to report concerns. - TB also explained that dust suppression is ongoing and there is a preference for use of non-potable/recycled water where possible. <p>Project access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A discussion was had as to project headwinds in relation to alignment access generally. SG and SM also commented in relation to their areas of concern on this matter. • DS noted concern that planning measures in relation to various parties in the renewable energy industry had failed to take into account state and national food security, and farming biosecurity measures, and that this was creating a headwind for projects such as Hume Link West. 	
6. Next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly CRG meetings confirmed – alternate online/in-person. • Council requested early notice before community sessions to provide local context and flag concurrent energy proposals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule next CRG meeting for March 2026 (online). • Project to notify councils at least one

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
		week before any drop-in sessions.

Actions

Agenda item	Description	Responsibility
1. Draft Terms of Reference & Code of Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All members to review and provide comments or suggested changes via email. CRG members are not to represent Transgrid or delivery partners in the media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All members
2. Project overview & update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TG to share updated detailed alignment maps online and at future CRG sessions. Coordinate traffic management plans for stringing phase with Council (stop-go controls). HumeLink West to publish holiday shutdown and restart dates to stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KSR CG CG
3. West lookahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No actions required 	
4. Community investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transgrid/HumeLink West to share announcement of successful projects once confirmed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RN
5. General project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosecurity - Opportunity to discuss biosecurity measures Transgrid/HumeLink West has in place and consider improvements with councils/landowners and table updates at next CRG. RW to send AB information about the workshop held by RDA Riverina. Traffic and transport – proactive approach with HumeLink West maintain IVMS/dashcam monitoring, pre-start meetings and driver coaching. Accommodation and workforce - HLW to participate in workforce histogram 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KSR RW TB HumeLink West
6. Next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule next CRG meeting for March 2026 (online). AB to notify councils at least one week before any drop-in sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RN AB

Minutes prepared by: Isobel Manchee, Transgrid

Date prepared: 15/12/2025

Minutes approved by: Alec Brown, Chairperson

Date approved: