



# VNI West Community Consultative Group

**Meeting 12 – 12 March 2026  
Deniliquin**

## Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri, Wamba Wamba, Perrepa Perrepa and Yorta Yorta people as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today.

We pay respect to Elders past and present.



# Agenda

Time	Agenda item	Time allocated	Presenter
9:45 – 10:00	Morning tea	15 mins	
10:00 – 10:15	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledgement of Country</li> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• Housekeeping and review of previous minutes</li> </ul>	15 mins	Brendan Blakeley
10:15 – 11:15	<b>What are you hearing?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telecommunications – Colin Bull</li> </ul>	60 Mins	Brendan Blakeley
11:15 – 11:35	<b>Project Director's update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment update</li> <li>• Property update</li> <li>• Community update</li> </ul>	20 mins	Colin Mayer
11:35 – 12:20	<b>Amendment Report update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline of project amendments</li> <li>• Upcoming community consultation sessions</li> <li>• Next steps</li> <li>• Questions</li> </ul>	45 mins	Geoff Hudson / Nathan Menser
1:00pm	<b>Wrap up and close</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting frequency</li> </ul>	15 Mins	Brendan Blakeley

# Review of Meeting 11 Minutes and action items



# Action items

Agenda item	Description	Responsible	Status
Welcome and introductions	GH and DC to talk about Aboriginal Nursery opportunities.	Geoff Hudson	Underway
What are you hearing?	Transgrid to confirm progress of Telstra discussions.	Paul McFadyen	Paused
	Transgrid to investigate vegetation maintenance practices on landowner's property.	Clint Hansell / Nathan Menser	Complete
Property Management Plans	Transgrid to confirm approach to managing and avoiding culturally sensitive locations during construction.	Geoff Hudson	Complete

What are you hearing?

Brendan Blakeley

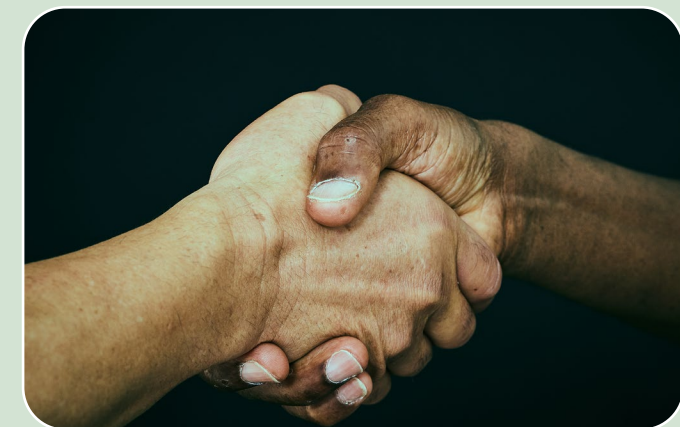
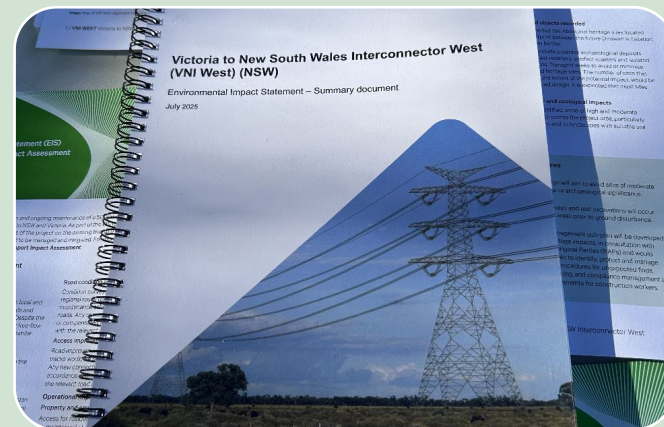


# Project update

Colin Mayer



# Project update: Key areas



## Submissions Report

Transgrid is drafting responses to submissions received from organisations; responses to individual submissions are aggregated

## Amendment Report

Transgrid is preparing an Amendment Report.

*We'll take you through what's proposed later in this presentation.*

## Project pathway

Project staging update:

Proposed Stage 1:  
Substation and TL51

Proposed Stage 2:  
Transmission Line

## Social legacy

Currently on hold until the project staging is clearly defined: funding for social legacy projects aligns with funding requests.

# Project map

Proposed: Stage 2 (2028-30)

Proposed: Stage 1 (2027-29)



# Property update

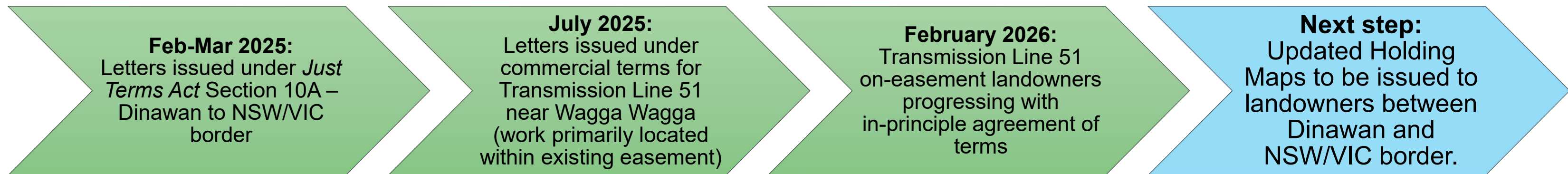


# Property Update

- **Negotiations** with landholders Dinawan to NSW-VIC border have commenced in accordance with *Just Terms Act*.
- **Landholders are generally engaged** across the project.
- Transgrid is now **receiving compensation claims from impacted landowners**.
- Transgrid **covers reasonable fees** for landholders in seeking legal and valuation advice.



## Letters of offer process



# Environment update



# Test pit excavations

**What are they:** surveys to investigate potential landscape and artefact findings



*Image of an identified area for further investigations through Test Pit Excavation*



*Image of an open test pit showing discolouration of soil types*

# Test pit excavations

Test pit excavations undertaken over November 2025 to February 2026 to continue to support detailed project design.

This process involved Navin Officer Heritage Consultants (NOHC) as our lead archaeologists working alongside Traditional Owner groups in Wiradjuri country, Bangerang / Yorta Yorta country, Wamba Wemba Country and Perapa Perapa Country.

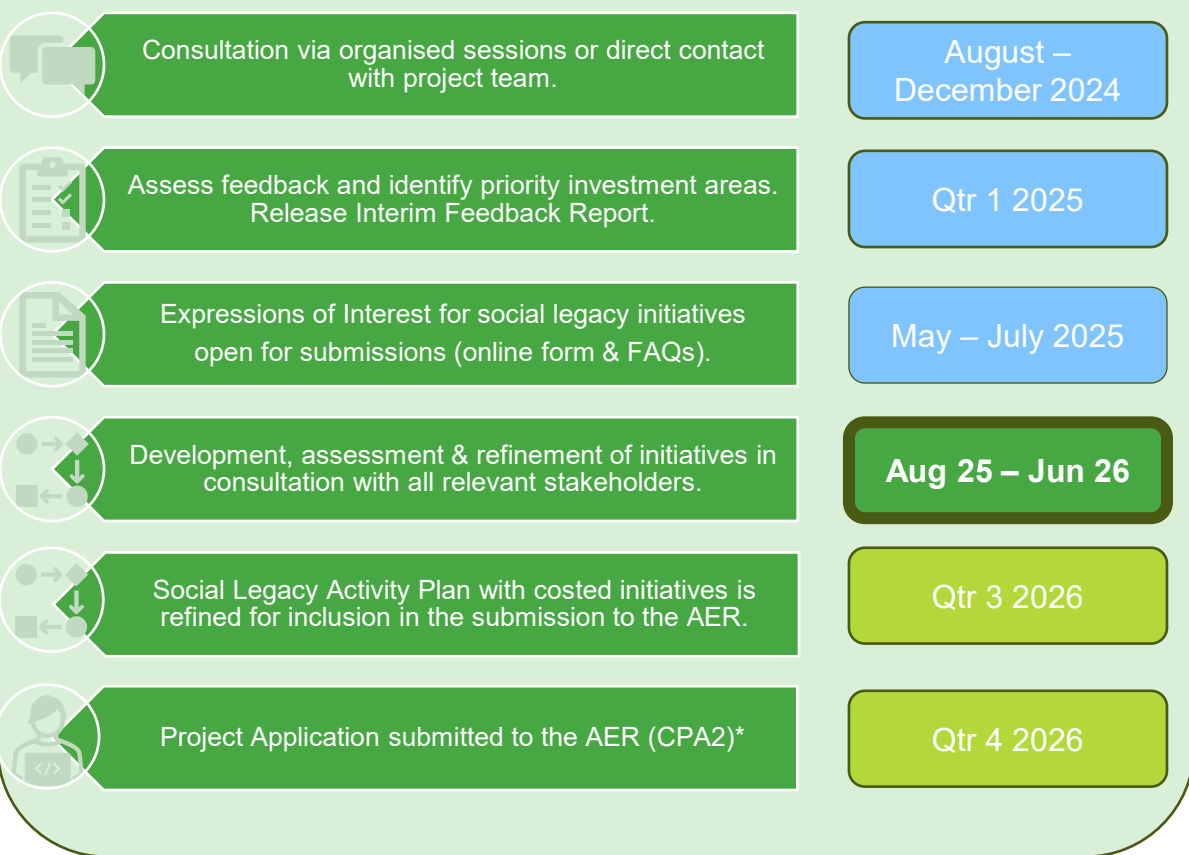


# Community and Social Legacy

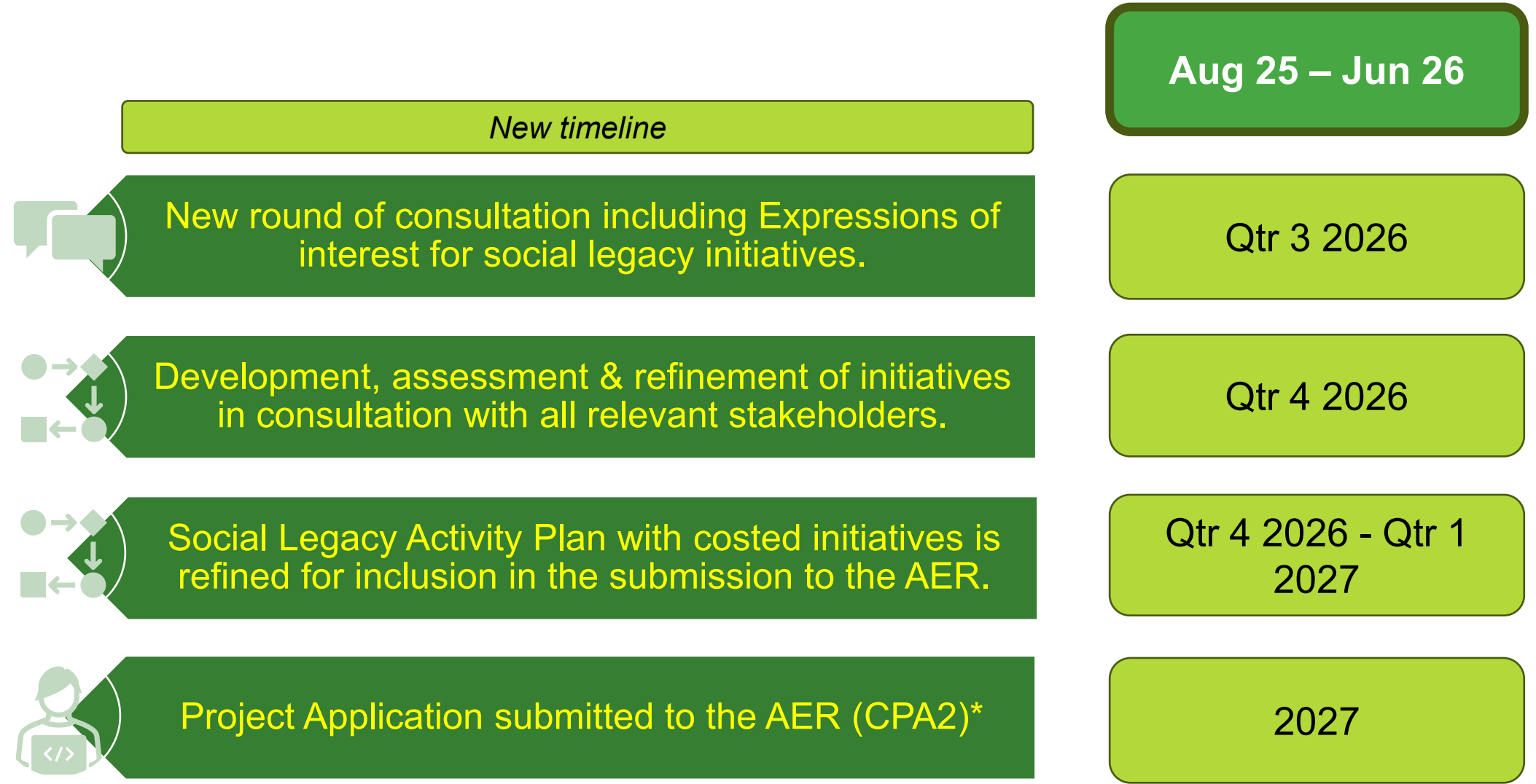


# Community investment & benefits submission timeline

## Original timeline



## New timeline



*\*Indicative time for a decision by the AER is ~ 6 months.*

# Community Partnerships Program 2026

Community Partnerships Program grants for **Round 1, 2026** will open from **Monday 30 March 2026**.

Visit: <https://www.transgrid.com.au/cpp>



## Moulamein Bowling Club

The Moulamein Bowling Club plays a central role in the local community, providing a welcoming space for connection and support. With funding from our Community Partnerships Program, the club hosted a Men's Health Night—a free event that provided meals, transport, and access to important health and wellbeing services.

Learn more [>](#)



## Community initiatives to deliver real benefits across regional NSW

A diverse range of not-for-profit organisations will invest in vital equipment, facilities, training and services after being successfully funded by Transgrid's Community Partnerships Program.

Grants have been awarded to 71 community groups from locations including Wagga Wagga, Yass, Coleambally, Lockhart, Muswellbrook, Glen Innes, Deniliquin and Moulamein.

Learn more [>](#)

Recent CPP recipients from Round 2, 2025:

Organisation	Project / initiative
Moulamein Retirement Village	Weigh chair
Yanco Creek & Tributaries Advisory Council	A Roof Over Our Head
Jerilderie Cricket Club	Back to the Pitch: Reviving junior cricket in Jerilderie
Moulamein Football Netball Club	Goal protection pads
END FM	END FM Tech & Learning advancement
Deniliquin Boat Club	Battery storage solution
Outback Theatre for Young People	Riverina Artist in Residence
Moulamein Racing Club	Moulamein Race Day Shade Umbrellas
Deniliquin Youth Initiative	Sound booth / recording studio

# Renewable Energy Showcase Days – Hay and Deniliquin



*Images: Students from Hay, Balranald, Tooleybuc, Deniliquin, Finley and Barham high schools participating in tower building activities*


# NSW Parliamentary Inquiry – Renewable Energy Zones

- Transgrid invited to attend NSW Parliamentary Inquiry (Upper House)
- Focus on South West Renewable Energy Zone
- 155 submissions to the inquiry during 2025.
- In person session held 18 February 2026 in Hay, NSW.
- Focus of conversation:
  - Cumulative impacts
  - Local infrastructure (roads / telecommunications)
  - Community investment and benefit

*Upcoming session in Sydney on 31 March.*

*Close out report will then follow.*

**Hearing Schedule**  
NSW Legislative Council  
Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Regional NSW





**Inquiry into Impact of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) on rural and regional communities and industries in New South Wales**

**18 February 2026**  
The Auditorium, Hay Services Club, 371 Murray Street, Hay

TIME	WITNESS	POSITION AND ORGANISATION	SUB NO.
<b>9.00 am</b>	Ms Alison McLean	Executive Manager – Economic Development and Tourism, Hay Shire Council	<a href="#">87</a>
	Mr Jack Bond	Chief Executive Officer, Edward River Council	<a href="#">127</a>
	Mr Garry Stoll	Director, Planning & Infrastructure, Murrumbidgee Council	<a href="#">121</a>
	Mr Steven Parisotto	Senior Planner, Murrumbidgee Council	
<b>9.45 am</b>	Mr Brett Stonestreet PSM	Interim Executive Officer, Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO)	<a href="#">68</a>
	Mr Terry Dodds	Chair, RAMJO Energy Security and Affordability Committee and CEO, Balranald Shire Council	
	Ms Hodi Beauliv	Executive Manager, Governance & Economic Services, Balranald Shire Council	
<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Morning tea</b>		
<b>10.45 am</b>	Mr Richard Coughlan	Secretary, Bundure District Landholders Group (BUNDL)	<a href="#">152</a>
	Mr Andrew Browning	Committee member, Bundure District Landholders Group (BUNDL)	
<b>11.30 am</b>	Mr Michael Johnson	General Manager Community and Social Licence, Transgrid	-
	Mr Nathan Menser	Community and Stakeholder Manager, Transgrid	
<b>12.15 pm</b>	<b>FINISH</b>		

The hearing will be webcast live on [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Pages/webcasts.aspx](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Pages/webcasts.aspx)  
For further information, please contact the secretariat on +61 2 9230 3081

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REPORT ON PROCEEDINGS BEFORE

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 - REGIONAL NSW**

**IMPACT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONES (REZ) ON RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES AND INDUSTRIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**UNCORRECTED**

At Hay Services Club, Hay, on Wednesday 18 February 2026

**The Committee met at 9:00.**

**PRESENT**  
The Hon. Mark Banasiak (Chair)

The Hon. Greg Donnelly  
The Hon. Aileen MacDonald  
The Hon. Sarah Mitchell  
The Hon. Peter Primrose

**PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**  
The Hon. Cameron Murphy

# Construction activity: HumeLink

*Time lapse video*



Amendment Report

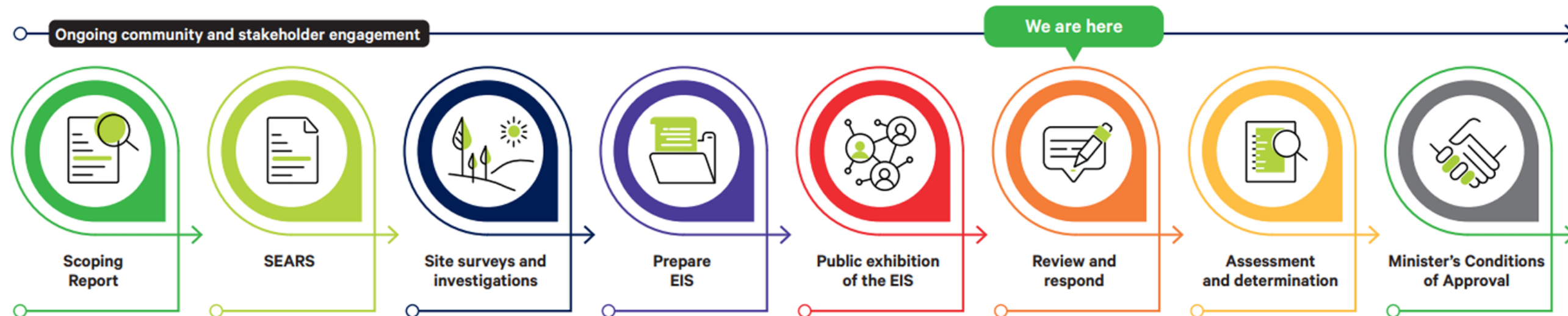
Status update



# Planning approval pathway

## Amendments to the project have been identified in response to:

- Feedback from landholders, government agencies and local councils during and following the public exhibition of the EIS
- Comments made in formal submissions on the EIS
- Ongoing development of the projects' design and construction methodology
- Ongoing discussion with EnergyCo regarding infrastructure requirements to support the South West REZ
- Greater clarity regarding the announced delay to the VNI West (Victoria) project in July 2025.



# Proposed amendments and refinements

The project **amendments** include:

Inclusion of **additional substation elements** at the future Dinawan substation to allow connection with the South West REZ

Inclusion of additional **reactor units** at the existing Wagga 330kV substation

Inclusion of additional **road and intersection improvements/upgrades**

Revision to the **number and location** of combined temporary worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds

The project **refinements** include:

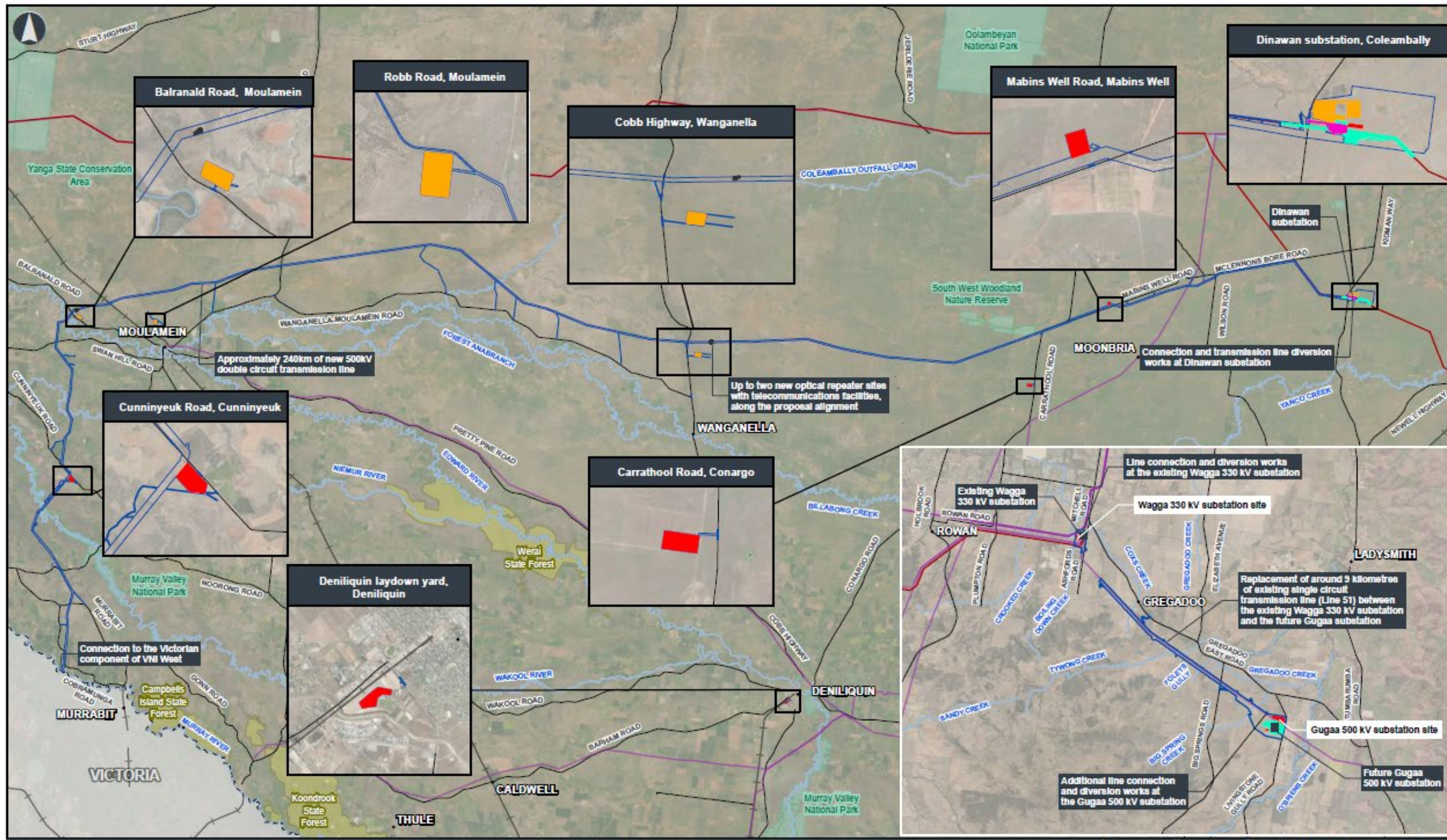
Refinement of **indicative disturbance footprint** for elements including transmission line structure locations, telecommunication facilities, brake & winch sites and 'hurdle' structures during construction

Refinement and rationalisation of **access tracks** for both the 500kV and 330kV (TL51 network upgrade work) components of the project

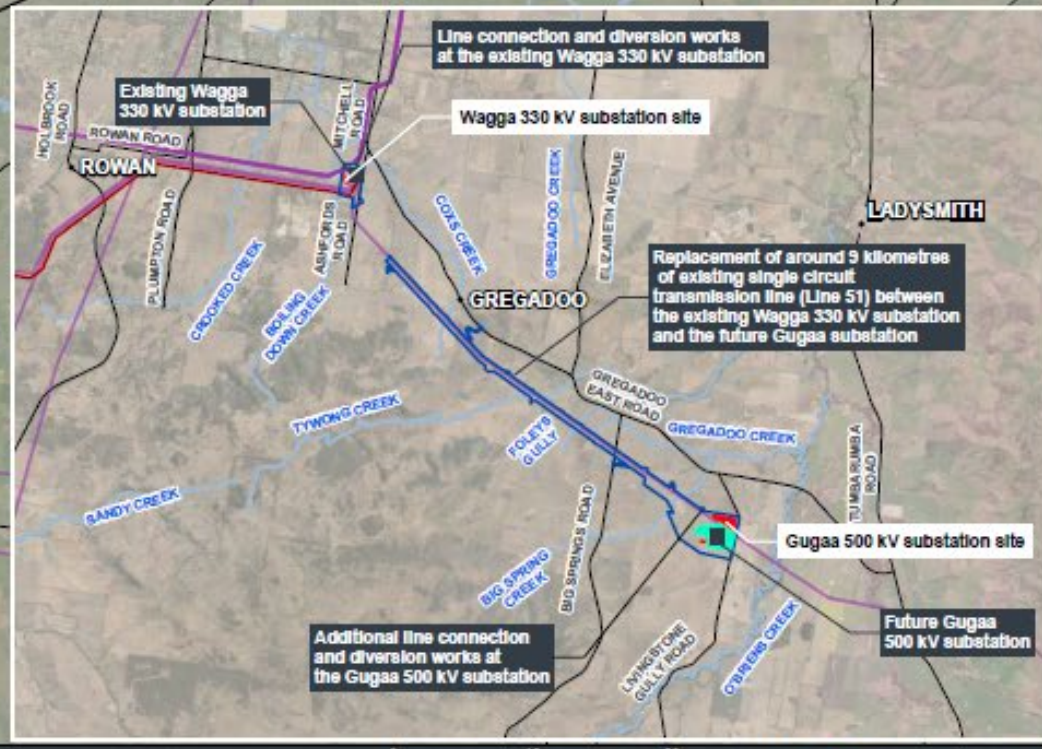
Updates to **construction staging**

Updates to **construction traffic routes** including over-size over-mass (OSOM) haulage routes

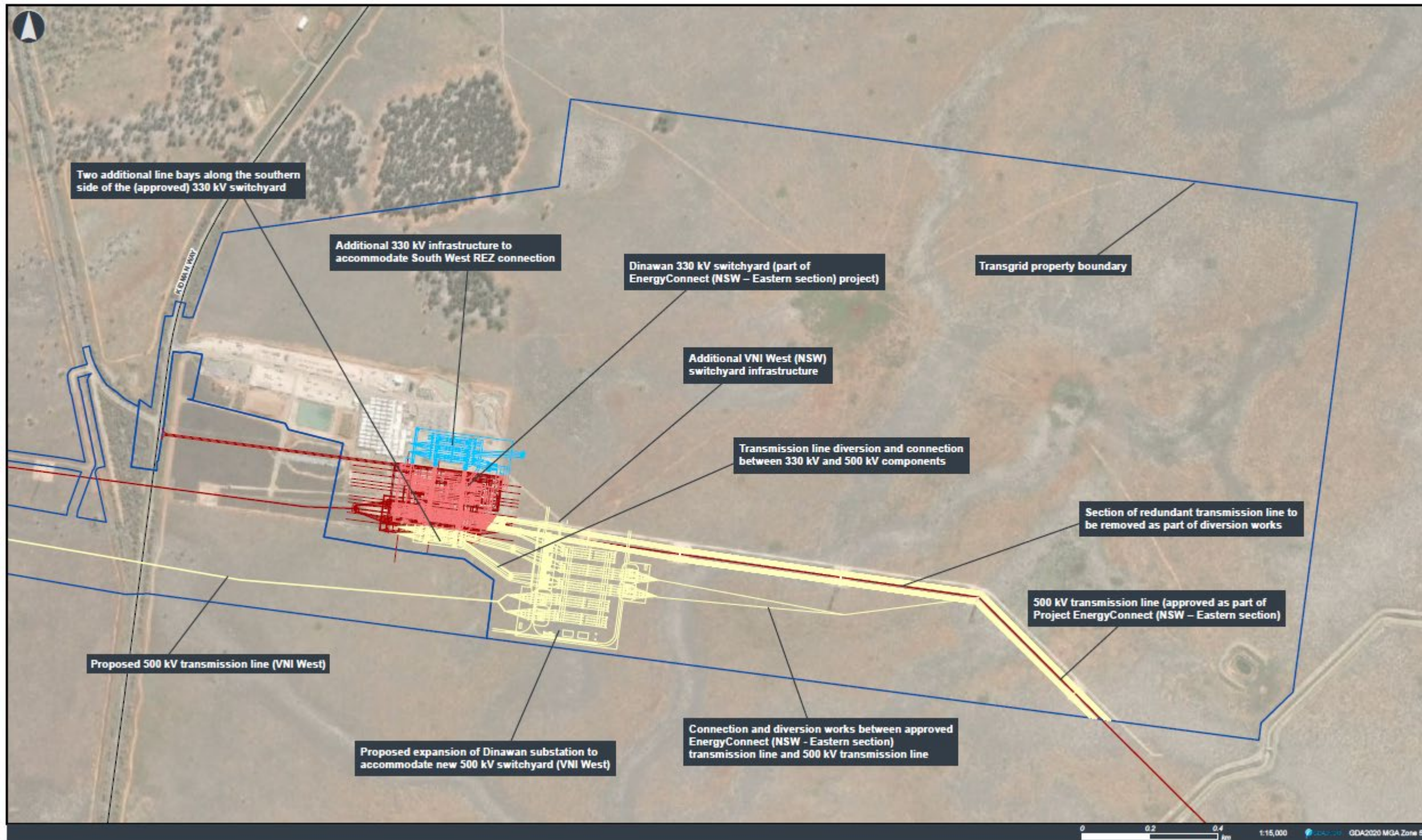
# Map showing proposed amendments



- Legend**
- Rail line
  - Main road
  - Named waterway
  - National park
  - State forest
  - NSW/Victorian border
  - Existing transmission line
  - EnergyConnect (NSW - Eastern section) project
  - Dinawan substation works - existing 330 kV
  - Amended project footprint
  - Dinawan substation works - proposed 500 kV
  - Substation
  - Telecommunication facility
  - Combined temporary worker accommodation facility
  - Construction compound



# Amendments - Dinawan substation works



**Additional infrastructure** is required to facilitate future connection of renewable energy generation. This includes:

- Installing additional electrical equipment
- Building a new 330 kV switchyard area (for SWREZ connections)
- Additional earthworks, drainage, fencing and access road works
- Relocating the temporary worker accommodation and construction compound area at the future Dinawan substation to the land currently being utilised for the EnergyConnect (NSW) temporary construction compound.

# Amendments - additional reactors at existing Wagga 330kV substation

Ongoing network planning has identified the need for additional shunt reactors at the existing Wagga 330 kV substation to help manage electricity voltage across the VNI West, HumeLink and EnergyConnect transmission lines.

The proposed amendment would include:

- installation of two shunt reactors at the existing substation
- a new internal access road, including an additional connection to Ashfords Road
- earthworks and new foundations, drainage works, modification of the existing spill containment system and adjustments to existing security fencing.

***This work would be located on land already owned and managed by Transgrid.***



Image of current construction activity at Wagga 330kV substation as part of EnergyConnect and HumeLink work

*What is a shunt reactor?*

*A shunt reactor is an electrical device used in high-voltage power systems that stabilises voltage, by absorbing excess power particularly when voltages are lowered or drop.*

# Amendments - road and intersection improvements and maintenance

## Assessment undertaken:

- Survey work was undertaken of the major and local roads proposed for use during construction to gain a better understanding of the road condition at present and to inform discussions with Council regarding maintenance regimes potential road work prior to construction.
- Transgrid continues to engage with Councils to discuss the results of these surveys and its recommendations for road maintenance and construction readiness related to the project.



*Image showing Mabins Well Road, Moonbria*

# Amendments - road and intersection improvements and maintenance

Transgrid is continuing to work with councils and Transport for NSW to confirm the scope of any preparatory road works associated with identified transport routes. Subject to agreement and approval, this may include:

- Minor road widening, turning bays and intersection works
- Resurfacing or regrading sections of sealed and unsealed roads
- Upgrades or replacement of existing infrastructure (including cattle grids on local roads as required).



*Image of Cobb Highway and Wanganella-Moulamein Road intersection at Wanganella*

# Amendments - construction compounds and combined temporary worker accommodation facilities

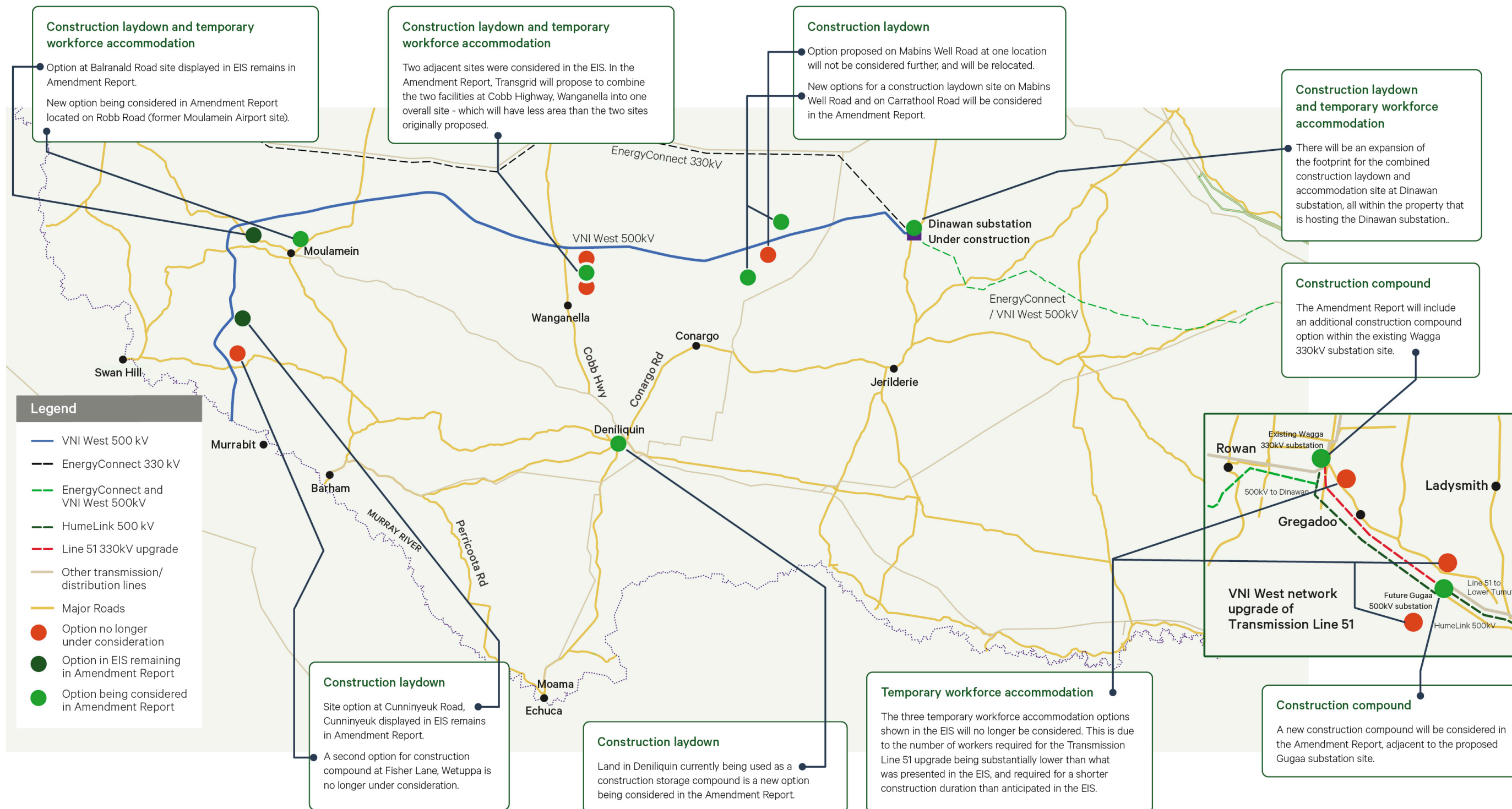
A series of changes have been proposed to the approach to, and number of, combined temporary accommodation facilities and construction compounds required for the amended project. These are in response to:

- Ongoing landholder and community feedback
- Refinement of construction planning requirements for the network augmentation works component
- Further consideration of available accommodation options within Wagga Wagga
- Revised approach to align with the current construction and staging strategy, while making use of areas already supporting other major projects in the region, including EnergyConnect (NSW) and Humelink.



*Image of worker accommodation camp and construction laydown area at Tarcutta for the HumeLink project*

# Amendments - combined temporary worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds



# Refinements to the project footprint and indicative disturbance footprint

Minor changes to the project footprint and indicative disturbance footprint since the EIS exhibited have been made to:

- respond to landowner feedback
- respond to ongoing field investigations survey information collected following EIS exhibition period
- rationalise the amount of land required to be impacted
- minimise impacts to existing assets, such as driveways and fence lines
- respond to ongoing refinement of the amended construction methodology.

The changes include:

- minor changes to the transmission line structure locations
- adjustment to the location of the two telecommunication facilities
- refinement to the size of the transmission line structure construction pads and updates to the size and location of some brake and winch sites along the alignment of the project
- confirming the location of 'hurdles' to protect existing utilities and manage road user impacts during stringing.



*Image: Example of a break and winch site, Project Energy Connect*

# Refinements – construction access tracks

A number of previously proposed access tracks have been identified for streamlining compared to the design presented in the EIS. The updated access tracks would continue to provide safe construction access while minimising environmental and property impacts. Priority has continued to be given to using and upgrading existing tracks, informed by landholder feedback.

This work has identified a small number of proposed construction access track changes, including:

- reducing or relocating a number of access tracks originally identified in the EIS
- adding a small number of new tracks where required
- relocating some tracks from outside the 200-metre transmission line corridor to within the corridor, closer to construction areas.
- reducing vegetation clearing by narrowing access track generally widths between Mabins Well Road, Mabins Well and Maude Road, Moulamein from up to ten (10) metres to around (8) eight metres, except where wider tracks are needed for safe vehicle movement.



*Image of an access track on the HumeLink project*

# Amended proposed construction traffic routes

As a result of ongoing consultation and reviewed proposed construction traffic routes, some local and regional roads have been adjusted or replaced where identified as being unsuitable for expected construction traffic or where a better option was available.

New roads which have now been nominated for use in construction include:

**Moulamein:** Paterson Road

**Deniliquin to Tullakool:** Wakool Road

**Gregadoo:** Ashfords Road, Boiling Down Road, Elizabeth Avenue

**Lake Albert:** Mitchell Road, Kyeamba Avenue, Vincent Road

**Kooringal:** Kooringal Road

Roads no longer proposed to be used in construction include:

**Moulamein:** Barratta Street, Carne Street, Tallow Street (between Moulamein Road and Tchelery Road)

**Jerilderie:** Showground Road

**Moonbria:** Moonbria Road between Carrathool Road and Wilson Road

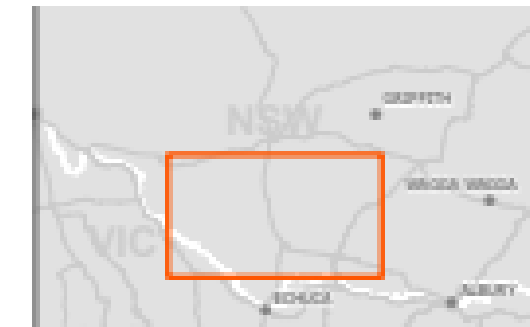
**Argoon:** Fernbank Road

**Berrigan Road/Jerilderie Road** between the Newell Highway and Berrigan.

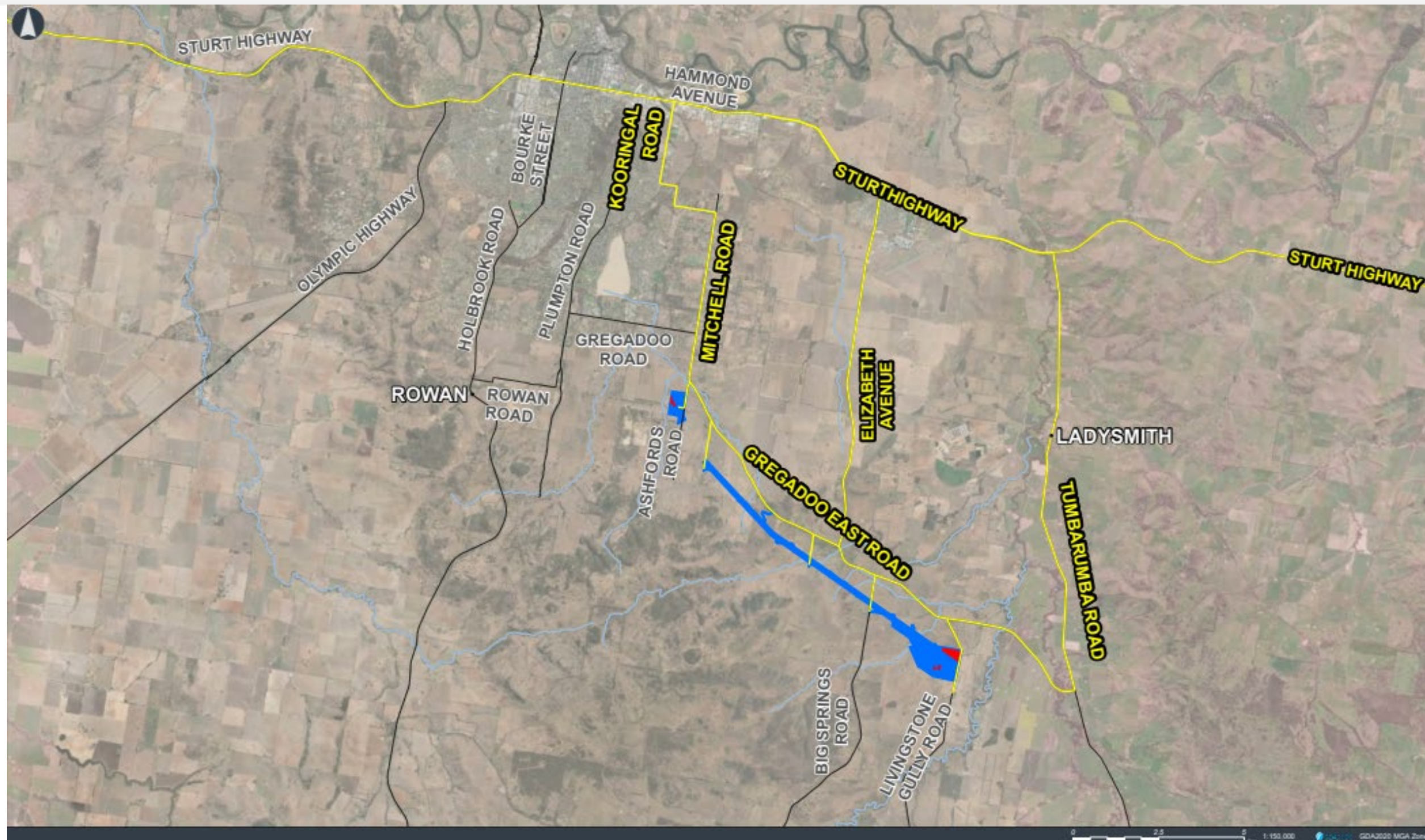
# Proposed construction traffic routes – Dinawan to Border



- Legend**
- Construction traffic route
  - Main road
  - Named waterway
  - Project footprint
  - Combined temporary worker accommodation facility
  - Construction compound
  - Victorian border
  - National park
  - State forest



# Proposed construction traffic routes – Wagga Wagga



## Legend

- Construction traffic route
- Main road
- Named waterway
- Project footprint
- Combined temporary worker accommodation facility
- Construction compound
- Victorian border
- National park
- State forest



# Refinements – Oversize and overmass (OSOM) haulage routes

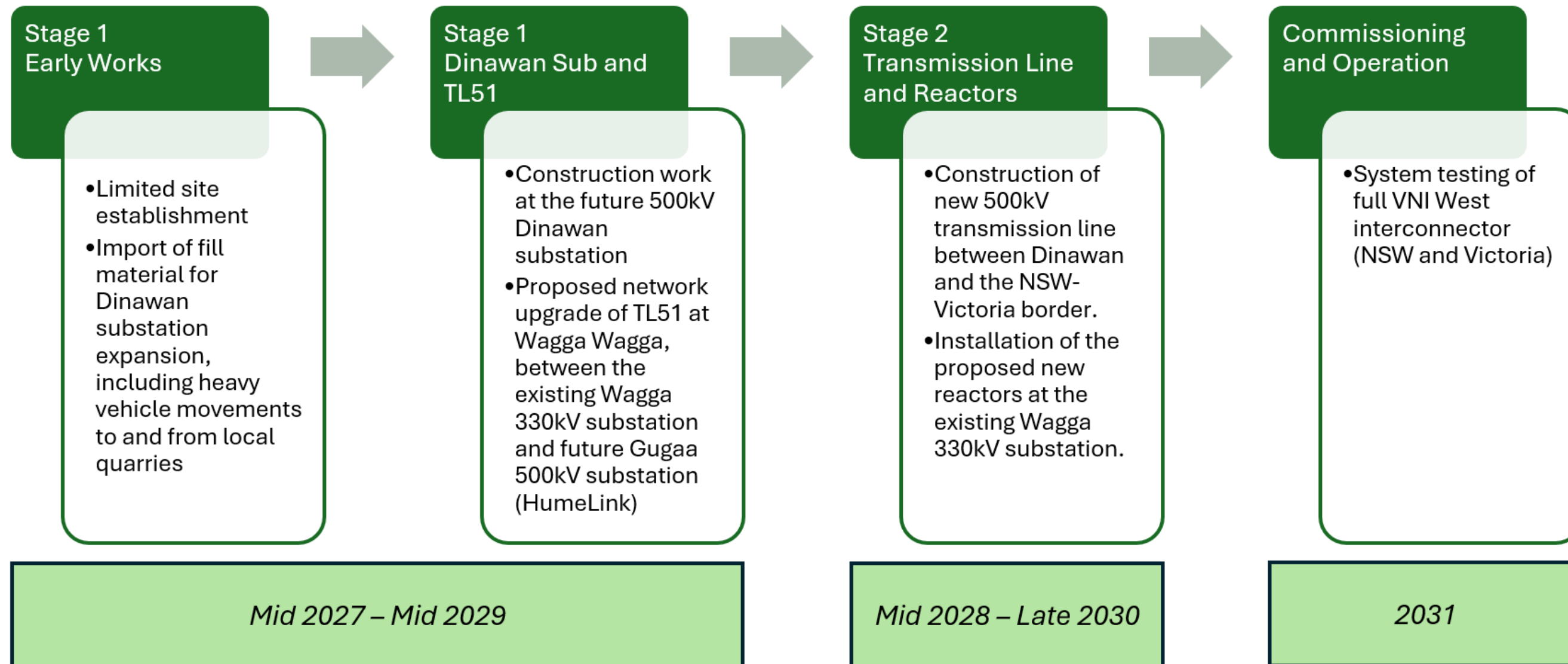
Due to the project amendment to include additional reactors at the existing Wagga 330kV substation, updates to the proposed oversize and overmass (OSOM) haulage routes are now required.

These updates include:

- Refinement of the port facilities being assessed, with the Port of Adelaide no longer being considered.
- Inclusion of routes from Port of Newcastle and Port of Melbourne to the existing Wagga 330kV substation site to facilitate delivery of the additional shunt reactors.
- Refinement of the proposed route from the Port of Newcastle to go via the Pacific Motorway/Westlink M7/Hume Highway as opposed to via the Hunter Expressway/Golden Highway/Newell Highway.

Traffic management requirements for OSOM vehicle movements due to the above updates would be confirmed in consultation with Transport for NSW and through the completion of associated traffic studies.

# Refinements – Revised construction staging



# Refinements - Construction workers

As a result of refinements to construction planning and staging for the amended project, peak workforce numbers are anticipated to be lower than previously assessed.

Previously assessed workforce (EIS)	Updated workforce estimates (Amended Project)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Up to around 1,500 construction workers across multiple work fronts for the main transmission line and network augmentation works.</li><li>• up to around 1,100 workers onsite at peak times</li><li>• up to around 400 workers for substation works.</li></ul>	<p><b>Stage 1 works:</b> up to around 300 full-time equivalent workers during peak construction, across multiple work areas</p> <p><b>Stage 2 works:</b> up to around 850 workers during peak construction.</p>



Image: HumeLink West 500kV tower construction

# EIS Amendment Report – Engagement



# EIS Amendment Report - Advertising

- Newspaper advertising campaign
  - 6 local newspapers
- Email:
  - Email to project updates list (400+ recipients, incl directly affected landowners)
  - Email to CCG members
- Posters:
  - Promotional information / QR codes as pointers to information
  - Placed at local shops and community spots along the alignment
- Online information:
  - Website update
- Letters
  - Letterbox drop/targeted outreach to communities impacted by the project amendments



# EIS Amendment Report – Community Information Sessions

Throughout March, we are hosting drop-in sessions to share information about the proposed changes and the findings of additional technical studies.

<p><b>Wagga Wagga</b> Friday 20 March, 10:00am – 3:00pm: Transgrid Discovery Hub, 27 Kincaid Street</p>	<p><b>Conargo</b> Tuesday 24 March, 3:30pm – 6:30pm: Conargo Hall, Conargo Road</p>	<p><b>Mallan</b> Thursday 26 March, 9:00am – 12:00pm: Mallan Hall, Cunninyeuk Road</p>
<p><b>Deniliquin</b> Monday 23 March, 3:30pm – 6:30pm: Deniliquin Golf Club, 1 Golf Club Road</p>	<p><b>Coleambally</b> Wednesday 25 March, 10:00am – 1:00pm: Coleambally Community Hall, Kingfisher Avenue</p>	<p><b>Moulamein</b> Thursday 26 March, 1:00pm – 5:00pm: Moulamein Bowling Club, Endeavour Drive</p>
<p><b>Wanganella</b> Tuesday 24 March, 10:00am – 2:00pm: Wanganella Hall, Lang Street, Wanganella</p>	<p><b>Jerilderie</b> Wednesday 25 March, 2:00pm – 5:00pm: Murrumbidgee Council Chambers, 35 Jerilderie Street</p>	<p><b>Moulamein</b> Friday 27 March, 10:00am – 1:30pm: Moulamein Art Gallery, 33 Morago St</p>

Next Steps:



# Next steps – Submissions report and Amendment Report

- The Submissions Report and Amendment Report will be lodged with the DPHI and will be published on the Planning Portal.
- Aiming for submission of both reports in mid-2026 (target: July).
- DPHI will then review the reports as part of the project assessment and will make a recommendation to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to either approve the project along with any conditions, or provide a reason for refusal.
- The Minister's determination, including any conditions of approval, will be published on the DPHI Major Projects Planning Portal.

Wrap up and close



# Next meeting

## Meeting frequency

- Meeting #13: Target – July 2026
  - Transgrid proposes to discuss the Amendment Report and Submissions Report provided to DPHI.
- Meeting #14: Target – November 2026
  - Transgrid to provide updates on progress regarding approvals, Request for Tender process, Community Investment & Benefit, proposed construction, and a look ahead to 2027.



**Meeting close**

**Thank you for your time**

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