

# HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement

## Economic Impact Assessment

AUGUST 2023

### What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The HumeLink project has been classified by the NSW Government as Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI). All CSSI development applications must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of the EIS is to identify and assess the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of the project to help government agencies, relevant authorities, community and stakeholders make an informed decision or provide an informed submission on the merits of the project.

#### EIS project footprint

The [HumeLink project](#) extends from the existing Wagga Wagga 330 kV substation to the existing Bannaby 500 kV substation and the future Maragle 500 kV substation.

The EIS footprint is based on an indicative 200 metre corridor and is defined as the area directly affected by the construction and operation of the project. It includes the indicative location of project infrastructure, the area that would be directly disturbed during construction and any easement required during operation.

The final location of all proposed infrastructure will be confirmed during detailed design.

#### HumeLink planning approvals and EIS

As part of the planning approval process for HumeLink, Transgrid is preparing an EIS in accordance with the [Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements \(SEARs\)](#). The SEARs identify matters which must be addressed in the EIS and essentially form its terms of reference. It includes the requirements from both the NSW and Commonwealth Governments.

A series of technical studies and reports to assess potential impacts are completed as part of the EIS. This includes the economic impact, which is covered in this fact sheet.

#### Can I provide feedback?

Once the EIS is finalised, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) will place the EIS on exhibition and call for public submissions. Feedback on the EIS can be provided directly to the DPE during this public display period.

To learn more about the HumeLink EIS, please visit the [EIS Frequently Asked Questions](#) on our website.



Economic

#### HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement Specialist Studies



Aboriginal heritage



Electric and magnetic fields



Social



Agricultural land



Greenhouse gas and climate change risk



Soils, geology and contamination



Air quality



Historic heritage



Surface water and groundwater



Aviation safety



Hydrology and flooding



Sustainability



Biodiversity



Landscape character and visual amenity



Traffic and transport



Bushfire risk



Land use and property



Economic



Noise and vibration



## Economic Impact Assessment

As part of HumeLink's EIS, Transgrid has undertaken an assessment to evaluate the potential economic impacts and benefits of the project. The assessment also included proposed measures to minimise identified impacts and capitalise on benefits and opportunities.

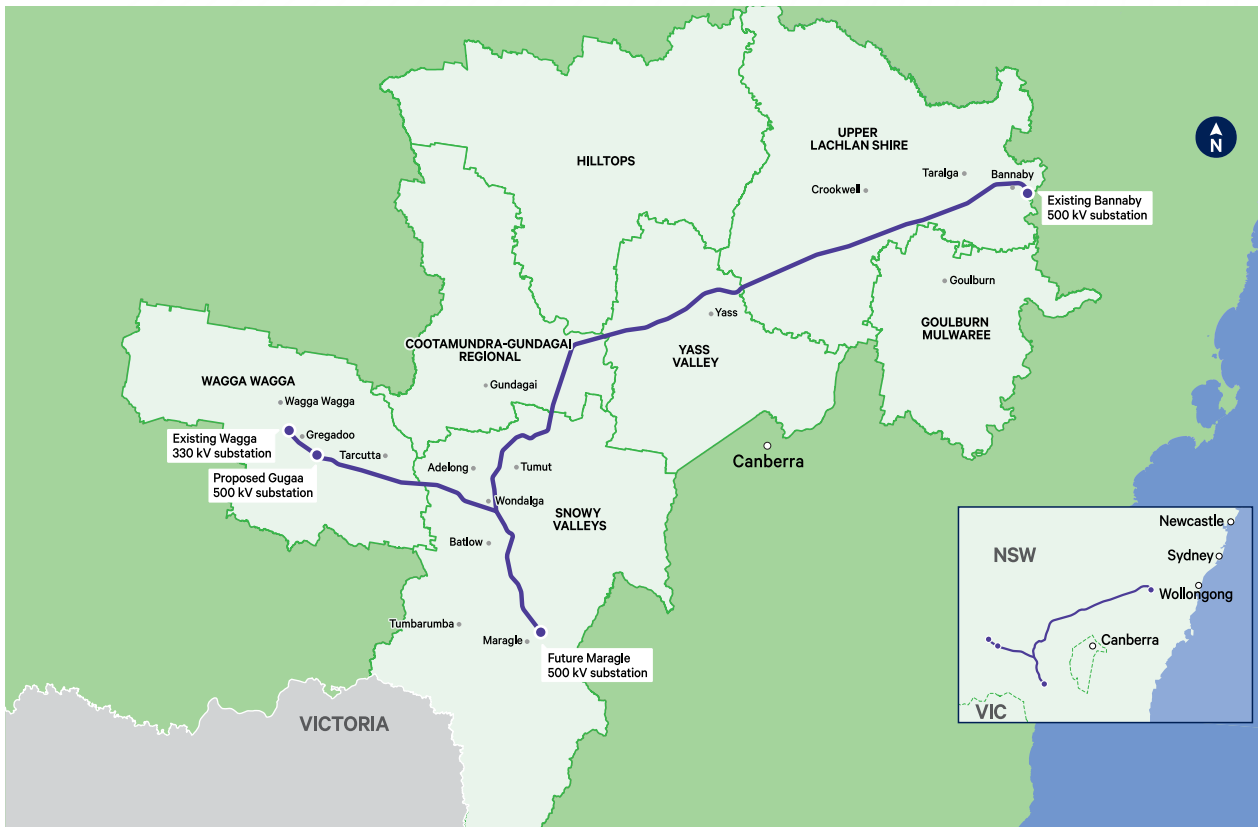
### What does the study assess?

The economic study area included the following Local Government Areas (LGAs):

- Wagga Wagga City
- Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional
- Snowy Valleys
- Yass Valley
- Upper Lachlan Shire
- Goulburn-Mulwaree
- Hilltops.

The approach and methodology for the Economic Impact Assessment involved:

- reviewing relevant legislation and policy documents
- defining and describing the economic study area
- identifying the potential economic impacts during construction and operation of the project
- using an economic model called an input output model to identify and assess potential economic benefits and impacts at the national, state and regional level
- identifying measures to minimise the potential impacts identified.



**Pictured:** HumeLink economic study area.



**Pictured:** HumeLink is expected to boost local employment opportunities during construction.



## Potential construction impacts

Design and construction of the project will require substantial capital investment, which will support employment in the regional and national economies.

Some positive economic impacts during construction of the project might include:

- increased employment and supplier opportunities during construction
- increased expenditure at local businesses
- increased investment return through greater demand for temporary accommodation
- potential increase in tourism spending from the temporary increase in workers (and their visitors).



**Example of a photomontage:** View south from Snowy Mountains Highway.

Some negative impacts during construction might include:

- potential negative impacts on tourism as a result of construction activities
- reduced housing availability through increased demand for temporary accommodation
- temporary impacts on agricultural productivity including forestry land.

Temporary worker accommodation is proposed as part of the project to alleviate the demand on short-term rental accommodation. Transgrid will prepare a Worker Accommodation Strategy prior to the commencement of construction in consultation with its delivery partners, local councils, accommodation service providers and other key stakeholders. The strategy will aim to minimise impacts and maximise benefits for the local communities.

In addition, Transgrid will develop tailored plans to manage and reduce potential economic impacts and provide additional local employment and participation opportunities.



## Potential operation impacts

According to the 2022 Integrated System Plan, the project is estimated to contribute about \$1.3 billion in net market benefits. By increasing the amount of electricity that can be delivered to the National Electricity Market and providing greater access to reliable and affordable electricity, the project would increase competition in wholesale energy and help lower and stabilise electricity prices, reduce volatility in the longer term. This may help increase business productivity and lower living expenses.



**Pictured:** A construction team assembling a 500 kV transmission tower onsite.

Potential negative economic impacts during operation of the project would occur as a result of permanent impacts to productive land. The potential impacts on agricultural land are predicted to result in a reduction of around 0.01 per cent of the total agricultural, forestry and fishing gross output in the economic study area.

Impacts on forestry are predicted to result in a loss of about \$7.84 million over 30 years. This is a small percentage of the gross regional product of \$9.3 billion for the economic study area.

Economic impacts associated with direct loss of productive land would be minimised through compensation by agreement, in accordance with the requirements of the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991. Transgrid would seek to minimise any reduction in forestry land available for timber supply through the provision of replacement land. Where this is not possible, compensation may be considered.

For more information on Land Use and Property please read the [Land Use and Property](#) fact sheet.

As the project progresses through the EIS and detailed design, more information about the identified economic impacts as well as the proposed management measures will become available.

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## Connect with us

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



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