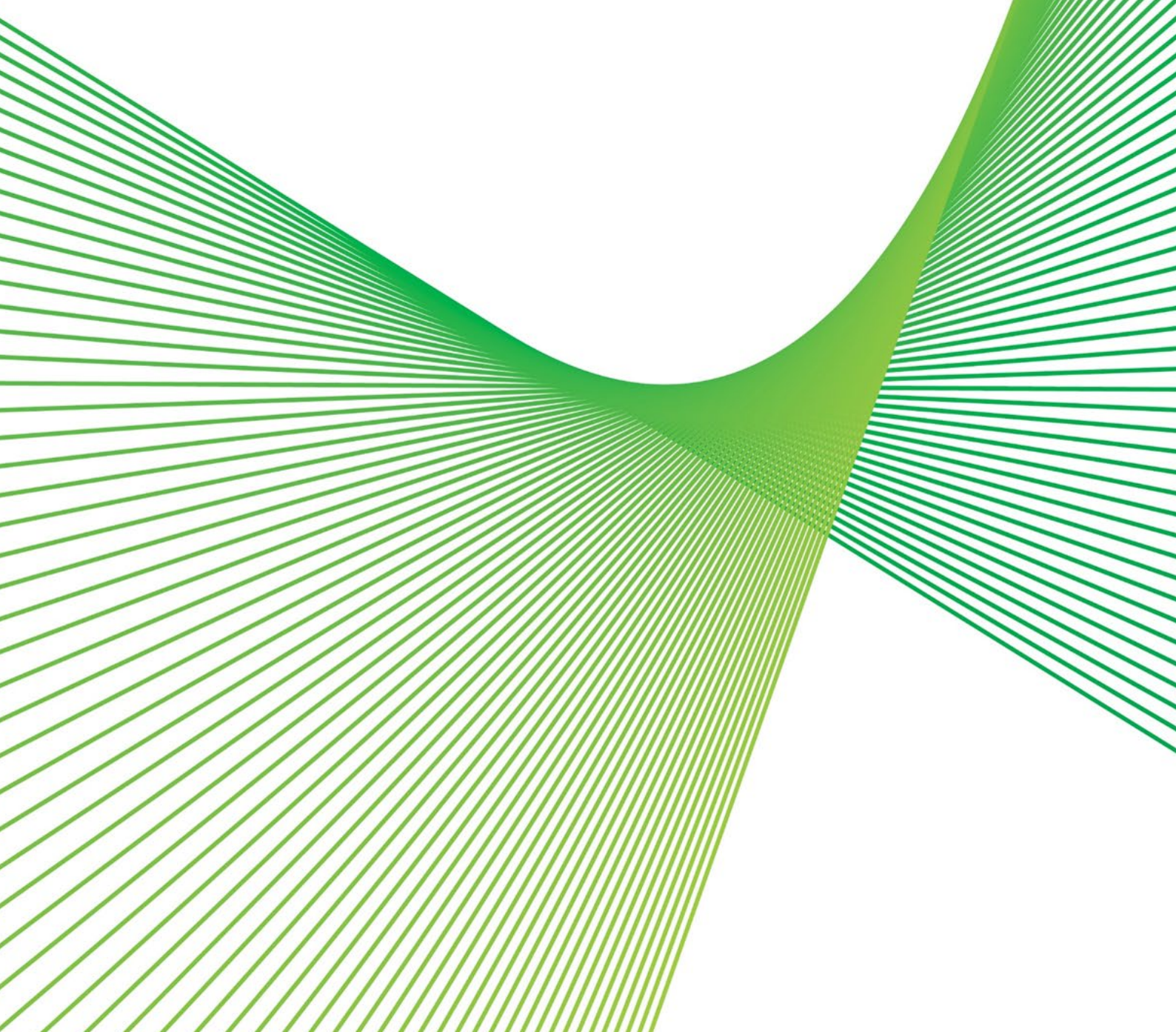


What we heard report

HumeLink West Community Information Sessions
May – June 2025



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Purpose

The purpose of this report is to capture and share information discussed at the HumeLink West in-person community engagement sessions, held in May and June 2025. This report will be published on the HumeLink West project website as a record of engagement to ensure transparency in key outcomes for each session. The information gathered through the information sessions will be considered during the project's delivery phase.

Summary

The HumeLink West community information sessions were designed to engage a broad audience of interested communities, landowners, local government and businesses, provide project updates and discuss future consultation where applicable to the local area. The sessions were held in response to local community concerns raised through various channels including local media and in person discussions. Concerns raised by attendees included project operations, water use and vehicle movements on local roads.

The sessions were held at four locations across the project alignment over three weeks between Wednesday 21 May and Wednesday 4 June 2025. Locations of the sessions were determined by the prominence of construction activities in the area and the source of community enquiries.

The sessions focused on sharing updates on current work activities, highlighting progress and procedures in place on-site, as well as proposed project amendments including:

- Accessing water sources and how water will be used during construction
- Vehicle movement management plans along the alignment for both heavy and light vehicles
- Updates and changes to construction compounds and worker accommodation facilities, including proposal of a work compound at Lower Bago Road, Green Hills.
- Easement clearing and safe work management during changing weather conditions.

The community information sessions offered a practical two-way communication approach, allowing stakeholders to meet and discuss the project with representatives from Transgrid and HumeLink West senior management, engineering, logistics, property, traffic, environment, workforce development and community engagement teams. Communications materials available at each session included:

- Interactive presentations facilitated by the HumeLink West Project Director and tailored to each local area, providing project updates, visual mapping of approved project vehicle movement plans and specific information on project features, including road changes for Mates Gully Road, Tarcutta and the Tarcutta facility, and the proposed construction compound at Lower Bago Road, Green Hills.
- Maps identifying project alignment, water access points and other points of interest including accommodation facilities and construction compounds
- Community factsheets detailing design of transmission towers, enabling work activities and water use
- HumeLink West project quarterly newsletter

- Display map of the 365-kilometre HumeLink alignment outlining the two delivery partner packages: HumeLink East and HumeLink West
- Posters providing key information on project initiatives including employment opportunities and opt-in subscription to project updates.

Engagement approach

Community information sessions

All sessions were held during the evening so community members would have an opportunity to attend after work hours or commute periods. The sessions were held in central locations along the project footprint to enable convenient access, encourage foot traffic and to support meaningful conversations in key community gathering spaces. Information was intentionally displayed throughout the venue, with project representatives positioned around the room to allow for group movement and a natural flow of engagement. Light catering was provided to facilitate a more approachable atmosphere.

The community information sessions were broken into two one-hour portions. The first hour of the session consisted of an interactive sit-down presentation facilitated by the HumeLink West Project Director which delved into the community topics of concern, supported by visual aids and simplified content. Attendees were encouraged to engage in this portion, where questions were answered by a panel of HumeLink West subject matter experts to ensure accurate and immediate responses.

The second half of the session focused on targeted engagement, designed to address additional questions in an individual or small group settings. This format encouraged more in-depth discussions around specific community concerns. Conversations were supported by the presentation portion and additional on-hand collateral.

Advertising

A multi-channel advertising campaign utilising print, digital and social media platforms was implemented to maximise reach of community members who live, work or commute throughout the project footprint, accounting for the varying demographics and media preferences of the area.

Information about the time and location of the community sessions was distributed to more than 150 existing HumeLink West project subscribers via email including impacted landowners, businesses, local information distributors and the general community. The key information was additionally published on the HumeLink project website and promoted at Batlow Ciderfest 2025.

Printed flyers were distributed to local businesses, community centres and libraries to be displayed on noticeboards and storefronts in regional towns across the alignment, including Batlow. Letterbox drops also took place in the Tarcutta, Humula, Ladysmith and Gregadoo areas.

The sessions were advertised on social media via a social media post from Snowy Valleys Council on Facebook on May 20, which received 9 shares and 1 like. This post was further shared in community groups such as 'The Tumut Community Group', 'BATLOW and Beyond

BULLETIN' and 'Tarcutta N.S.W Connect', with over 18,000 subscribers to these forums

The table below outlines the dates, locations, and total attendee numbers at the community information sessions:

Table 1.1 Community information sessions held May to June 2025

Week	Location	Date	Time	Venue	Attendees
Week 1	Batlow	Wednesday 21 May	5pm-7pm	Batlow RSL Club	20
Week 2	Tarcutta	Tuesday 27 May	6pm-8pm	Tarcutta RSL & Citizens Club	45
	Tumbarumba	Thursday 29 May	5pm-7pm	Tumbarumba Bowling Club	7
Week 3	Gregadoo	Wednesday 4 June	4:30pm-6:30pm	Gugaa substation compound, Livingstone Gully Road	7
Total attendees:					79

Key themes

Key themes from the community information sessions are outlined below, ranked from the most prominent theme raised to the least.

Traffic impacts and project vehicle movements

The most popular theme raised by community members at all information sessions. Key interest in road safety, heavy vehicle movements during enabling works and expected movements and routes during main construction, expected amount of vehicle movement on local roads and further detail on road changes proposed at Tarcutta and Green Hills temporary accommodation facilities. Additional enquiries were raised on pending project road maintenance agreements with Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) and Snowy Valleys Council (SVC).

Water usage

Another prominent theme at each information session was water usage, arising from increased local and social media coverage referring to project water usage with implementation of Level 1 water restrictions within the SVC local government area. Stakeholders further enquired on location of project water sources, volume of water needed during project lifecycle and specific purposes of potable and non-potable water.

General project overview

This theme revolved around providing information on general project updates, project alignment, construction compounds, temporary accommodation facilities and expected timeline on start of main construction work activities. Stakeholders also enquired about council's involvement in providing feedback on locations of temporary accommodation facilities and project approvals required prior to commencement of main construction activities.

Coordination of work and safety in changing weather conditions

Stakeholders enquired on construction activities planned during changing weather conditions between winter and summer periods for both Wagga Wagga and Snowy Valleys regions. Additional queries focused on the type and amount of traffic safety procedures implemented on-site as well as environmental controls in place to manage sediment run-off at accommodation facilities during rainfall events.

Data connectivity and reception in local towns

Concerns raised by community members regarding the growing demand on local telecommunications infrastructure, including mobile phone networks. Concerns focused on increased vehicle movement in local towns and the establishment of temporary accommodation facilities.

Vegetation clearing

This theme included the amount of vegetation clearing required to facilitate and maintain easement of transmission lines. Additional enquiries focused on ownership of easement maintenance and process of clearing and storing wood on landowner properties.

Emergency response and bushfire risk/management

Stakeholders at the Tarcutta community information queried whether the project would receive prioritised local emergency response over property owners in the area. Further

information on bushfire management mitigations and facilities available on-site were also a primary point of discussion.

Biosecurity

This theme centred around the biosecurity of project materials imported from overseas and the risk to existing farming operations and properties.

Community investment

Discussion regarding allocations on local business spend within the community by delivery partners and the project workforce was raised, alongside the opportunity to create and implement projects which serve to have a long-lasting legacy prior to project completion.

Community information sessions overview

This section provides an overview of the topics raised at each community information session and the response discussion. If you feel that any significant items are not noted in this report, please reach out to the HumeLink team on 1800 317 367 or humelink@transgrid.com.au

Session 1

Location: Batlow

Date/Time: Wednesday 21 May 5pm-7pm

Topics

- Publication of HumeLink West Vehicle Movement Plan (VMP) across project alignment.
The HumeLink West VMP will be published on the HumeLink website.
Note: Following this community information session, the VMP was published on the HumeLink website: [humelink-west-vehicle-management-plan.pdf](#)
- Deterioration and safety of local road conditions due to increased use of project heavy and light vehicles.
A road maintenance agreement is being finalised in consultation with Snowy Valleys Council.
Note: Following this community information session, a road maintenance agreement has been finalised with Snow Valleys Council.
- Proposed work compound on Lower Bago Road, Green Hills.
The community will be formally invited to provide feedback on a proposed work compound at Lower Bago Road, Green Hills.
Note: Following this community information session, HumeLink West sought community feedback on a [proposal for a work compound at Lower Bago Road, Green Hills](#).
- Biosecurity procedures due to large number of imported project materials and vehicles movements entering several properties regularly across project alignment.
Imported items are destuffed and undergo a standardised customs examination process at main entry port before loaded onto heavy vehicles for on-site delivery. Individual Property Management Plans (PMP) are developed in consultation with each landowner and implemented in accordance with required biosecurity measures. Biosecurity measures include check-in scanning prior to property entry, training on biosecurity is provided to all inducted project workers and biosecurity kits fitted to all project light vehicles.
- Project use of electricity, mobile and data connectivity potentially disrupting services in the area.
Electricity supply – Energy capacity studies were completed in the area and confirmed upgrades to the distribution network are required to meet the demand of temporary accommodation facilities in both Kunama and Tarcutta. These upgrades will be undertaken by the project to ensure appropriate electricity supply at the accommodation facilities throughout project construction.
Mobile connectivity – As part of establishment of the accommodation facilities at Kunama and Tarcutta, HumeLink West will establish mobile phone and data coverage for those locations, utilising existing infrastructure including satellite

connectivity. The HumeLink West project team is not heavily dependent on mobile phone networks for day-to-day activity due to all vehicles are equipped with two-way radios, with a limited number of satellite phones deployed to ensure safe and secure communications can be maintained by work teams operating from the most remote locations, where conventional communications links are unavailable.

- *Transportation of project workers to Green Hills temporary accommodation camp. Project buses will transport workers to accommodation facilities and between accommodation facilities and work sites. Project workers who are located within one hour of the accommodation facility will have the ability to drive-in and out in private vehicles. Parking for about 200 light vehicles, 10 mini-buses and 50 heavy vehicles will be available at the Green Hills temporary accommodation camp.*
- *Project water usage, established water supply points, transportation and water restrictions in place in Snowy Valleys Council (SVC) area. Water agreements are in place with SVC which govern access to non-potable and potable water sources. Water supplied to the project for construction use is determined in line with Council's restrictions levels, including supply being terminated by SVC at restriction Level 3 and water runoff being collected as outlined by water storage procedures implemented on-site. The agreement allows Council to prioritise community and residents' supplies, when required. For more information on project water usage please visit: www.transgrid.com.au/media/2cqhmsq/humelink-water-fact-sheet-may-2025.pdf*
- *Project ability to manage potential bushfire risk during hotter climates with main construction approval pending. The monitoring of fire risk is managed within the NSW Rural Fire Service Fire Risk Matrix as well as Transgrid and Snowy Valley Council's Bushfire Management Plans. All project vehicles are fitted with a bushfire kit (which generally includes water, shovel, chemical and/or water extinguishers, fire blankets, hoses and pumps). Water carts are available for on-site use and additional water storage is available at each facility and compound, in accordance with NSW Rural Fire Service standards and in compliance with the relevant management plans.*
- *Community legacy programs and initiatives during and post project completion. Information provided on [HumeLink's Community Investment and Benefits Program](#) consultation process for community members wanting to apply for funding for legacy projects. Discussions regarding opportunities for project use of entertainment and recreation facilities are ongoing with local businesses in the area. Note: Following this community information session, [expressions of interest](#) for community investment initiatives opened on 16 June 2025 and closed on Sunday 27 July 2025.*

Session 2

Location: Tarcutta

Date/Time: Tuesday 27 May 6pm-8pm

Key topics raised:

- Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) consultation on the Tarcutta accommodation facility location.
Transgrid advised WWCC was consulted on the facility location and agreed to provide further information on feedback received from council.
Note: Following this community information session, the listed sources of information below were provided:
 - *Engagement Outcomes Report appended to the HumeLink Amendment Report: [HumeLink - Amendment Report](#) – Section 5.2. Stakeholder discussions and feedback (5.2.3. Local government) (section dealing with evidence of consultation).*
 - *Submissions report: [HumeLink Submissions Report](#) (see Section 6 for response to local council submissions)*
 - *[Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Statement](#) and Chapter 5 of the [Amendment Report](#) provide additional information on stakeholder and community engagement during the planning stage of the project.*
- Project use of Keajura Road and Westbrook Road for vehicle movements and suggestion to install road call up markers at Westbrook Road.
The project is approved to use the roads detailed in the Environmental Impact Statement. This includes Keajura and Westbrook roads. Project use of Keajura Road is limited to light vehicles with the exception of a five-kilometre section from the Hume Highway which is approved for use by project heavy vehicles.
Local conditions are considered in the project planning and mitigation measures which include driver training, monitoring of road conditions and vehicle monitoring systems.
The project is required to restore and rectify project-related impacts to roads or pay the full costs associated with repairing under [Condition of Approval B38](#). This will be done in consultation with Wagga Wagga City Council for roads under their authority.
Note: Following this community information session, HumeLink West will be installing UHF (ultra-high frequency) call up signs on Westbrook and Yaven Creek roads.
- Management of approved project vehicle movements on Mates Gully Road.
An In-Vehicle Management System is fitted to all project vehicles, geofencing use of Mates Gully Road. The system alerts and reports on project vehicles entering restricted sections. Monitoring of vehicles entering and exiting the Tarcutta accommodation facility site is in operation.
- Proposed changes to traffic conditions on Mates Gully Road, including design, duration, safety procedures and traffic-set up required for entrance to Tarcutta accommodation facility.
The road changes have been designed in line with safety requirements in the Australian Road Standards, including the new speed limits and the appropriate line marking and geometry of the road. Variable message signs will be used to notify of changes to the road configuration as required. Any change to the proposed access point into Tarcutta accommodation facility is required to meet the safe design of intersection entrance into the facility, and will be determined in consultation with Wagga Wagga City Council. HumeLink West confirmed stop and go temporary traffic

arrangement will be required on Mates Gully Road to complete the new intersection into the temporary accommodation facility. This is estimated to be active for 10 to 12 weeks, with road widening from 2.5 to 3.5 metres to be implemented. Best practice to help control traffic speed will be in place where required, as outlined in pending traffic staging provisions and following feedback received from community on the requirements of agricultural equipment using Mates Gully Road.

Note: Following this community information session, road widening work at Mates Gully Road started on 7 July 2025, and is planned to be completed in September 2025.

- Changes to Mates Gully Road traffic conditions potentially impacting harvesting season and economic output of agricultural businesses in the area.
There is ongoing engagement to ensure oversize agricultural equipment required is considered when planning the traffic staging on Mates Gully Road, with the aim to limit impacts wherever possible.
- Safety concerns with heavy vehicle travelling along Mates Gully Road due to road width and poor road condition.
There is an acknowledged increase in vehicle movements as identified in the project [Environmental Impact Statement](#). The project [Conditions of Approval](#) specify use of local roads in accordance with the approved project Vehicle Movement Plan, which sets out safety requirements for project vehicles. The project is required to restore and rectify project-related impacts to roads or pay the full costs associated with repairing under [Condition of Approval B38](#). This will be done in consultation with Wagga Wagga City Council for roads under their authority.
- Council involvement in approved project vehicle routes.
Approved roads were identified as part of the [Environmental Impact Statement](#) and were reviewed and consulted with the Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) prior to project approval. Additional permits under Section 138 are being progressed for temporary access to build the Tarcutta accommodation facility on Mates Gully Road and an additional permit is pending with WWCC to complete road widening activities.
- Project workers in private vehicles using Mates Gully Road to commute to and from the Tarcutta accommodation facility.
In vehicle monitoring systems (IVMS) are not installed in private vehicles. Toolbox talks are used to regularly remind workers of the need to avoid Mates Gully Road from the Sturt Highway. Monitoring is being conducted and action taken if any private vehicles are used to enter the worksite from the north.
- Vegetation clearing on alignment and bushfire management/risk involved.
Easement clearing is required to reduce bushfire risk and is determined by the project footprint, topography of the land, the shape of clearing as well as arborist and further geographical surveys. The Biodiversity Management Plan determines the approach to vegetation clearing and considers factors such as bushfire risk and sustainability. Property management plans have, or are being developed, in consultation with affected landowners to ensure their requirements for various items are met including removal of tree roots, storage of wood, biosecurity measures and visibility or removal of access tracks on their property.
- How many heavy vehicles are estimated to travel along local roads as well as the size and combination type of heavy vehicles being used.
B-doubles will primarily be utilised to deliver steel materials for tower assembly, with

deliveries to be split onto single trucks where possible on routes to construction compounds. Semi-trucks, water tankers and 8-by-8 trucks will also be utilised for varying construction purposes, including plant delivery. All vehicles will be required to follow approved routes and follow project safety requirements.

- Water runoff near accommodation facility and management of sewage water.
The project's [Enabling Works Management Plan](#) states that Erosion and Sediment Control Plans (ESCPs) are required to be prepared and implemented to manage and mitigate potential erosion and sedimentation. The ESCP for the temporary accommodation facility at Tarcutta contains site specific details, including access roads locations, materials storage and detention basins. Erosion sediment controls either have or are being installed, in line with the ESCP, and additional conditions applied which stipulate how water is treated, monitored and regulated off site in accordance with the EPA Act 1979 and Water Act 2014.
- Prioritisation of local services for the project over community in cases of emergencies, and resources available on site to manage fire.
The project will have no priority over any community member or stakeholder and fire risk is managed in line with NSW Rural Fire Service Fire Risk Matrix as well as Transgrid and Snowy Valley Council's Bushfire Management Plans. All project vehicles are fitted with a bushfire kit, water carts are available for use on-site and additional water storage available at each facility and compound in accordance with NSW Rural Fire Service standards.
- Town water usage by the project and how many loads of water are expected to be travel throughout town daily.
An estimated three heavy vehicles, each storing 23,000L, will be utilising the water access point in town and distributing to the Tarcutta accommodation facility daily when it is operational.
- Use of project CCTV cameras on Hume Highway.
CCTV cameras are used to record number of vehicles travelling along the Hume Highway as a planning measure for future construction work, including stringing of transmission lines when required.
- Publication of meeting minutes to be available to attendees.
Notes of the community information session will be published on the HumeLink website [HumeLink West Project Overview & Updates | Transgrid](#).
- Request for regular community meetings.
Bi-monthly community information sessions will be held at Tarcutta with the next session scheduled for 6-8pm, Tuesday 12 August 2025 at Tarcutta RSL and Citizens Club. For more information on upcoming community events please visit: www.transgrid.com.au/humelink-west/#What-s-happening-in-the-community.

Session 3

Location: Tumbarumba

Date/Time: Wednesday 28 May 5pm-7pm

Key topics raised:

- Mounting pressure on traffic and poor road conditions due to increased project heavy and light vehicle movements on local roads.
A project road maintenance agreement is being finalised in consultation with Snowy Valleys Council.
- Non-potable water sources and use.
Provided information on access locations for non-potable water and uses for construction-related activities, including dust suppression.
- Project duration and completion.
The project is expected to be completed by late 2027, holding a design life of up to 100 years. Main construction work is expected to start in the second half of 2025.
- Influx of project workers and potential impacts to tourists seeking local accommodation.
Under the project [Conditions of Approval](#), temporary facilities to accommodate workers during the main construction phase are required to be built, as part of measures to minimise impacts on local accommodation. An Interim Accommodation Strategy is in place to manage worker accommodation while these temporary facilities are built. The project is continuing to work to minimise impacts on local accommodation throughout construction and welcomes feedback from the community.
- Process of remediation on project and responsibility of easement maintenance after project completion.
*Any wood larger than 200mm in diameter is to be stockpiled for landowner use and responsibility, with the remainder mulched and spread across the alignment for construction use.
Transgrid will be responsible of the easement once construction activities are completed. Easement maintenance is critical to Transgrid's daily operations, enabling access for all Transgrid staff and contractors who perform asset maintenance and replacement activities. For more information on easement maintenance, please visit: www.transgrid.com.au/media/3tkdd5lr/easement-guidelines.pdf.*
- Noise expected from main construction work and approvals for work outside of standard construction hours.
Standard work hours are Monday to Friday, 7am to 6pm and Saturday 8am to 1pm. Noise assessments are completed prior to construction work, which are continually monitored and reported to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in accordance with the project [Conditions of Approval](#). If work outside of standard construction hours is required, the affected community will be consulted and notified before the start of work.
- Sourcing of materials, general productivity of workers and construction work program during changing weather conditions.
Steel materials are sourced from China, with over 12 teams estimated to assemble the transmission towers simultaneously during HumeLink West construction peak. There are no current plans to shut construction down during winter, with planned

work driven by weather conditions and safety procedures governed by delivery partners.

HumeLink West is focused on hiring and upskilling local people to increase work productivity and knowledge in the industry.

- *Project use of phone and data connectivity causing disruption to services in the area. As part of establishment of the accommodation facilities at Kunama and Tarcutta, HumeLink West will establish mobile phone and data coverage for those locations, utilising existing infrastructure including satellite connectivity. The HumeLink West project team is not heavily dependent on mobile phone networks for day-to-day activity due to all vehicles are equipped with two-way radios, with a limited number of satellite phones deployed to ensure safe and secure communications can be maintained by work teams operating from the most remote locations, where conventional communications links are unavailable.*

Session 4

Location: Gregadoo

Date/Time: Tuesday 4 June 4:30pm-6:30pm

Key topics and responses

- Size of Gugaa substation upon completion and whether the facility will have permanent lighting 24/7.

The perimeter of Gugaa substation will be approximately 500x200 metres, as a dual facility to accommodate and augment the voltage of existing and new transmission lines being built.

External lighting will be installed around the perimeter and above the doors of the auxiliary services building to ensure visibility and enhance security. The building-mounted lights will be controlled by a photoelectric cell for automatic dusk-to-dawn operation.

These lights will be controlled via motion sensors integrated with the security system for automatic activation upon detecting movement. Additionally, manual control will be available to support operational access when required. The lighting system is designed to minimise light spill in accordance with Australian Standard 4282.

For more information on the Gugaa substation please visit:

www.transgrid.com.au/media/rnydxz5z/humelink_gugaa_substation_factsheet.pdf.
- Approval for main construction work and when to expect tower assembly activities.

The HumeLink West Construction & Environment Management Plan (CEMP) is expected to be approved mid-year 2025 with main construction subsequently staged over the third quarter of 2025. The CEMP and associated sub-management plans underpin all main construction work and will trigger activities including foundation work prior to tower assembly, anticipated to start in the second half of 2025.
- Livingstone Gully Road upgrade.

The project will continue to investigate potential re-sheet and reseal of the section of road used by the project to access the Gugaa compound and substation to manage project vehicle movements. These ongoing maintenance works are subject to discussion and approval by Wagga Wagga City Council.

The project is required to restore and rectify project-related impacts to roads or pay the full costs associated with repairing under [Condition of Approval B38](#). This will be done in consultation with Wagga Wagga City Council for roads under their authority.
- Concrete batch plant locations across project.

Provided information on concrete batch plant locations including Tumut, Wagga Wagga, Tarcutta accommodation facility and a proposed facility on Lower Bago Road, Green Hills which will require further community consultation.

Note: Following these community information sessions, the project requested community feedback on a [proposal for a concrete batch plant at Cullinga Park Lane, Tarcutta](#). This batch plant would eliminate the need for a batch plant at the Tarcutta accommodation facility.
- Extent of easement clearing, maintenance of easement and access tracks, and assessment of tree roots on properties.

Easement clearing is required to reduce bushfire risk and is determined by the project footprint, topography of the land, the shape of clearing as well as arborist and further geographical surveys. The Biodiversity Management Plan determines the

approach to vegetation clearing and considers factors such as bushfire risk and sustainability. Property management plans have, or are being developed, in consultation with affected landowners to ensure their requirements for various items are met including removal of tree roots, storage of wood, biosecurity measures and visibility or removal of access tracks on their property.