

EnergyConnect Community Newsletter

Q2 2026



A message from the Program Director

EnergyConnect, Australia's largest electricity transmission project, is being energised following completion of construction earlier this year.

This brings lower power costs one step closer for millions of consumers in three states and advances the nation's renewable energy transition. This critical project will increase renewable energy sharing between NSW, Victoria and South Australia, providing access to lower-cost wholesale energy as NSW's coal-fired power stations progressively retire.

EnergyConnect is key to building the modern power system needed to cater for a modern economy and completion of this project demonstrates we are delivering the infrastructure needed to support the transition to a clean energy future.

Transgrid and its delivery partner Elecnor Australia have completed construction of the 700km NSW section of the essential interconnector, with more than 1,500 towers and over 10,000km of high-voltage conductor.

Stage 2 of EnergyConnect, the 540km line between Buronga and Wagga Wagga, is now being energised following detailed commissioning checks. This follows completion of the first stage of the project, a 160km line from the South Australian border to Buronga and into Victoria, which became operational last year.

Later this year, the Australian Energy Market Operator will begin its inter-network testing on Stage 2, to confirm the reliability and performance of the new infrastructure.

Construction of EnergyConnect has not been easy, with the project facing a range of challenges, but this colossal effort has delivered a unified energy backbone to carry stable, lower-cost renewable power exactly where and when it is needed most.

We are proud to have delivered significant benefits to regional NSW during EnergyConnect's construction, which created 1,500 jobs, invested \$300 million in supply contracts with local businesses, provided education and training opportunities, and funded community projects and partnerships.

EnergyConnect will benefit consumers by enabling access to lower-cost sources of energy like solar and wind, also known as wholesale energy, which is the largest component of household bills. The project will also help achieve Australia's climate change targets as we replace coal-fired power with renewable energy.

Energisation of EnergyConnect marks the culmination of one of the nation's most significant transmission builds and is a defining moment in the delivery of Australia's clean energy future.

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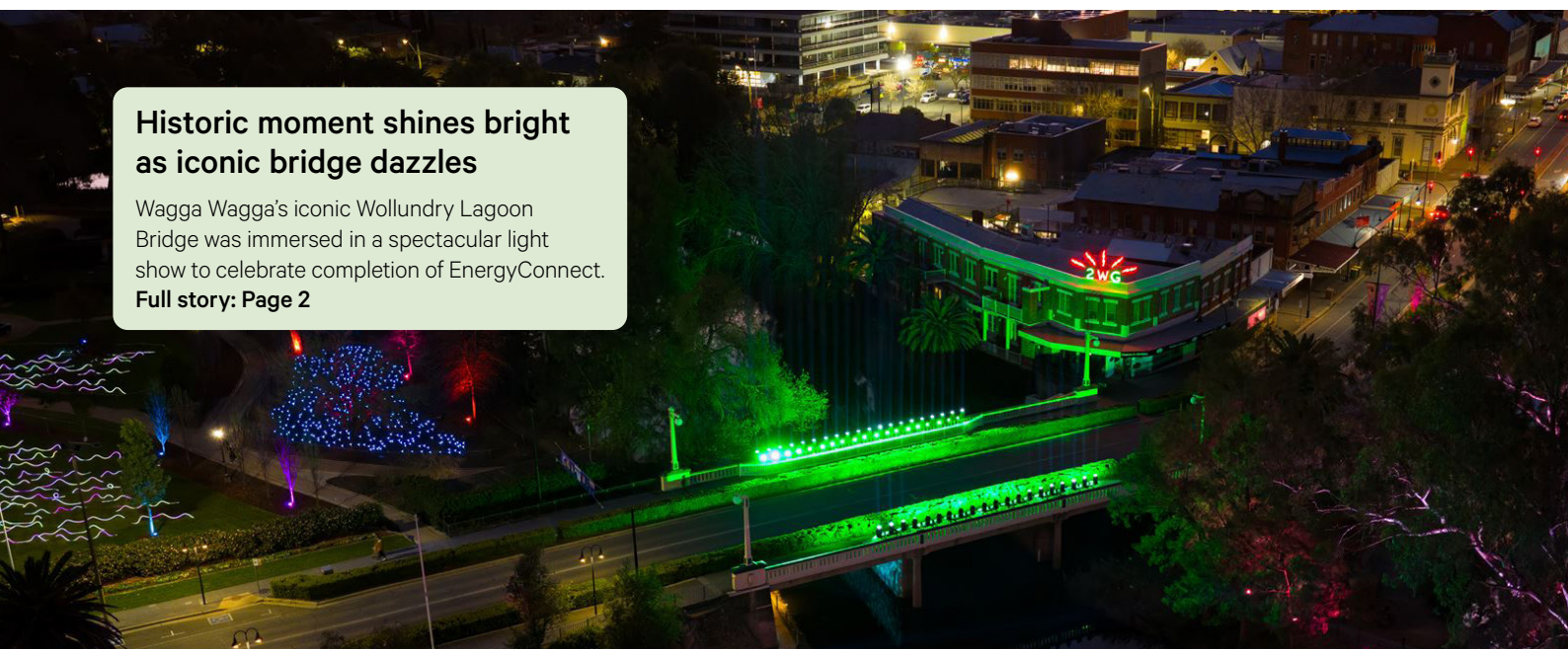
Jeremy Roberts

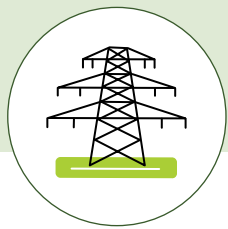
Jeremy Roberts

Program Director, Transgrid Australia

Historic moment shines bright as iconic bridge dazzles

Wagga Wagga's iconic Wollundry Lagoon Bridge was immersed in a spectacular light show to celebrate completion of EnergyConnect.
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Project milestone

Historic moment shines bright a century on as iconic bridge dazzles

Wagga Wagga's iconic Wollundry Lagoon Bridge was immersed in a spectacular light show to celebrate completion of EnergyConnect, Australia's largest transmission project, honouring a historic moment when electricity was first switched on in the city more than 100 years ago.

Transgrid joined the annual Festival of W with the milestone celebration to mark completion and energisation of EnergyConnect and recognise local communities and businesses across the Riverina, Murray and Sunraysia regions for helping to deliver the nation-critical project.

The historic bridge was transformed into a dazzling illumination during a week-long community light activation from 13-19 July.

Transgrid CEO Brett Redman said the event was an opportunity to recognise the historic connection to Wagga Wagga's energy past and future.

"In 1922, Mayor Hugh Oates helped usher in a new chapter for Wagga Wagga when he first switched on the city's electricity supply, with strings of lights decorating the Wollundry Lagoon Bridge in celebration of the milestone," Mr Redman said.

"Over a century later, the illumination of the same bridge provides a symbolic link between that historic moment and the energisation of EnergyConnect, which continues that legacy, powering the future of communities across southern NSW.

"Australia's renewable energy future runs through the Riverina, where three major transmission projects will intersect, as well as being home to the South West Renewable Energy Zone.

"We are delighted to mark this special occasion with a celebration to recognise the huge contribution the region's communities are making to this transformative change."

Forty high powered, energy efficient searchlights lit up the bridge and sky above to create a dramatic, constantly moving and evolving beacon of light that will progress through stunning geometric patterns and aerial effects. Visible from kilometres away, the installation allowed visitors to the Festival of W to walk across the bridge and between the banks of lights to gain a unique perspective.

Executive General Manager of Stakeholder Engagement and Environment Maryanne Graham said Transgrid and construction partner Elecnor Australia were proud that EnergyConnect had left a lasting legacy in communities across the Riverina, Murray and Sunraysia regions.

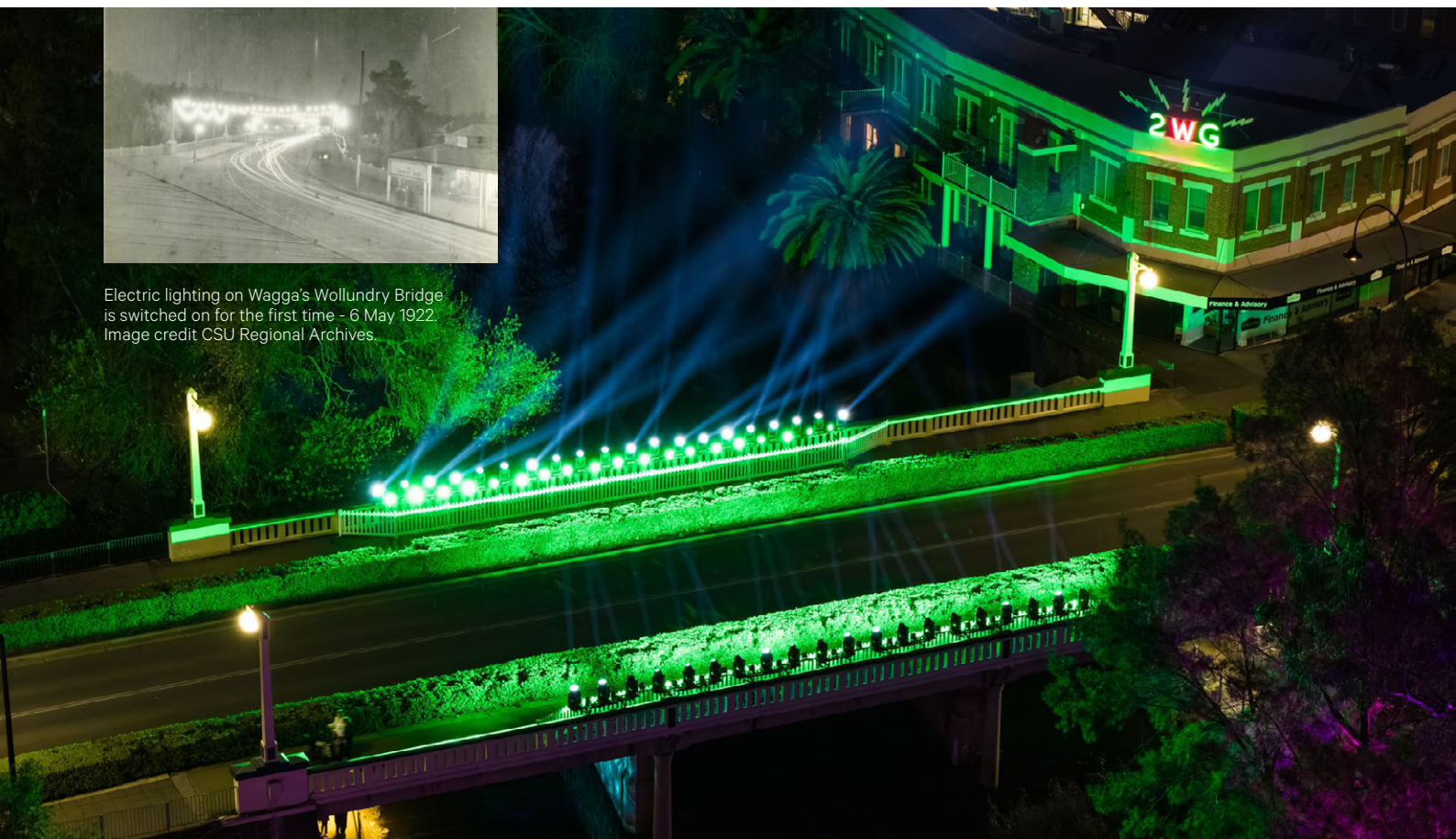
"The project has provided a range of social and economic benefits including jobs, support for local businesses, educational and training opportunities, skills development, and community grants and partnerships," Ms Graham said.

"Our workforce accommodation camps also provided a welcome boost to towns including Lockhart and Hay, with local businesses significantly benefiting from increased patronage."

EnergyConnect is the first transmission line project built to support Australia's renewable energy transition and will increase energy sharing between NSW, Victoria and SA, providing access to lower-cost wholesale electricity, and improving reliability and security of supply for households and businesses before coal-fired power stations retire.



Electric lighting on Wagga's Wollundry Bridge is switched on for the first time - 6 May 1922. Image credit CSU Regional Archives.





“ We sincerely thank local residents, businesses, councils, landowners, traditional custodians and other key stakeholders for helping us deliver this nation-critical project which is the first transmission line to be built to support Australia’s renewable energy transition. ”

Transgrid Executive General Manager of Stakeholder Engagement and Environment Maryanne Graham





In the community

As EnergyConnect approaches final completion and integration into the National Electricity Market community engagement remains an important focus. During this close-out phase, the team continues to work closely with communities along the alignment, ensuring stakeholders remain informed about project progress, operational transition activities and the long-term benefits the project will deliver.

Council roadshows

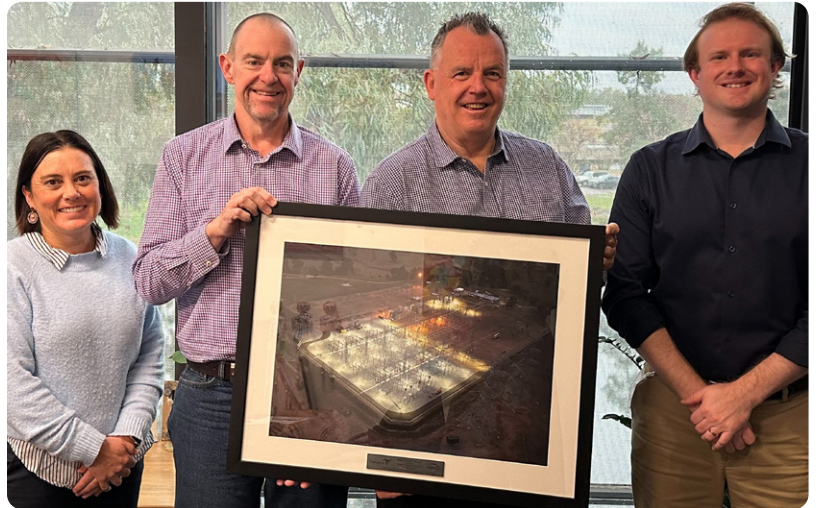
Engagement with local councils on the EnergyConnect alignment has been crucial to the success of the project. As part of this, we have kept councils up-to-date on project progress with regular face-to-face briefings.

In recent weeks, we have presented project updates to Wagga Wagga, Lockhart, Federation, Hay and Balranald.

These presentations have highlighted what Transgrid and our delivery partner Elecnor have achieved in each region during the life of EnergyConnect including, transmission infrastructure delivered, investment with local businesses and suppliers, community sponsorships and partnerships, as well as social legacy initiatives.

We have also discussed the remaining journey of the project, the transition to business-as-usual operations once the project is complete and ongoing legacy programs such as the Strategic Benefit Payments scheme for landholders with EnergyConnect infrastructure on their land

As part of our engagement, we have also presented each council with a framed photograph from the project in recognition of the ongoing collaboration and partnership throughout the project.



Around the grounds

The EnergyConnect engagement team has been undertaking community outreach at local sporting fixtures across the region.

On 20 June, we held a pop-up engagement stall at the Osborne Football and Netball Club where the Tigers were hosting the Culcairn Lions in the Hume League AFL competition.

While on 4 July, it was a swap of codes and the team were out at Coleambally Sports Ground where the Darlington Point-Coleambally Roosters clashed with Leeton's Galloping Greens in the Group 20 Rugby League grades.

At both events we met with project landholders, near neighbours and interested members of the community who have watched EnergyConnect progress with interest.

The team is headed to the football in Balranald in early August and we also have a stall at the upcoming Wentworth Show on 29-30 August.



Lifelong learning

On 27 May, EnergyConnect and HumeLink engagement teams delivered a presentation to the Wagga Wagga branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A), a volunteer-run educational movement for the retired or semi-retired.

The session provided an engaging and informative update on the scale and progress of both projects, highlighting the significant benefits these bring to the region.

The discussion was lively and interactive, with attendees eager to learn more about the infrastructure involved, particularly the large-scale syncons being installed. Many in the group were visibly fascinated by the sheer size and complexity of the project, as well as its potential to support the region's future energy needs.

Overall, the presentation sparked strong interest and curiosity, reinforcing the community's growing awareness and appreciation of the project's impact.



EnergyConnect fast facts

Consumer benefits



Consumers can access the lowest-cost wholesale energy generation available across NSW, Victoria and South Australia



On average, the generation component of a typical household energy bill is estimated to decrease by up to \$30 per year in NSW, \$45 in Victoria, and \$75 in South Australia as a result of this project



It is estimated that EnergyConnect will deliver net savings for typical household bills of up to \$15 per year in NSW, \$45 in Victoria, and \$65 in South Australia up to 2050



Increased reliability and security of electricity supply from stronger connection between the three state grids



New renewable energy sources in the Riverina and South West NSW integrated into the national grid



Gross market benefits of \$4.2 billion, with net market benefits of \$964 million for energy consumers.

Benefits for regional communities



Up to 1,500 jobs created, primarily in regional NSW



\$300 million invested in supply contracts with 350 local businesses across the Riverina, Murray and Sunraysia regions



\$2 million in scholarships for engineering students at Charles Sturt University

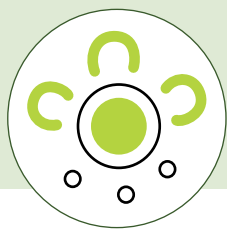


\$1.5 million partnership with Regional Development Australia Riverina to drive jobs and skills



More than \$500,000 in grants for community and not-for-profit organisations.





First Nations in focus

Preserving Indigenous heritage

During construction of the NSW section of EnergyConnect around 4000 items of Indigenous cultural significance were identified and preserved with the objective of repatriating these back on Country during the site rehabilitation process post-construction.

This represents not only an important milestone in the project lifecycle, in accordance with our environmental approvals, but a significant measure to preserve and protect the heritage of our First Nations peoples of the Riverina and Murray.



Transgrid, Elecnor and Everick Heritage are currently working and partnering with the Traditional Owners and the Registered Aboriginal Parties known as RAPs to return culturally sensitive artefacts back on Country along approved sections of the alignment.

Repatriation pits are dug and once excavated, a bed of leaves and vegetation is placed with the artefacts. A PVC pipe containing the details and records of what is buried is also placed inside the pit as well. It is a solemn and moving process with a smoking ceremony held before the items are returned into the ground.

It's also important to note that Repatriation test pits are excavated in a location that is not impacted by any long-term maintenance work so the artefacts can remain in that location in perpetuity.

This important work helps build a picture of how First Nations communities lived and shared resources. It shines a light on the remarkable depth and continuity of First Nations history and help build broader understanding of the world's oldest continuous living culture.

In addition, a number of repatriated artifacts have been digitally catalogued by Charles Sturt University (CSU) with the ability to be 3D printed, providing a learning tool for future generations.

Celebrating NAIDOC Week on project

As part of NAIDOC Week activities, the EnergyConnect team celebrated First Nations culture at Dinawan Camp near Bundure through a 'Walking with What We Carry' workshop delivered in collaboration with First Nations artists.

The session included storytelling, creative reflection, weaving and clapping stick workshops, and cultural activities designed to explore what we carry through life, what we choose to leave behind, what we keep and what we carry forward.

Elecnor also shared First Nations stories and perspectives during a staff discussion on cultural heritage, history and the role infrastructure projects can play in understanding and respecting Country during Reconciliation Week.

The team at Everick Heritage, shared insights into the cultural heritage work undertaken on EnergyConnect and the significance of the thousands of artefacts identified along the project alignment.

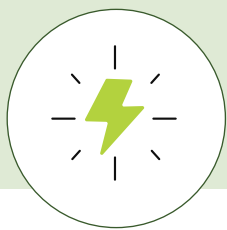
Archaeologists Jason Giang and Andrew Jenkins explained how artefacts such as shell middens, earth mounds and tools help tell a story of how First Nations communities lived and shared resources across the region over many generations.

Staff also heard from Environment Advisor and First Nations man Nathan MacAdam, who reflected on the positive outcomes of cultural heritage activities undertaken throughout the project



and the opportunities they have created for First Nations people to connect with Country.

The event also featured the unveiling of a significant artwork by Barkindji artist, Uncle Phil Kennedy. Depicting the EnergyConnect project, the artwork incorporates a snake representing the transmission line stretching from Wentworth to Wagga Wagga and will now be proudly displayed in Elecnor's Sydney office.



Power of connection

Construction



700km

**700km from
Wagga Wagga to SA**

Border with connection
to Victoria

10 million+
workforce hours



New world-class substations

at Buronga and Dinawan (Bundure) and a major
expansion of the existing Wagga Wagga substation

1,508 towers

comprising 220kV, 330kV and 500kV structures

46,068 tonnes

of steel used in tower construction

10,385km

of high-voltage conductor cabling, enough
to span from Sydney to Perth three times

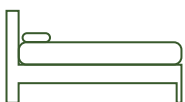
4 synchronous condensers

to maintain grid stability



Local workforce 5-10%

(Within NSW 25-30%, Other states 40-45%,
Overseas specialists 30-35%)



1,740 beds

Six workforce accommodation camps
provided **1,740 beds** during construction

Industry spend



Local spend (Riverina-Murray-Sunraysia)

\$300.6 million

351 businesses engaged



NSW
\$566m

Statewide spend (NSW)

\$566 million

297 businesses engaged

*Project spend as at April 2026



\$1.15b

National spend

\$1.15 billion

376 businesses engaged



1,024 Australian businesses engaged on project

Cumulative Australian spend **\$2 billion+**

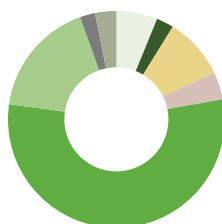
Community investment

\$506,908

spent on Community Partnerships
Program grants

107 community organisations assisted

127 projects or initiatives supported



Funding Purpose

	Number
Community Programs	8
Community Projects	3
Education & Training	12
Environment	5
Equipment / Facilities	70
Events	22
Indigenous Culture	3
Welfare Support	4

*Project spend as at March 2026

Environmental outcomes



23,500ha

of land protected in perpetuity through biodiversity
stewardship agreements to offset impacts

6500 nest boxes installed for fauna



**21% less steel and
15% less concrete**

used to construct innovative guyed towers



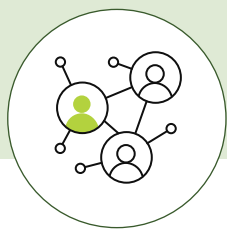
47% reduction

in alignment land clearing against
environmental approvals



78% replacement

of potable water with non-potable sources



Project legacy

Supporting the next generation of engineers to power energy transition

Twenty-three budding engineers from regional NSW have been awarded scholarships in 2026, helping them pursue their studies closer to home to help deliver Australia's clean energy future.

Now in its fourth year, the Transgrid Engineering Scholarship Fund, a project legacy initiative of EnergyConnect, is supporting 100 Charles Sturt University engineering students over four years, with each recipient awarded \$20,000 to ease the cost of study and stay connected to local support and their communities.

The 2026 cohort come from communities across the NSW Riverina, Central West, Mid North Coast, Central Tablelands and New England regions, which are playing a critical role in the energy transition.

"These scholarships are about investing in people – supporting talented students from regional communities to follow their aspirations and build careers close to home," Transgrid's Executive General Manager of Major Projects Gordon Taylor said.

"Many of these students are growing up and living in the very communities that are shaping Australia's energy transition. These future engineers bring local knowledge, lived experience and strong connection to place – qualities that will shape how our future clean energy system is designed, delivered and maintained.

"This is about backing local capability, ensuring regional communities play a leading role in our country's energy future.

"Transgrid is proud to support the 2026 scholarship recipients and looks forward to the positive impact they will have during their studies and across the energy sector."

Charles Sturt University Vice Chancellor Renée Leon Vice Chancellor Renée Leon: said Transgrid's support has boosted not only the confidence of the recipients but sent a broader message from the wider industry.

"When these scholarships were launched in 2022, they were the largest ever philanthropic gift from a corporate donor to Charles Sturt University. Since then, 79 Charles Sturt engineering students have been supported.

"We are so thankful for this partnership with Transgrid which provides our students with financial assistance, paid cadet placements and real industry experience.

"Many of these scholarship students are the future engineers regional Australia needs to shore up our resources in energy, transport, mining, agriculture and environmental protection."

"Thanks to Transgrid's continued support, we're ensuring local talent can stay local, where the leaders in our clean energy transition are required the most."



We want to hear from you



As EnergyConnect nears completion, we're seeking feedback on awareness of the project and the experience with our communications. Your input will help improve engagement on future infrastructure projects.

Complete the survey by scanning the QR code.

Acknowledgement 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 Enecon Australia are committed to working with landowners and communities through EnergyConnect project. Please connect with us for more information.



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