HumeLink West | UGL | CPB CONTRACTORS

Transgrid

Monthly construction update

NOVEMBER 2026



Landowner Pat Kelly on his farm at Gilmore where helicopter conductor stringing was recently completed.

What to expect from helicopter stringing on HumeLink West

Helicopter stringing is set to begin this month on a section of the HumeLink West route southeast of Wagga Wagga, between Tumbarumba Road and the Hume Highway.

Aerial stringing enables cables to be installed in a safer, quicker and more efficient way, reducing the amount of time workers and machinery need to spend at each property and on local roads.

During aerial stringing, a drone or a helicopter lifts a pilot cable onto temporary pulley blocks fitted to the cross arms of each transmission tower which is used to pull the conductor cable from tower to tower.

Each cable drum is fitted with a brake mechanism to safely control the rate of release and tensioning of the cables.

Drone stringing began in July, and the introduction of helicopters will make the work faster and more efficient.

Gilmore landowner, Pat Kelly expressed surprise at how quickly the helicopter stringing work on his property was completed.

“The helicopter was there for two or three days, then they were gone again. It was just that quick. People would have liked to see it out of curiosity, they were gone before anyone even knew they were there. They were quick, quiet and very efficient,” Mr Kelly said.

Mr Kelly said there was plenty of communication from HumeLink about when helicopter stringing was planned to happen and how it would be done.

“If and when they start stringing on your property always feel confident to ring your contact person and voice any concerns that you have.

If you have stock that need to be moved they give you plenty of notice and there was never an issue that I could not ring them.” he said.

Helicopters used for conductor stringing will take-off and land from designated pre-approved sites along the HumeLink West alignment.

For more detailed information about tower stringing, please view the HumeLink Aerial Stringing Fact Sheet.



A stringing helicopter pulls a pilot cable into position on HumeLink East.

Tower construction reaches halfway

Spanning 140 km from Wagga Wagga to Maragle, HumeLink West requires over 360 new transmission towers in total, two new substations (Maragle and Gugaa) and the upgrade of Wagga Wagga Substation at Gregadoo.

The HumeLink West delivery team will reach the halfway point of tower construction this month with over 180 towers fully assembled and erected.

A related milestone is the completion of around 1,000 tower piles - the deep steel and concrete foundations that anchor each tower into the ground.

Civil earthworks along the project alignment are nearing completion, including the construction and maintenance of around 335 kilometres of access tracks and more than 330 tower foundation pads.

Meanwhile, construction of new 500kV substations at Maragle in the Snowy Valleys and Gugaa near Wagga Wagga has advanced significantly over the past month as teams install more steel hardware and electrical equipment on concrete foundations.

Electrical installation work is continuing, with cables being installed on steel gantries and through conduits.



Gugaa Substation near Wagga Wagga is quickly taking shape.

Local emergency services briefed

With summer approaching, HumeLink West recently hosted local emergency services representatives at Tarcutta and Kunama for emergency response briefings on bushfire planning, communications, evacuation, asset protection and overall incident management.

The collaborative sessions reviewed the roles of the NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire Rescue NSW and the Forestry Corporation of NSW.



Community team member Elena Bozic with some of the donated tools.

Batlow Bushcare garden tools donation

HumeLink West has donated tools and equipment to the newly formed Batlow Bushcare Group to help them kick off with a working bee at Reedy Creek.

Working in partnership alongside groups such as Murumbidgee Landcare, the focus is on removing invasive broom brush bushes and supporting post-fire environmental recovery efforts.

The work is ongoing and community volunteers are welcome.



Emergency services briefings were held at Tarcutta and Kunama.

Connect with us

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

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