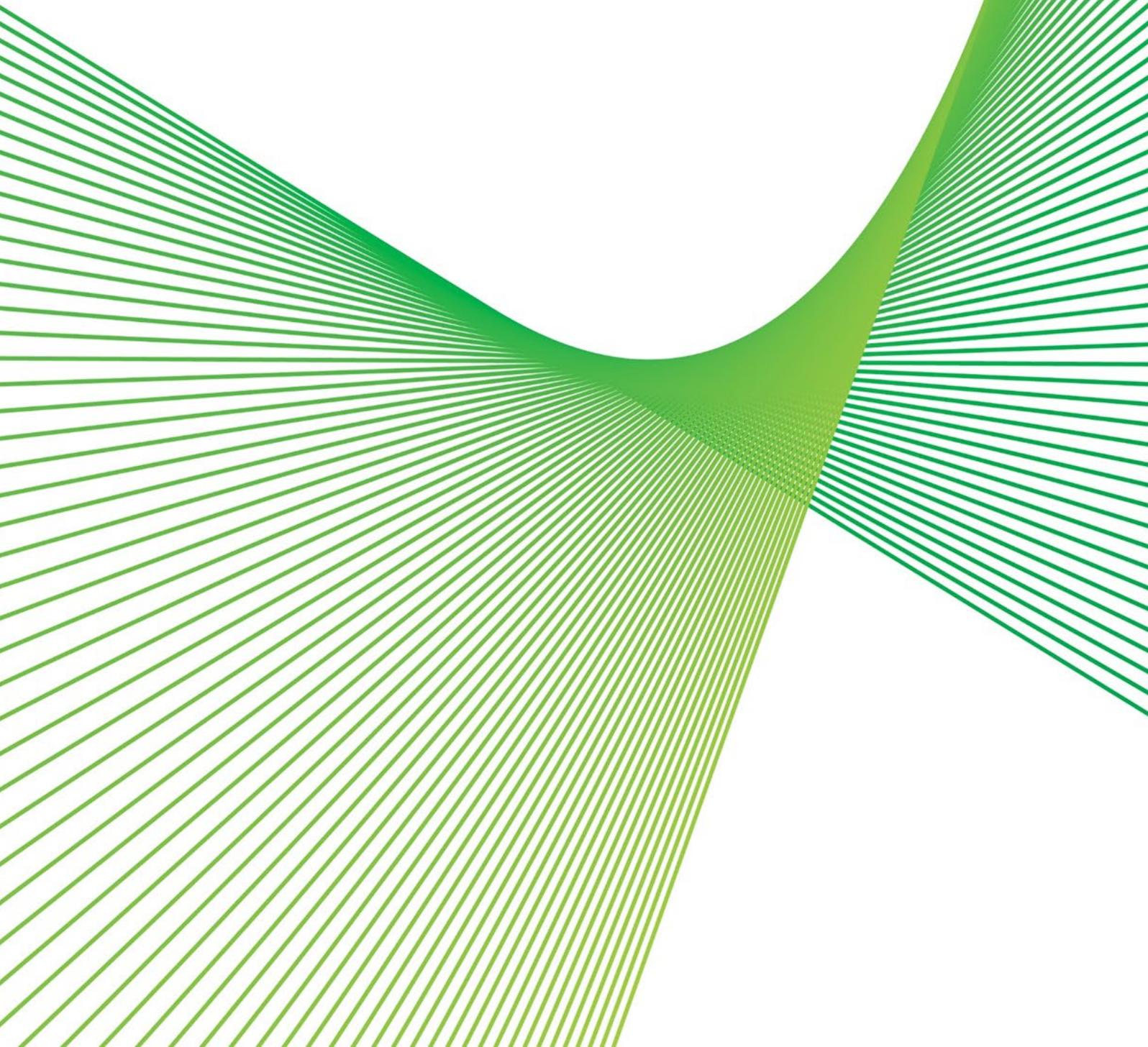


What we heard report

HumeLink West Community Information Sessions
December 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 December 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.

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. The sessions supplement other community engagement initiatives and opportunities for stakeholders to obtain information, including attendance at community events and meetings, the Snowy Valleys Resilience Hub, the Transgrid Discovery Hub, project notifications, newsletters and Transgrid website.

The sessions were held at four locations across the project alignment over two weeks between Wednesday 3 December and Wednesday 10 December and focused on sharing updates about current work activities, highlighting progress and procedures in place for project areas. Locations of the sessions were determined by the prominence of construction activities in the area and the source of community enquiries

Main themes raised by attendees included project operations, water storage and use, project vehicle movements on local roads and firefighting preparedness at HumeLink West construction sites.

The information sessions offered a practical two-way communication approach, for stakeholders to meet and discuss the project with representatives from HumeLink West Joint Venture senior management, Transgrid, and community engagement teams. Communication materials available at each session included:

- Interactive presentations facilitated by the HumeLink West Project Director, Construction Director and Community and Stakeholder Engagement Leads, tailored to each local area. They provided project updates, maps of the project areas, vehicle movement plans and specific information on project features, including temporary traffic and road changes as part of the Mates Gully Road upgrade, Tarcutta and the accommodation facility, and the proposed construction compounds at Lower Bago Road, Green Hills and Cullinga Park Lane, Tarcutta
- Maps of the project alignment, water access points and other points of interest including accommodation facilities and construction compounds
- Community factsheets detailing transmission towers, main construction work activities and water use
- HumeLink West December project quarterly newsletter
- Map of the 365-kilometre HumeLink alignment outlining the two delivery partner packages: HumeLink East and HumeLink West
- Maps of the wider energy network and other energy projects in NSW and the ACT managed by Transgrid
- Flyers providing information on project initiatives such as employment opportunities and opt-in subscription to project updates.

Community information sessions

All sessions were held after standard working hours so stakeholders could more easily attend after their work commitments or commute periods. The sessions were held in central locations along the project alignment to allow more convenient access, encourage foot traffic and to support meaningful conversations in community gathering spaces. Light refreshments were provided. The sessions consisted of interactive informal presentations lead by the HumeLink West Project Director, Construction Director and Community and Stakeholder Engagement Leads, which included information about community topics of interest, supported by visual aids and straightforward content.

Information about the time and location of the community sessions was distributed to more than 1,500 HumeLink project subscribers via email including impacted landowners, businesses, local information distributors and the general community. Invitations to the sessions were also published on the HumeLink project website.

In addition to the above, community information session flyers were delivered to letterboxes in the Batlow, Adelong, Book Book, Keajura, Tarcutta, Humula, Ladysmith and Gregadoo areas.

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

Table 1.1 Community information sessions held December 2025

Week	Location	Date	Time	Venue	Attendees
Week 1	Adelong	Wednesday 3 December	6pm-7.30pm	Adelong Services and Citizens Club	3
	Humula	Wednesday 3 December	6.30pm-8pm	Humula Citizens Sports Club	16
	Batlow	Thursday 4 December	6pm-7.30pm	Snowy Valleys Resilience Hub	3
Week 2	Gregadoo	Wednesday 10 December	6:30pm-8pm	Gugaa substation compound, Livingstone Gully Road	18
Total attendees:					40

Key themes

Key themes from the information sessions are outlined below.

Water use, emergency response, bushfire risk management

Stakeholders at the Humula and Gregadoo sessions queried availability of water at project temporary construction sites, how it is stored, the project's bushfire emergency response preparedness and could water storage on the HumeLink West sites be accessed by the RFS for emergency management.

Traffic impacts and project vehicle movements

Themes raised at the sessions included road safety, speed restrictions for project vehicles, current heavy vehicle movements and expected vehicle movements and routes during the coming year. Additional enquiries were made about included project road maintenance agreements with Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) and Snowy Valleys Council (SVC) and road upgrades at Mates Gully Road, Livingston Gully Road and Green Hills Access Road.

Community investment

Community session attendees were interested in knowing about the progress of the HumeLink Community Investment and Benefits Program. Discussion included commentary about the amount allocated to the community investment component of the project in relation to the overall HumeLink project cost.

General project overview

The project overview involved providing information on general project updates, project alignment, construction compounds, temporary accommodation facilities, progress of the main construction activities currently underway, renewable energy, other energy projects and the wider energy network across NSW and the ACT.

Vegetation clearing

Discussion included ownership over the project easement particularly when HumeLink is operational, and responsibility for rehabilitating and revegetating areas following completion of project construction.

Community information sessions overview

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

Session 1

Location: Adelong

Date/Time: Wednesday 3 December 6pm-7.30pm

Topics

- **Managing potential bushfire risk during construction**

HumeLink West complies with a [Bushfire Management Plan](#) developed in close consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and other emergency services.

As part of this Management Plan, all project supervisory personnel working in bushfire-prone areas during bushfire season are required to undertake Bushfire Awareness Training. The training covers information about site context, fire weather awareness, and preparedness requirements. It also includes training in the use of fire safety equipment and response process to an emergency warning issued by fire authorities. Supervisory personnel are trained in fire reporting and response actions to a smoke sighting, onsite and offsite emergency arrangements, including evacuation procedures and assembly area locations.

The Management Plan also outlines water supply requirements at construction compounds and accommodation facilities during the construction stage of HumeLink. All HumeLink project vehicles are fitted with a bushfire prevention 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.

- **Economic and social benefits for Adelong, including status of the Community Investments and Benefits Program and initiatives during construction**

Information and update provided on [HumeLink's Community Investment and Benefits Program](#) application and consultation process. Discussion regarding project participation in and sponsorship of community events, initiatives and community-led organisations including sponsorship of the monthly Adelong markets between November 2025 and April 2026 and the Adelong Show in March 2026.

- **Location of concrete batching plants and water sources for concrete production**

Concrete batching plants are being established by the project at Lower Bago Road, Green Hills and Cullinga Park Lane, Tarcutta. Existing concrete plants at Tumut, Tumbarumba, Gundagai and Wagga Wagga are also being used by the project.

Water agreements are in place with Snowy Valleys Council which govern access to non-potable and potable water sources and allow Council to prioritise community and residents' supplies, when required. For more information on project water use please visit: www.transgrid.com.au/media/2cqhmqssq/humelink-water-fact-sheet-may-2025.pdf

- **Status of hardwood forest clearing**

Clearing commenced in the Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) hardwood forests in early December. Timber is managed in accordance with FCNSW requirements, including clearing methodology and preparing, grading and stacking of marketable timber by the project for FCNSW use.

Session 2

Location: Humula

Date/Time: Wednesday 3 December 6.30pm-8pm

Key topics raised:

- **Fire management procedures for HumeLink West construction sites, particularly sites on private property**

Bushfire readiness

Preserving and minimising impact on the environment is a priority for Transgrid and their Delivery Partners. Transgrid's Environmental Critical Risks Protocols outline essential actions and practices to manage potential environmental risks, including fire risk.

HumeLink West complies with a [Bushfire Management Plan](#) developed in close consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and other emergency services.

The Management Plan outlines water supply requirements at construction compounds and accommodation facilities during the construction stage of HumeLink. All HumeLink project vehicles are fitted with a bushfire prevention 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.

During total fire bans, construction teams follow strict protocols which have been developed with the RFS, including a defined set of activities that can be undertaken. Prior to any hot works or fire risk work activities, a Fire Risk Assessment and Management Control (FRACM) Form is completed to ensure strict protocols are in place

Transgrid and the HumeLink construction teams value the opportunity to work closely with landowners to minimise impacts and address any concerns during project construction. We work closely with landowners to respond to any additional weather-related concerns and, on a case-by-case basis, may adjust working hours where necessary or stop work.

In cases of bushfires near the project alignment, the project team works with the emergency services to ensure they can carry out operations around the construction sites as well as the existing network, and have the information they need to respond to a bushfire. Transgrid acts as a liaison to assist emergency services, which can be through RFS HQ (Homebush) or locally in RFS control or incident management centres across the state.

Vegetation management

Transgrid routinely inspects the transmission network to identify defects and undertake any necessary maintenance to minimise bushfire risks. This includes regular vegetation management and annual aerial inspections of transmission line easements to identify trees and tall shrubs growing too close to transmission lines which could create a public

safety or bushfire risk. Trees and shrubs are trimmed or removed to maintain safety clearances.

In relation to HumeLink West construction work, vegetation clearing and management is required to reduce bushfire risk and is determined by the project footprint, topography of the land, as well as arborist and geographical surveys. The Biodiversity Management Plan, available on the NSW Government Major Projects website: [HumeLink | Planning Portal - Department of Planning and Environment](#), determines the approach to vegetation clearing and considers factors such as bushfire risk and sustainability.

In addition to the Biodiversity Management Plan, individual Property Management Plans (PMPs) have been 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.

- Project use of Humula Road and Gregadoo East Road for vehicle movements and the community requested road call up markers on both roads**

The project is approved to use the roads detailed in the Environmental Impact Statement, including Humula and Gregadoo East roads.

Local conditions are considered in the project planning and mitigation measures which include driver training, monitoring 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 repairs 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 JV installed ultra-high frequency (UHF) call up signs on Humula Road. Due to the high volumes and wide range of vehicles which using Gregadoo East Road unrelated to HumeLink West call up signs have not been installed.

- Would HumeLink West raise the damaged Umbango Bridge and ongoing lane closures on Humula Road with Wagga Wagga City Council on behalf of the community to encourage a speedy repair**

The Umbango Bridge is outside of the HumeLink West project footprint and is not being used by project vehicles, therefore HumeLink West advised it is a matter to be raised directly with Wagga Wagga City Council.

Session 3

Location: Batlow

Date/Time: Thursday 4 December 6pm-7.30pm

Key topics raised:

- **HumeLink West project status**

Main construction on HumeLink West is now underway following government approval on 26 September. Main construction work involves building transmission towers and stringing transmission lines across the 140km HumeLink West alignment, building the Maragle and Gugaa 500 kV substations, and upgrading the Wagga Wagga 330 kV substation.

Some enabling works – which started in early 2025 – will continue, including access point establishment, access tracks and completion of the Kunama accommodation facility.

The first of the project’s approximately 365 towers was completed in November 2025 in Gregadoo, south-east of Wagga Wagga. Transmission tower construction will continue to progress from Wagga Wagga towards the south of Tarcutta, before heading east to Ellerslie and Greenhills.

Project updates, construction notifications and latest HumeLink West quarterly newsletters are available on the project website at: [HumeLink West Project Overview & Updates | Transgrid](#)

- **Visual impacts of transmission lines north of Batlow and through Wondalga**

Project information and maps outlining indicative tower locations, HumeLink West construction ancillary facilities and interface with HumeLink East are available on the HumeLink website: [HumeLink map - iframe use | HumeLink | Transgrid](#).

At the session, the team provided an overview of transmission tower construction process including photographs of recently completed towers near Gregadoo. For more information on transmission tower construction please visit the HumeLink website: [Fact sheets and FAQs | Transgrid](#)

- **Traffic management and driver safety, including project related and unrelated speed limit changes**

Project related speed limit changes were implemented following approvals by Snowy Valleys Council or Transport for NSW, these include:

- *Snowy Mountains Highway at Ellerslie Road, Mount Adrah – speed limited from 100km/hour to 80km/hour*
- *Batlow Road at Wondalga Road intersection, Wondalga – speed limited from 100km/hour to 80km/hour*
- *Batlow Road at Lower Bago Road intersection, Kunama – speed limited from 100km/hour to 40km/hour*

Project driver safety initiatives include traffic management, driver training, in vehicle monitoring and designated routes as outlined in the project’s Traffic Management Plan.

Session 4

Location: Gregadoo

Date/Time: Wednesday 10 December 6.30pm-8pm

Key topics and responses

Size of Gugaa substation when completed and lighting and potential light disturbance to neighbours

The perimeter of Gugaa substation will be approximately 500 x 200 metres. Once operational, 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.

The substation design, the location, direction and positioning of the lighting within the substation was designed to maximise internal illumination while minimising external light spill. Within the substation yard, LED streetlight-type fittings will be mounted on steel poles to provide uniform illumination. These lights will be controlled via motion sensors integrated with the security system for automatic activation upon detecting movement to ensure use only for what is required for the substation activities. All lights are designed to face downwards with a zero-degree tilt, to further protect nearby residents from light pollution. Additionally, manual control will be available to support operational access *when required*.

For more information on the Gugaa substation please visit:

www.transgrid.com.au/media/rnydxz5z/humelink_gugaa_substation_factsheet.pdf

- **Livingstone Gully Road upgrade**

The project is currently investigating a potential re-sheet and reseal of the section of road between the intersection with Gregadoo East Road and the access point to the Gugaa substation and compound. The re-sheeting is subject to consultation and approval by Wagga Wagga City Council as the relevant road authority.

Throughout construction of HumeLink under [Condition of Approval B38](#), the project is required to maintain the section of Livingstone Gully Road being used to access the Gugaa compound and substation. Since the start of construction, the road has been regraded twice, most recently after the harvest period.

- **Livingstone Gully Road project vehicle speeds**

Project vehicles have been limiting their speeds to 40km when using Livingstone Gully Road in an effort to minimise dust impacts, however in response to the feedback at the information session that the slower speeds are frustrating other motorists using the road, project vehicles will drive at a higher speed.

- **Concrete sourcing and production for the construction of HumeLink West**

Concrete batching plants are being established by the project at Lower Bago Road, Green Hills and Cullinga Park Lane, Tarcutta. Existing concrete plants at Tumut, Tumberumba, Gundagai and Wagga Wagga are also being used by the project.

Easement clearing, maintenance, rehabilitation and revegetation

Vegetation clearing and management is required to reduce bushfire risk and is determined by the project footprint, topography of the land, as well as arborist and geographical surveys. The Biodiversity Management Plan, available on the NSW Government Major Projects website: [HumeLink | Planning Portal - Department of Planning and Environment](#), determines the approach to vegetation clearing and considers factors such as bushfire risk and sustainability.

In addition to the Biodiversity Management Plan, individual Property Management Plans (PMPs) have been 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.

Revegetation of disturbed areas will be carried out when construction activities are completed and will be completed in line with Transgrid requirements for transmission line easements and in consultation with the landowners.

- **Fire management procedures for HumeLink West project sites and for sites on private property**

Preserving and minimising impact on the environment is a priority for Transgrid and their Delivery Partners. Transgrid's Environmental Critical Risks Protocols outline essential actions and practices to manage potential environmental risks, including fire risk.

HumeLink West complies with a [Bushfire Management Plan](#) developed in close consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and other emergency services.

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