Meeting Minutes

HumeLink East Construction Reference Group – Yass Valley and Upper Lachlan Shire

Meeting title:	HumeLink East Construction Reference Group (CRG) – Yass Valley and Upper Lachlan Shire	**Date:**	Tuesday 22 September 2026
Location:	Online – Microsoft Teams	**Time:**	4:00pm – 4:55pm
Chairperson:	Reem Nasr (Transgrid)		
Attendees:			**Apologies:**
Transgrid Reem Nasr (Chair) Isobel Manchee	**HumeLink East (AGJV)** Jacques Coetzee Nea Pilgrim Suzie Presswell Emma Hassett Mike Fitzgerald	**CRG members / stakeholders** Margot Shannon Ian McGrath Anne-Maree Clarke Terry Cooper	Chris O'Brien (Transgrid)

Agenda items

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
1. Acknowledgement of Country	Reem Nasr delivered the Acknowledgement of Country, acknowledging the Ngunnawal people as Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land HumeLink East is being built on, and the Traditional Owners of the lands of all attendees joining via Teams.	Noted.
2. Welcome	Reem welcomed members and outlined the agenda. Gill Elphinston has resigned from her RDA position and will no longer attend the CRG.	Noted.
3. Previous minutes and action items	Previous minutes tabled; no amendments raised. Action items reviewed: • **SIMP / employment numbers link to Gill Elphinston:** Closed. • **Woodhouselee Road school bus hours:** In progress. Team and subcontractors briefed to avoid heavy vehicle movements during bus hours; awaiting subcontractor confirmation before closing. • **Goulburn–Taralga road wear:** Mike Fitzgerald advised Goulburn Road is a state road maintained by Transport for	No amendments to previous minutes raised. Woodhouselee Road bus hours action in progress. Bookham CA follow-up remains open. Reem to clarify telco coverage outcome for Bookham. Reem offered to walk members through the telco site selection process at the next meeting.

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	NSW; Taralga Road is a regional road maintained by council and funded by Transport. A dilapidation report was completed around a month ago and a condition report is available. • **Road grading details to Chris O'Brien:** Closed. • **1800 number and project email to CRG:** Closed. • **SMS delivery notification not received:** Closed. Caused by an internal communication oversight, not a Telstra outage. Nea apologised; a process is now in place so an SMS is issued with every notification. • **Bookham Community Association:**. Bookham Community Association contacted to arrange a community construction update as works ramp up in the area – in progress. • **Goulburn Careers Expo** - Careers Expo closed: Anne-Maree confirmed the teams were already booked in; WDIP team attended in August. • **Telecommunications coverage (Woodhouselee and Bookham):** Assessment identified a candidate site at Pejar Dam; no suitable site yet for Woodhouselee. Reem outlined the multi-criteria analysis (site must be a black spot and within range of an existing or proposed HumeLink tower). Margot noted the status does not address Bookham and that Pejar Dam is a long way from Bookham. Taken on notice. • **Crookwell/Taralga Landscape Rehydration Field Day (11 Sept):** Closed. Promoted through project channels; well attended. • **Enquiry and complaint figures reconciled:** Closed.	
4. Project update	Jacques Coetzee presented progress to date. • **Project wide:** 365 of 459 tower pads; 234 km of 304 km access tracks; 312 of 459 foundations; 144 of 459 towers erected. Tower assembly and steel deliveries ongoing (most steel now in country). Two shunt reactors delivered	Jacques to confirm timing for topping out towers on Ian's property.

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	to Bannaby substation. Stringing underway in South and Central. • **North (Bannaby to Pejar Dam):** 113 of 125 tower pads; 74 km of 82 km tracks; 99 of 125 foundations; 3 of 125 towers erected. Bannaby substation civil and electrical works nearing completion. • **Central (Pejar Dam to Murrumbidgee River):** 135 of 189 tower pads; 80 km of 125 km tracks; 120 of 189 foundations; 57 of 189 towers erected. • **Question (Ian McGrath):** Three towers on his property are assembled to the first level and waiting on a 300 t crane. Jacques explained a 120 t crane builds to a set height, then a 250 t or 300 t crane "tops out" the tower. Two 300 t cranes are on the project (near Dalton and past Bango), plus several 250 t cranes. Ian would like the towers finished so he can close gates.	
5. Construction three-month look ahead	Jacques Coetzee provided an overview of construction in Yass Valley and Upper Lachlan Shire over the next three months: • Access tracks: 207 km still to be built across Central and North zones. • Steel deliveries ongoing across the whole alignment. • Tower assembly on the ground, ready for erection. • Hurdle deliveries and erection to protect local infrastructure before stringing. • Tower erection continuing; more than 60 towers erected in Central and North. • Helicopter conductor stringing underway in Central zone near Dalton/Gunning. Two pulls completed with draw wire strung, ready for conductor.	Noted.
6. Road safety and maintenance	Dedicated resource working on road maintenance across LGAs. Agreements in place with all LGAs except Yass Valley Council. AGJV has launched an online platform to coordinate, track and report council work requests; still waiting on council maintenance schedules. • **Recently completed:** Coolalie Road regraded between Bango Lane and Bushes Road (commenced 31 August);	Nea to contact resident regarding Black Range Road complaint. HumeLink East to address the wet patch on Black Range Road and the Childowla Road wet spot. HumeLink East to progress Burrinjuck Road dilapidation review and maintenance.

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	Bango Lane graded 8 September; Childowla Road graded 18 September. • **Planned / upcoming:** Fairy Hole Road in progress (traffic control in place for service locating). Black Range Road permit preparation underway, works scheduled for early October, weather permitting. Burrinjuck Road raised by council; dilapidation review underway. • **Black Range Road discussion:** Works will focus on corrugations and turning areas along the gravel sections past the second bridge, not a full upgrade of the unformed track section to Burrinjuck Road (creek crossings; would require tree clearing and drainage). Ian noted locals use that section as a sheep laneway and that an ambulance was once stuck there, after which council closed it. He said the road is in better condition overall than before works began but reported a large wet patch/pothole covering half the road about 400m–500m west of his driveway. • **Burrinjuck Road:** Ian noted it is deteriorating. Jacques confirmed it has been raised by council and HumeLink East is comparing dilapidation reports and will act. • **Community feedback:** Margot relayed a resident complaint about Black Range Road and a pothole on the unsealed section of Childowla Road near the Oaky Creek entrance. Jacques advised this is a known wet spot running across the road and the team is looking at it.	
7. Community investment projects update	Suzie Presswell provided the update. 18 projects along HumeLink East received funding. **Yass Valley** • Bookham RFS Brigade – station upgrade; completion very early October. Stage 1 (12m x 10m concrete hardstand) complete. • Bookham Community Association – infrastructure upgrades starting September/early October, completion expected November. • Bookham War Memorial Hall – completed.	Noted.

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	• Bowning Hall – playground shade sail in progress, awaiting council approval. • Binalong Swimming Club – pool solar; completion end of September, ready for season start 3 November. • Binalong Community Club – completed. • Yass Area Landcare – ongoing; due to finish next year. • Yass Swimming Club – final checks with Yass Valley Council; ready for October season start. • Yass Rotary Lookout – delayed by wet weather; Yass Earthmovers engaged; viewing platform in progress. **Upper Lachlan Shire** • Taralga Sports Club – deck; awaiting DA approval. • Taralga Pony Club – existing stables demolished; awaiting DA approval for new stables. • Taralga Showgrounds – pavilion upgrade; completion early October. • Upper Lachlan Wood Guild – near completion. Guild was broken into and some funded equipment stolen; covered by insurance. Four workbenches built with laser-cut Transgrid and HumeLink East logos. **Regional** • RFS Southern Tablelands Logistics Brigade – final equipment delivery October. No questions. Margot commended the program.	
8. Communications and complaints overview	Nea Pilgrim presented. • **Communications:** September newsletter distributed. Monthly construction updates 1 October and 2 November; December newsletter 7 December. Letterbox notifications continuing. • **Upcoming events:** Yass Valley Business Chamber, Battle on the Bidgee, Murrumbateman Field Days, Snowy Valleys Heavy Vehicle Industry Breakfast. • **Community information sessions (October):** Crookwell Memorial Hall – Tuesday 13 October; Goulburn –	Nea to circulate information session dates and locations in writing. Margot to email details of the vehicle access incident to Nea. Nea to investigate the unauthorised access report and contact the resident directly. Nea to investigate truck speed concerns near the school bus stop.

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	Wednesday 14 October; Taralga Sports Club – Thursday 15 October. Focus on the North accommodation strategy and a general project update. Anne-Maree plans to attend all three. • **Complaints:** 58 approaches (17 enquiries, 41 complaints), 20 June – 16 September. Main themes: driver behaviour and road conditions (top theme for several quarters), access and property, and dust (increasing as conditions dry). • **Positive feedback:** Cockatoo Road residents; speed of complaint response; helicopter stringing less disruptive than expected. Ian also praised crews for closing gates. • **1800 number:** Shared in the Teams chat at Margot's request for distribution to local groups. • **Issues raised by Margot on behalf of residents:** (1) A parent reported trucks travelling at high speed on Childowla and Burrinjuck roads while children wait for the school bus. (2) A resident reported an unidentified silver 4WD ute driving through their property via gates despite signage, and requested gravel trucks be limited to 80 km/h. • **Ian McGrath:** A sightseer drove onto his property unannounced. Concern that new access tracks and signage may attract the public as towers go up. Reem reminded members they can raise issues at any time, not only at CRG meetings.	
9. General business	• **Driving position (Margot):** Requested trucks and project vehicles keep to the left on narrow country roads rather than driving in the centre, which makes overtaking difficult and corners hazardous. Ian agreed. • **Crew movements (Ian):** Asked why crews move between non-adjacent pads. Jacques explained it is driven by steel availability, foundation handovers and ground conditions, and by prioritising completion of towers within a stringing pull. There are 52 pulls along the alignment (6–12 towers each); 6 are complete. Reem suggested diagrams would help.	Jacques to prepare diagrams of stringing pulls and progress for the next meeting. Nea to follow up on rehabilitation of tower pad 277 with Ian.

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	• **Rehabilitation (Ian):** Landowners nearing the end of works are concerned about erosion and the condition properties will be left in. Nea outlined the rehabilitation process, including individual discussions on which access tracks landowners retain, seed mixes and remediation of temporary works and pads, and offered site-specific discussions. Ian raised tower pad 277 (built on fill) as a concern. • **Council (Terry Cooper):** Council has received numerous complaints about Coolalie Road and Black Range Road and some about Childowla Road, which have eased since works. Coolalie Road works are finishing and Black Range Road works are about to start. • **Anne-Maree Clarke:** Promotes the project contact numbers to resolve local road issues; this has been effective.	
10. Next meeting	Next meeting proposed for the week of Monday 23 November 2026, ideally in person. Members to advise if timing does not suit given the lead-up to school holidays.	Isobel to send a calendar placeholder.

Action items

Agenda item	Description	Person responsible	Date
3. Previous actions	Confirm subcontractors are avoiding heavy vehicle movements on Woodhouselee Road during school bus hours (approx. 7:30–9:30am), then close action.	Nea Pilgrim / Wayne Poulsen	Next meeting
3. Previous actions	Arrange community construction update with Bookham Community Association.	Nea Pilgrim	As works ramp up in Bookham
3. Previous actions	Clarify telecommunications coverage outcome for Bookham (Pejar Dam candidate site does not serve Bookham).	Alec Brown	Next meeting
3. Previous actions	Present overview of telecommunications site selection process.	Alec Brown	Next meeting
4. Project update	Confirm timing for topping out partially erected towers on Ian McGrath's property.	Jacques Coetzee	TBC
6. Roads	Contact resident regarding Black Range Road complaint.	Nea Pilgrim	23 September 2026

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6. Roads	Address wet patch/pothole approx. 400m–500 m west of Ian McGrath's driveway on Black Range Road, and wet spot on Childowla Road near the Oaky Creek entrance.	Jacques Coetzee	Early October 2026
6. Roads	Progress Burrinjuck Road dilapidation review and maintenance response.	Jacques Coetzee	TBC
8. Comms and complaints	Circulate October community information session dates and locations to CRG members in writing.	Nea Pilgrim	Before 13 October 2026
8. Comms and complaints	Email details of the unauthorised vehicle access incident to Nea.	Margot Shannon	ASAP
8. Comms and complaints	Investigate unauthorised vehicle access report and contact resident directly.	Nea Pilgrim	TBC
8. Comms and complaints	Investigate truck speed concerns on Childowla and Burrinjuck roads near the school bus stop, including request for 80 km/h limit on gravel trucks.	Nea Pilgrim	TBC
9. General business	Prepare diagrams showing stringing pulls and progress.	Jacques Coetzee	Next meeting
9. General business	Follow up rehabilitation of tower pad 277 with Ian McGrath.	Nea Pilgrim	TBC
10. Next meeting	Send calendar placeholder for week of 23 November 2026.	Isobel Manchee	ASAP

Next meeting

Date:	Week of Monday 23 November 2026 (TBC)	**Time:**	TBC
Location:	In person (TBC)	**Chairperson:**	Alec Brown