HumeLink

Use of helicopters and drones for transmission tower aerial stringing

FACT SHEET | APRIL 2026

What is HumeLink?

HumeLink is one of Australia's largest energy infrastructure projects connecting renewable energy sources to the grid and helping to put downward pressure on energy prices in Australia.

The project consists of 365 kilometres of 500 kV overhead transmission lines connecting Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle, and new or upgraded infrastructure at four substations. The project is being delivered in two sections, by two joint venture partners, HumeLink East: Acciona and Genus and HumeLink West: UGL and CPB Contractors. For more information, go to transgrid.com.au/humelink

Using helicopters and drones for transmission tower aerial stringing

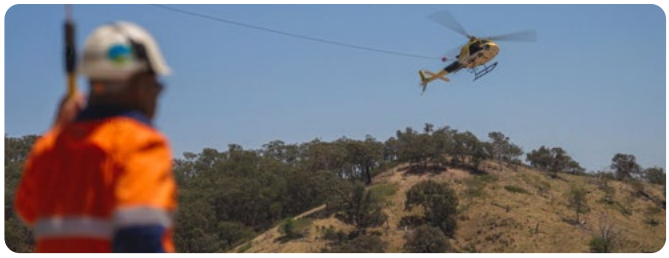
The use of helicopters and drones to string conductor cable between transmission towers will occur across the HumeLink alignment from April 2026.

Aerial stringing offers several advantages over traditional ground-based methods. It is faster to complete, causes less disruption by avoiding the use of bulldozers to pull cables over land, limits access track use, and reduces traffic on local roads.

What aerial stringing involves

To string cables (conductor) between towers insulators, pulley blocks are put in place to enable the conductors to be installed. During the stringing process, the helicopter or drone installs the pilot cable (draw wire) through the pulley blocks from the winch site to the brake site. The draw wire is then used to pull the permanent conductor through the pulley blocks. For information about transmission tower construction, view the Transmission Tower Fact Sheet.

During this work, helicopters and drones will be flying close to the top of new transmission towers. Stringing between towers typically takes one to two days in one location. Adverse weather may mean this takes longer.

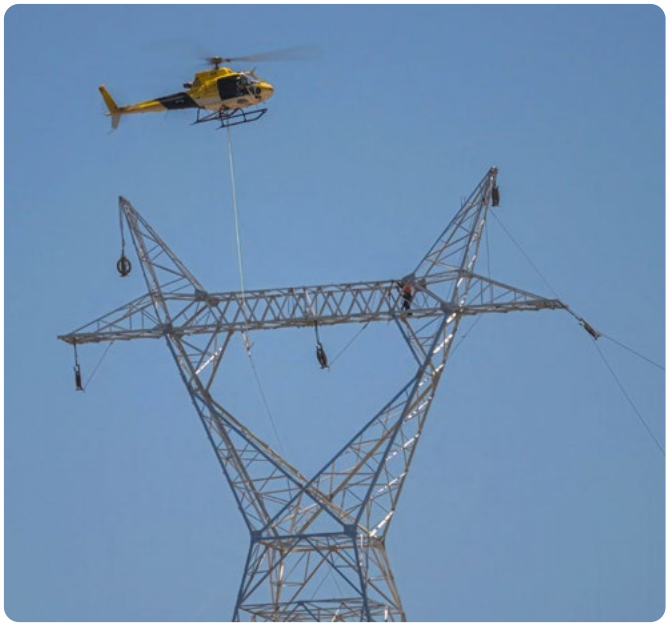


An example of a similar helicopter stringing set up as will be used on HumeLink

Benefits of aerial stringing

Traditionally, ground-based stringing involves using bulldozers to pull cables between transmission towers. For HumeLink, aerial stringing using helicopters and drones is planned instead. This approach will provide significant benefits to landholders, the community and the environment, including:

- shorter time spent on each property
- less ground disturbance to properties and state forests
- fewer project staff and access required on properties
- less impact to ground cover and reduced need for paddock clearing significantly less vehicle traffic, meaning less deterioration to local roads.



Managing potential impacts from noise and dust

Noise and vibration from helicopter and drone operations are expected and may temporarily disturb residents and livestock during aerial stringing activities. These impacts are expected to last approximately one to two days per tower while conductors are pulled and equipment is installed on the new transmission line.

To help reduce any impact on residents, livestock and animals, HumeLink will implement the following measures:

- helicopter and drone operations will be limited to daylight hours
- flight paths will be planned to (where possible) minimise noise near communities
- noisy activities will be scheduled for the middle of the day when impacts are the lowest
- activities will be coordinated so that multiple noisy tasks don't occur at once.

Monitoring

Noise and vibration management is treated as a priority, with a strong focus on reducing impacts wherever possible. HumeLink East's and HumeLink West's detailed Noise and Vibration Management Plan were developed to safeguard community wellbeing and comply with strict environmental standards, including monitoring to minimise impacts:

- real-time noise and vibration will be monitored at key locations, with alerts and action if required
- the community hotline at 1800 317 367 is available 24 hours a day.

Traffic

By conducting aerial stringing, there will be reduced light and heavy vehicle traffic on local roads. Traffic plans will be developed for areas where aerial stringing is located near local, state and federal roads, and near blind corners or difficult areas on local roads.

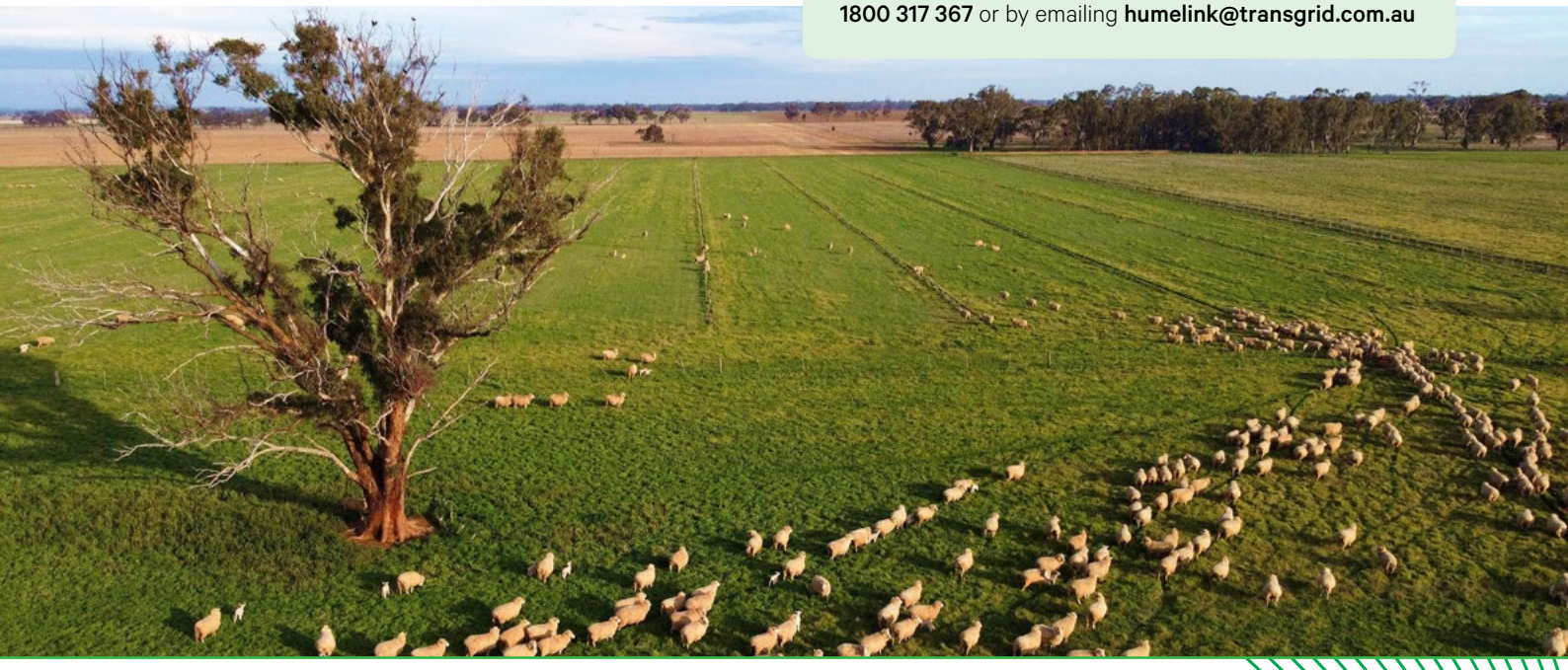
How will I know if helicopter or drone will fly near my property?

Landowners and neighbours within 500 metres of the project will be notified and consulted in advance, for all stringing work, flight paths and planned aerial inspections, and given time to move any livestock.

Landowners will be consulted about specific concerns, such as lambing or calving, on an individual basis. Information will also be shared with council and other stakeholder groups.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns you would like to discuss about any of the above, please contact the Community and Stakeholder Engagement team on **1800 317 367** or by emailing **humelink@transgrid.com.au**



Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities through the development of HumeLink. Please connect with us for more information.

Transgrid

HumeLink West
UGL | CPB CONTRACTORS
Delivery Partners

HumeLink East
acciona | GENUS
Delivery Partners

1800 317 367 (free call)
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