

## MEETING MINUTES

### 1.1 HumeLink Combined Community Consultative Group Meeting: 29 March 2023

<b>Time</b>	5:00pm – 7:30 pm
<b>Date</b>	29/03/2023
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Chair: Brendan Blakeley</p> <p>Secretariat: Ella Burgess</p> <p>Transgrid CCG members: Naomi Rowe, Michael Johnson</p> <p>Transgrid project member attendees: Tammy Sinclair, Cameron Walters, Nathan Rhodes, Sumaya Osman, Nicole Ryan, Joel Annett, Darryl White, Jeremy Roberts</p> <p>Community members: Andrea Strong, Rene Lunardello, Rebecca Tobin, Frank Galluzo, Andrew Hamilton, Ian Robson, Paul Sturgess, Pippa Quilty, Hansie Armour, Clr Julia Hamm, Lee Kingma, Jessica Reynolds, Russ Erwin, Phil Clements</p> <p>Several observers were in attendance</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	<p>Catriona McAuliffe, Peter Lawson, Clr Rod Kendall, Matt Dombrovski, Sarah Roche, Independent Land Owner Advocate Rod Stowe, Deputy Independent Land Owner Advocate Barbara El Gamal</p>
<b>Meeting location</b>	Gundagai Services Golf Club
<b>Meeting materials</b>	Presentation
<b>Purpose of meeting</b>	Meeting 11

Item	Discussion Summary
<b>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The meeting commenced at 5:05pm.</li> <li>- The Chair welcomed all and gave an Acknowledgement of Country.</li> <li>- The Chair noted apologies.</li> <li>- The Chair acknowledged Sarah Roche’s resignation from the Snowy Valleys CCG.</li> <li>- The Chair thanked the observers for attending and outlined how the CCG would operate.</li> <li>- The Chair noted that there were many agenda items to get through and asked that any additional questions that are unable to be answered at the meeting are emailed to the CCG Secretariat for a response from Transgrid.</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting protocols and introduction of Jeremy</b>	<p>Nathan thanked the CCG members and observers for attending the meeting and did a safety share.</p> <p>Nathan introduced Jeremy Roberts who will be looking after the delivery of the project. He acknowledged that continuity of Transgrid staff is important to stakeholders and community groups and noted that Transgrid is heavily</p>

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committed to this but is also increasing resourcing to accommodate for the size of the project.

- *A CCG member noted that at the Upper Lachlan Yass Valley CCG a member had asked for the 3D NEARA images to be shared, the member sent two emails. The CCG member commented that NEARA images had been shown but were not provided to the community. It was further noted that showing those types of images is critical to helping the wider community understand the visual impacts of the lines in their areas.*
- Nathan responded that the imagery was still under development and that the images are not quite finalised but can be shared once they are.
- *A CCG member noted that they were told at a Community Information Session by the Transgrid team the NEARA images are not for community use. It was assumed by a CCG member that NEARA images were similar to a virtual reality image, as was requested by the community however they were informed by Transgrid that it is not a virtual reality platform. The CCG member asked what the difference is between photo montages and NEARA.*
- Nathan responded that it was a visualisation tool.
- Joel explained that photomontages are actual images taken at certain points along the route and with the towers layered on them. They are constructed according to set guidelines for the visual assessment report. NEARA is a digital visualisation tool that enables Transgrid to look at the entire route. It is a visualisation tool rather than a visual assessment tool.
- *A CCG member commented that there had been an online information session the week before and participants had asked whether the 330kV line was removed from the image. They had been told the images had not been doctored.*
- *The Snowy Valleys CCG requested visuals of the towers from the township of Tumut. There was an image at the Snowy Valleys CCG depicting 500kV lines with NEARA and you can see the lines of a 330kV tower, but the towers have been doctored out of the image. The CCG member noted that seeing the impact of the lines is crucial for visual impact understanding. It was noted that the community feel as though Transgrid is hiding the truth of what HumeLink will actually look like.*
- Joel confirmed that the images were an original, undoctored image, Transgrid put new infrastructure over the image but had not removed anything from the image.
- *A CCG member commented that Transgrid promoted the NEARA images as though they were ready. At the previous CCG it was stated that it was critical that these images be displayed at the EIS community information sessions on landscape character and visual amenity. The CCG member continued that Transgrid is failing in its duty to consult by not showing the images that have been produced at this point at EIS community information sessions. They noted that this should have been addressed at the recent EIS community information sessions which dealt with landscape character and visual amenity, an issue critical to the wider community. The photomontages are essential to inform the community about impacts on landscape character and visual amenity.*

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Nathan responded that the NEARA technology is still under development.</li></ul>
<b>Minutes and Matters Arising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Chair called for comments on the minutes from the previous meeting.</li><li>- <i>A comment was made that the pre-reading material for the meeting was only received in the last week and noted that this did not provide enough time to read the content.</i></li><li>- <b>Action: Pre-reading material will be provided at least a week before each meeting.</b></li></ul>
<b>CCG Action Register</b>	<p>Michael stepped through the outstanding actions from previous meetings (See Transgrid's action register attached for actions and responses).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>A CCG member asked what the clearance height of the transmission lines at the lowest point was.</i></li><li>- Michael responded that the minimum height was 12 metres.</li><li>- <i>A CCG member questioned the statement that there were 50 outages during the Dunn's Road fire. The CCG member commented that the Red Hat Review stated that there were 65 outages and asked for clarification on the number.</i></li><li>- <b>ACTION: Transgrid to confirm the number of outages during the Dunns Road fire.</b></li><li>- <i>Another CCG member asked for the number of requests for power lines to be turned off.</i></li><li>- <b>ACTION: Transgrid to confirm the number of requests for power lines to be turned off.</b></li><li>- <i>A CCG member commented that the map they had been provided with as part of the pre-reading showed the incorrect route and asked for an updated map to be distributed outlining the correct route. The CCG member noted that it was a failing of Transgrid that the wrong map has been distributed twice to CCG members.</i></li><li>- <b>ACTION: Transgrid to re-distribute the correct route map identifying the East and West sections of the line.</b></li><li>- <i>A CCG member commented that the images of the transmission lines in the fact sheets are 330kV lines instead of 550kV lines and do not accurately portray the size of the transmission lines for HumeLink.</i></li><li>- <b>ACTION: Transgrid to review fact sheets reportedly displaying 330kV lines in place of 550kV lines and redistribute the correct fact sheets.</b></li><li>- <i>A CCG member requested for the methodology to the landscape character assessment to be addressed as an action item at the next CCG meeting.</i></li><li>- <i>A CCG member asked how Transgrid is communicating with the community and to what extent they are leveraging various forms of media.</i></li><li>- The Chair responded that Transgrid will address this item later in the meeting, however are open to feedback to improve communications with the community.</li></ul>

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- *A CCG member asked about how Transgrid will ensure the towers are engineered correctly, to withstand severe weather events.*
- Nathan responded that the engineering development process is constantly being refined as the project progresses and more information becomes available. Currently, the towers are modelled on a conceptual design. Further investigations will be carried out with the delivery partners as the detailed design is developed. Aspects such as ground conditions, local conditions and water conditions will be considered when finalising the actual design and construction methodology for the towers.
- *A CCG member asked whether the possibility of undergrounding would be reconsidered if Transgrid found that the cost of the towers greatly increased due to unworkable ground conditions.*
- Nathan responded that the cost comparisons considered the risk of increased cost due to changes in conditions.
- The Chair noted that tower design, engineering and construction should be subject to a more detailed presentation in a future meeting.
- *A CCG member noted that calling the access areas access tracks does not accurately represent the significance of the design. The CCG member commented that the design will be a four-metre-wide road with one metre drainage channel on either side and that there is significant work required including surface levelling, adding aggregate road base and compacting with a roller. The CCG member noted that it should be referred to as a road rather than an access track.*
- The Chair responded that as this is part of tower construction it could be addressed at a future CCG.
- *A CCG member noted that the information provided on the refinement of the route through Yass was not adequate. The CCG member had a number of specific questions which the response from Transgrid did not address. It was noted that there are serious cumulative impacts from HumeLink and a one-page summary of the tier 1 and 2 constraints and no explanation of the constraints was not adequate. The CCG member noted that they sent an email with questions to CCG members of Upper Lachlan Yass and the Chair.*
- The Chair noted that he will review questions sent to him on the refinement of the Yass route and asked that questions are also sent to the secretariat in the future.
- **ACTION: Chair to review the questions sent through on the Yass route refinement.**
- *A CCG member commented that the PACR outlines the size of a 500kV tower pad which is 55m by 105m. It was suggested that Transgrid has not communicated the size of these tower pads to landowners. It was further added that a crane pad is 0.58 hectares and it was suggested that Transgrid has also not communicated this to landowners, particularly in conjunction with the 4m access track/road previously mentioned*
- The Chair responded that this item of land access for construction will be addressed at future CCGs.
- *A CCG member noted that the responses to the actions had not adequately addressed biosecurity, undergrounding and visual impact.*

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*They asked for more information on this from Transgrid. It was added that visual aids such as Windplanner have been requested for years and are necessary for communities to understand likely visual impacts.*

### Bushfire Management

#### Bushfire Management

Nathan gave an update on Bushfire Management.

See slide 9 of the presentation for an update on Bushfire Management.

- Transgrid has had ongoing meetings with the Rural Fire Service (RFS) to understand how to minimise bushfire risk and to take learnings from the RFS.
- Nathan noted that having localised knowledge built into the process is critical.
- Transgrid will prepare a Bushfire Risk Assessment (BFRA) as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BFRA identifies areas with an elevated risk, carries out field investigations, carries out desktop mapping of bushfire areas, recommends mitigating measures and takes onboard local feedback.
- There are several Australia protocols that need to be taken into account to move the process forward. A key aspect Transgrid also needs to consider is the distribution assets which have a different risk profile.
- *A CCG member noted that the presentation lacked information around how fires should be managed under power lines. Part of the problem is that the legislation around the management of vegetation near powerlines is lacking and doesn't go far enough to keep landowners safe. They also noted that they would like information on protocols in place for how power lines are de-energised and then re-energised.*  
**TAKEN ON NOTICE.**
- *Another CCG commented that there is no protocol for how to fight fires from the air in the vicinity of transmission lines. It was noted that the assets added considerable risks for landowners yet the power lines are Transgrid's assets, not the landowners' and it is up to Transgrid to work out what to do in the event of a fire not the landowner but it is our property and livestock that are threatened.*
- *A CCG member commented that farmers have a responsibility to put out fires on their property and prevent fire spreading beyond their boundary. Having transmission lines puts a constraint on landowners ability to do this. They asked if Transgrid would assume liability if they are unable to do this? They also asked if the RFS has deemed the bushfire risk to be an acceptable risk to be associated with transmission lines.*
- *Another CCG member asked whether the bushfire risk will be greater with an increased number of lines. The CCG member asked whether HumeLink is the only set of transmission lines that will be going ahead in this area in the next 10-15 years.*
- Nathan responded that the energy transition is ongoing and that he is unable to comment on the transmission lines over the next 10-15 years.
- *A CCG member commented that Transgrid responded to media coverage about the Dunn's Road fire and claimed that they turned the transmission lines off during the fire, the CCG member stated that this was not correct. The CCG member has heard from those on the*

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*fireground that there were multiple requests for the lines to be turned off and they were denied. The CCG member also commented that during the Bushfire Workshop held by Transgrid in 2022, it was stated by Transgrid's own experts that when working on the ground in a safety role they have asked for lines to be turned off and they have not been turned off. The CCG member continued that Transgrid's experts stated that even when the lines are turned off, they are only de-energised and this means there is still residual energy which can pose a threat. If there are parallel lines and one is de-energised, there can be a power transfer between the lines causing the line to become re-energised. The CCG member commented that if turning the lines off risks people in the city losing power, posing a great risk to the health and wellbeing of those in the cities (e.g. those in ER), they do not believe that the lines will be de-energised. The CCG member concluded that just as the city residents are important, so too are the people in the communities being put at further risk in bushfire events, they too should be considered and protected, undergrounding would eliminate the risk.*

- Nathan responded that there is a lot of information that needs to be worked through locally with the RFS in terms of protocols etc. There will be ongoing meetings with RFS.
- A CCG member commented that within the RFS, it is standard operating procedure not to cross easements in smoky conditions. If Transgrid cared about bushfire impacts, the line would be put underground.
- The Chair summarised that the community is seeking more detailed information from Transgrid on the management of bushfire risks.

### **Biosecurity Protocols During Construction**

#### **Biosecurity Protocols During Construction**

Sumaya gave an update on biosecurity protocols during construction.

See slides 11 and 12 of the presentation for the biosecurity update.

- The details on how biosecurity will be managed during construction will be outlined in the Enabling Works Environmental Management Plan (EWEMPL) and the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
- The property team will consult with landowners on their Landowner Property Management Plans (PMPs) to ensure construction contractors are sent the PMPs of landowners.
- The EWEMPL and CEMP will be developed by the construction contractors following project approval and will be informed by multiple things including: Landowner PMPs, Minister for Planning's Conditions of Approval and any other relevant standards.
- A CCG member commented that although there will be protocols in place for contractors, people do not always follow protocols. They gave an example of an instance where Transgrid workers visited their property and they spoke to their neighbour who informed them that the vehicle was not washed down after driving on their land. The CCG member commented that an audit is needed of what weeds and diseases landowners have prior to the beginning of construction so that Transgrid can indemnify landowners if weeds or diseases are inadvertently introduced. The protocols don't eliminate the biosecurity problem. They just reduce the risk.

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- *Another CCG member commented that it will be impossible to wash every vehicle, there will be long term effects that are not observed initially and the PMP does not cover potential future risks.*
- Sumaya responded that there is a control framework that will be applied to the construction contractor. The contractors will be bound by the PMP's attached to the contract. The contractors will need to demonstrate to both Transgrid and the Department of Planning in a construction management plan how they will comply with the conditions. Surveillance officers will be in the field and contractors will be audited regularly by an environmental compliance representative. There are financial consequences for any breaches of the conditions.
- The Chair noted that the question remains that when there is a breach in protocol, what assurance will landowners have that their assets will be protected?
- *A CCG member asked whether landowners will be indemnified for any biosecurity failures that could occur from breaches in protocol even if protocols are strictly adhered to.*
- *A CCG member asked what Transgrid is doing about the cultural heritage and significance of certain areas.*
- Sumaya responded that First Nations people are being consulted throughout the process. There has been First Nations representation in each CCG group. There is a Cultural Heritage assessment undertaken and the route is walked with First Nations and Registered Aboriginal Parties. Areas of significance and importance are captured in the EIS and information is provided to the contractor that they will have to fence off and flag any areas of cultural significance. Any information coming from landowners whether of about Aboriginal or European heritage will be captured.
- *A CCG member asked how this will be enforced.*
- Sumaya noted that if there is a line going over a site of cultural significance, a call on how impacts will be managed will be made with First Nations people. They are being consulted throughout the whole process, during technical assessment and construction to ensure culturally significant heritage is protected.
- *A CCG member commented that if power lines are placed over culturally significant sites and a fire comes through, no one will be able to protect the site due to the infrastructure.*

### Property Management Plan

#### Property Management Plan

Darryl gave an update on the Property Management Plan (PMP).

See slide 16 of the presentation for an overview of the PMP.

- The PMP outlines the obligations of Transgrid and its contractors relating to property access.
- The PMP is a legally binding document which includes information for each landowner such as biosecurity, access, farming constraints. Landowners can meet with the land access officer to complete the PMP, the PMP is then reviewed by a solicitor and finalised.
- The idea is for the PMP to grow with input from the landowner to make it specific for their particular property.

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- *A CCG member asked what will happen if there are too many constraints to possibly be managed. A CCG member commented that the PMP cannot justify how significantly the project will impact each landowner.*
- Darryl acknowledged that each PMP will be completely different and noted that around 100 landowners have completed 70 PMP's and each one is completely different due to farming and operational constraints.
- *A CCG member commented that these documents require a lot of time and investment from landowners to complete. They commented that they would like to see landowners compensated for their time in putting together property management plans.*
- Darryl noted that Transgrid creates the documents, with input from landowners. Darryl added that landowners and Transgrid need to work together to have the PMP completed.
- *A CCG member commented that they must complete 8 different PMPs for their different properties and it will take significant time.*
- *A CCG member asked if landowners can be paid for their time put into developing the PMPs. **TAKEN ON NOTICE.***

### **Payment for Professional Service Fees**

- Darryl noted that Transgrid will cover any legal, valuation and financial service fees that are reasonably incurred by a Landowner relating to HumeLink negotiations.
- *A CCG member noted that in the contracts that they received this read that it would only be for fees incurred with the signing of the easement. They asked for clarity. **TAKEN ON NOTICE.***

## **Undergrounding**

### **Undergrounding**

Nathan gave a presentation on undergrounding.

See slides 19 and 20 of the presentation for an overview of Transgrid's position on undergrounding.

- Transgrid is highly regulated and is required to develop the HumeLink Project under prescribed legal arrangements with a number of regulators including the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) and the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO).
- AEMO's role is to produce an integrated system which will meet the needs of the National Electricity Market (NEM).
- The 2022 ISP defined the HumeLink Project as a project that should progress as urgently as possible by the accelerated timeframe of July 2026.
- The AER is the economic regulator and ensures that transmission companies are building infrastructure that is needed and building it efficiently.
- The NSW Government declared the HumeLink Project as Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) meaning that HumeLink is of immediate priority.
- *A CCG member commented that they have been asking for community members to be able to meet with the AEMO. They asked for an update on when this could be arranged.*



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- Nathan replied that Transgrid is committed to providing increased visibility with discussions that are being had with stakeholders. Transgrid have heard the feedback from the community and are looking at getting the groups together and will be providing an update for CCG members on how these discussions can look.
- **ACTION: Transgrid to provide the CCG with an update on progress with AEMO at the next CCG.**
- *A CCG member noted that they requested the document which accelerated the HumeLink project. Transgrid sent the document which was the 2022 ISP to the CCG member months after the request, and a week before this combined CCG. The CCG member commented that the 2022 ISP defined HumeLink as a "staged actionable" project, and not "actionable" as stated by Transgrid. They noted that the document stated that there would be more benefits if the project was not completed until 2028/29.*
- *The CCG member quoted from the document, "In AEMO's view, the project would optimise benefits to consumers if delivery is targeted for 2026-27. **The ISP modelling does suggest that net market benefits would be \$3 million more if HumeLink were scheduled to be delivered in 2028-29 in Step Change and 2033-34 in Progressive Change.**" See page 68 of the following link: <https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/major-publications/isp/2022/2022-documents/2022-integrated-system-plan-isp.pdf?la=en>*
- *In view of this information the CCG member questioned the timeframe for completing the project and that it could be slowed down in order to deliver a better outcome for impacted communities.*
- *The CCG member also noted that Transgrid was required under the RIT-T to not consider undergrounding however the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner noted that the RIT-T is not fit for purpose. The CCG member noted that the cost considerations must account for the social and environmental costs, while the costs of building it are a one off, the social and environmental costs are ongoing.*
- *A CCG member asked whether Transgrid can estimate the cost of undergrounding by building a very small portion underground and assessing the cost based on that.*
- *Nathan responded that they have collaborated with companies internationally who have constructed underground lines and those companies have shared their experience which has informed their costing estimates. Nathan noted that more information on this will be available in an upcoming webinar on undergrounding.*
- *A CCG member asked whether the costs of comparisons for undergrounding and overhead lines consider the maintenance costs associated with both techniques?*
- *Another CCG member commented that they were aware of an underground gas pipeline that took only 8 weeks to lay 32km of pipe.*
- *Nathan noted that the terrain crossed throughout HumeLink is a key consideration which contributes to the difficulty of undergrounding.*
- *A CCG member asked whether CCG members can have a meeting with AEMO, a request asked at the previous Snowy Valley CCG, they asked that they be involved in conversations with key decision-makers. The*

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*CCG member expressed concerns that Transgrid are not representing the concerns of the community. They asked whether with the change in government they can meet with a representative from AEMO or the government. **TAKEN ON NOTICE.***

- *Another CCG member noted that the community members on the steering committee did not endorse the report. The technical advisor which Transgrid paid for believed that the cost per kilometre that Transgrid had determined for undergrounding was double what it should have been. Also Transgrid has misrepresented the relative costs of the underground and overhead options. The overhead costs were estimated in 2020, however undergrounding costs were estimated in 2022. The overhead cost in 2022 will be around 25 – 35% more expensive than the cost estimated in 2020.*

### EIS Technical Studies

#### **Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment – Study area**

Sumaya gave a presentation on traffic and the transport impact assessment.

See slides 23, 25, 26 and 27 of the presentation for an overview of the traffic and transport impact assessment.

- The EIS will look at the construction and operational impacts on traffic generated. It will look at the activities associated with construction of the project, there will be very little traffic associated with the project during the operational stage.
- The EIS looks at aspects such as the state and local road conditions, safety, levels of service, capacity of road and blockages in traffic.
- Councils were consulted throughout the process and briefings were held with councils on the nature of the project and continue to be held on an ongoing basis.
- *A CCG member asked whether Transgrid will be providing council with an update on the proposed wear and tear on the roads.*
- Sumaya responded that councils have been consulted and have attended several meetings with Transgrid on traffic impacts.
- Sumaya continued that the main national and state roads proposed to provide access to the project footprint include:
  - o Hume Highway
  - o Sturt Highway
  - o Snowy Mountains Highway
  - o Batlow Road
  - o Gocup Road
- *A CCG member asked that the Elliott Way, Tumbarumba Road and State Forest Roads are added to the list of main roads impacted.*
- Sumaya noted that the construction impacts will be temporary as the construction will move along different corridors as the project progresses.
- Sumaya continued that in most cases the existing road conditions are sufficient for the flow of traffic that will be created through the project. Some changes such as work at night will occur when working across major roads. This will require discussion with council and Transport for NSW.

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- The EIS also considers the number of road crossings as well as other interactions including rail crossings.
- *A CCG member noted that road conditions will deteriorate due to increased traffic and that local flora and fauna was at risk from additional traffic.*
- *A CCG member asked whether there would be less road traffic with undergrounding?*
- Sumaya responded that the EIS is for overhead transmission line not undergrounding so there is no comparison of the volume of traffic.
- *A CCG member asked whether Transgrid will pay for the damage caused by additional traffic and whether Transgrid have incorporated this into their budgeting?*
- Sumaya noted that dilapidation surveys will be conducted before construction and then again at the end of the construction period. If there is damage attributable to the project then Transgrid will be required to fix the roads.
- *A CCG member noted that they are concerned about the condition of the road while construction is underway. They noted that Transgrid need a contract in place with local council.*
- *A CCG member noted their concern that there are many children who stand on the side of roads to catch school buses, and school bus activity on the roads with many corners that do not have visibility. They asked what measures would be put in place to maintain the safety of roads for all in the community. **TAKEN ON NOTICE.***
- *A CCG member noted that Transgrid' lack of planning and consideration of traffic for the undergrounding option indicates that Transgrid is not taking the option of undergrounding seriously.*
- The Chairs noted that the EIS is for overhead transmission lines not underground lines as sated in Nathan' earlier presentation.
- *A CCG member asked whether Transgrid have to put a Development Application (DA) into council to build sub-stations.*
- Sumaya responded that there is no separate DA required. The sub-station is included as part of the EIS which is state and federally approved.
- *A CCG member asked whether residents have been informed of the Gugaa substation and the visual and other impacts?*
- Joel responded that the site has not been finalised so neighbours have not been consulted yet. Once the site is finalised, neighbours will be informed.
- *A CCG member commented that once a few sites are selected, neighbours should be consulted with so they can have an input into the location of the substation and work with Transgrid to minimise the environmental and visual impacts on landowners.*
- *A CCG member asked about the size of the site.*
- Sumaya responded that the whole site will be 80 hectares however the substation will not fill the whole site.
- *A CCG member commented that Transgrid have been saying they are taking on feedback from the community members. This should include consulting with the neighbours on this site before it is confirmed. The CCG member*

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	<p><i>noted that this is a chance for Transgrid to demonstrate that they are listening to community feedback.</i></p>
<b>LCVIA</b>	<p>Joel shared a video explaining how the visual impact of the transmission lines is assessed as part of the EIS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joel noted that through creating the videos, Transgrid are trialing alternative methods of information sharing. The video will supplement the fact sheets which will contain more information. Joel noted that CCG members can provide feedback via email and noted that the video will be shared so CCG members can provide feedback.</li> <li>- The video will be one method of communicating with the community. They requested feedback on the length of the video, the tone and the content in the video.</li> <li>- <i>A CCG member noted that community members are already required to do a lot of work for this project which they are not compensated for. The CCG member noted that Transgrid should have specialist staff who work on engagement, marketing and policy writing.</i></li> <li>- Michael responded that it is important for Transgrid to get feedback from the CCG members as the EIS covers technical content. Transgrid want to ensure this content is relevant to the community.</li> <li>- <i>A CCG member noted that the video does not portray what the project will actually look like and what the visual impacts will be and that the video was patronising. CCG members request that easements construction, chainsaws and bulldozers are missing from the video.</i></li> <li>- <i>Another CCG member asked whether there would be a comparison of the visual impacts of undergrounding with the visual impact of overhead transmission lines.</i></li> <li>- <i>A CCG member noted that Transgrid should be working on HumeLink through a co-design process with the community, farmers, RFS, security, environmentalists and council members. They noted that instead of consulting with the community, decisions are being made for them and it is having a significant impact on the community.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Compensation claims process</b>	<p><b>Compensation claims process</b></p> <p>Joel gave a presentation on the compensation claims process.</p> <p>See slide 30 of the presentation for an overview of the compensation claims process presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permanent impacts from the project will be captured as part of the easement acquisition process.</li> <li>- For temporary impacts, Transgrid will look to contractors to develop a process to receive, assess and resolve damage claims.</li> <li>- Transgrid will maintain oversight over that process to ensure contractors are acting in a fair and reasonable way.</li> </ul>
<b>EIS engagement activities</b>	<p><b>EIS engagement activities</b></p> <p>Michael gave a presentation on the EIS engagement activities.</p> <p>See slides 32 and 33 of the presentation for an overview engagement activities.</p>

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- The pre-exhibition engagement program in the community will include community information sessions, online webinars and in-person sessions.
- Transgrid are looking to travel to areas that are more convenient for the community members. This will include a Remote Access Community Hub (RACH) which will be able to travel directly to community members.
- Transgrid are preparing information such as fact sheets and videos as the EIS is finalised for submission. Transgrid recognizes that community members will want information that provides differing levels of detail about the various reports within the EIS.
- The EDO has information on how to make a submission on planning processes within NSW.

<https://www.edo.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/220331-How-to-have-your-say-in-developments-across-NSW.pdf>

<https://www.edo.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/211210-Submissions-Letters-Petitions.pdf>

- *A CCG member asked what happens if the EIS is not approved.*
- Michael responded that this is a decision for the Department of Planning.

### Community and Stakeholder Investment

#### Community and Stakeholder Investment

See slides 36 and 37 of the presentation for an update on community and stakeholder investment. Michael noted the following points:

- There have been 50 000 community engagement activities since March 2021.
- There are four pillars drawn from the community workshops which include: workforce development and local community, social connectivity, Care for Country and accessible housing.
- Transgrid have invested over \$500 000 in community engagement so far. The next round of community grants will be available on the Transgrid website.
- *A CCG member asked whether Transgrid recorded complaints.*
- Joel noted that complaints are recorded but have not been included in this presentation.
- *A CCG member asked whether Transgrid has a record of how much money has been spent in communities. The CCG member asked what Transgrid's budget is to spend on community engagement. **TAKEN ON NOTICE.***
- *A CCG member noted that the Riverina Landcare Network Nursery based in Tumut has not been communicated with by Transgrid. The CCG member commented that they will not accept a \$5000 grant from Transgrid as they do not endorse what Transgrid is doing.*
- *A CCG member asked whether Transgrid has considered the impact of the cost to the tourism community. **TAKEN ON NOTICE.***
- *A CCG member requested that the Wagonga Local Aboriginal Land Council (a LALC that has links to the Maragle area) is added to the EIS.*
- *A CCG member noted that there has been ongoing consultation with landowners along the indicative corridor. They asked that new route options are finalised soon to give landowners clarity around the route. They asked*

## MEETING MINUTES

	<p><i>that Transgrid give an explanation on why it is taking so long to reach an outcome on areas such as Green Hills. <b>TAKEN ON NOTICE.</b></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>A CCG member asked that the route refinement be reviewed for the area from the Bango Nature Reserve to Tumut. They noted that Transgrid have not adhered to the principles of route selection for this area and wanted to know who decided on the route from Bango Nature Reserve to Yass. <b>TAKEN ON NOTICE.</b></i></li> <li>- <i>A CCG member asked Transgrid to disclose how many lobbyists they have in Sydney and Canberra advocating for the project. <b>TAKEN ON NOTICE.</b></i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Next meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Next meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>A CCG member noted how valuable they found the combined meeting. Several other members also requested that future CCG meetings be combined. <b>TAKEN ON NOTICE.</b></i></li> <li>- <i>A CCG member requested that CCG meetings are made more visible to the public, they asked whether future CCG meetings can be livestreamed so that members of the public can view the content and the discussion in real time. <b>TAKEN ON NOTICE</b></i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Other business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>A CCG member recounted a situation where following a recent meeting about the substation location an ambulance was called for the landowner who was upset by the new information they had just received. The appearance of an ambulance called without the persons consent was and additional stress for the landowner and their family. They requested that Transgrid review their procedures for instances such as this.</i></li> <li>- <i>A CCG member commented that there are significant costs to the mental health and wellbeing of those impacted by the project and concerns were expressed that some landowners were beginning to feel these impacts very acutely as the project goes on.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Chair's addendum - If any CCG member or someone they know is experiencing distress and needs assistance help can be found at:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Transgrid Assistance Line: 1800 317 367</b></li> <li>- <b>Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636</b></li> <li>- <b>Lifeline: 13 11 14</b></li> <li>- <i>A CCG member requested that the minutes be circulated within the next week.</i></li> <li>- <i>The Chair agreed that the minutes will be circulated within the next week.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting close</b></p>	<p>The meeting closed at 7:33pm.</p>

## MEETING MINUTES

<b>Action</b>	<b>Status or comment</b>
HumeLink EIS and SEARs to be circulated to CCG members	Completed
Transgrid to provide the CCG with technical information explaining how the structural integrity of the transmission lines is maintained in windy conditions.	Completed
Transgrid to respond to the Steering Committee’s letter and the 52 outstanding issues within 4 weeks of the meeting.	Complete
Transgrid to supply the exact number the 2022 undergrounding figures were based on	Completed
Transgrid to check the parameters for covering ecology studies for landowners	Underway
Transgrid to supply their proposed biosecurity processes for the geotech investigations.	Completed
Transgrid to supply revised Option Deed	Completed
Transgrid to supply the revised Property Management Plan	Completed
Transgrid to outline how the procurement process will minimise impact on local communities	Completed
Transgrid to follow up with GHD for more insight into their value scoring methodology and reasoning, including the difference in value between agricultural land compared to State Forest.	Completed
Transgrid to follow up with GHD for more insight into the social and environmental matters included in its model InDeGo (Infrastructure Development Geospatial Options), how they are weighted and the scoring methodology.	Completed
Transgrid to determine if there are barriers to technological advancements with undergrounding cables	Underway
Secretariat is to follow up with members on administrative details including signed Code of Conduct Agreements and sharing of contact details.	Completed
Transgrid to institute the \$50 reimbursement for eligible members	Completed
Transgrid to request the value of the multiplier from GHD used in their report.	Completed
Transgrid to supply the difference in route length between the original Bannaby to Tumut option and the alternate option that was considered	Completed

## MEETING MINUTES

Transgrid to email confirmation that Transgrid will not be doing an official review of the route in Yass.	Underway
November meeting minutes to include further detail regarding the biodiversity offset process.	Completed
Transgrid requested to provide summary slides for each topic of the EIS	Underway
Transgrid to provide the CCG with an example of a noise and vibration catchment	Underway
Transgrid to provide an explanation of the noise monitoring process and how the noise machines work	Underway
Transgrid to answer if the noise monitors will remain post construction of the route	Underway
Transgrid to dedicate an agenda item during a CCG in 2023 to noise and bring an acoustic expert in	Underway
Transgrid to determine if the Neara modelling will be ready in time for when the EIS is on public exhibition	Underway
Transgrid to provide a chart of all the different companies involved in Humelink and what they do.	Underway
Transgrid to provide more information on the tower details	Underway
Transgrid to send through the map outlining the 65 outages that occurred during the Dunns Rd fire and confirm that there were 65 outages.	Underway
First Nations Humelink stakeholder list to be shared with the CCG	Completed
Pre-reading material will be provided at least a week before each meeting.	
Transgrid to confirm the number of requests for power lines to be turned off during the Dunns Road fire.	
Transgrid to re-distribute correct route map identifying East and West sections of the line.	
Transgrid to review fact sheets reportedly displaying 330kV lines in place of 550kV lines.	
Can landowners be paid for the time spent developing their PMPs?	
Chair to review the questions sent through on the Yass route refinement.	
All future CCG meetings held as combined meetings and open to the public.	
Transgrid to provide the CCG with an update on progress with AEMO at the next CCG	
Transgrid disclose how many lobbyists they have working in Sydney and Canberra.	