

Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project Community Newsletter

September 2024

Project overview

Transgrid is proposing to deliver a new 330kV (kilovolt) transmission line that is approximately 8km in distance, and between existing substations at Mount Piper and Wallerawang. The new transmission line is within the local government area of Lithgow and on the lands of the Wiradjuri people.

The project will carry out upgrades to our transmission network in the State's Central Tablelands to support the NSW Government's delivery of the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). These upgrades will strengthen and reinforce the grid in the Central Tablelands, helping to ensure that power from the Central-West Orana REZ can be reliably moved back into the grid and to consumers.

In this Issue

Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) declaration

Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) referral update

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) published

Project benefits

If approved, the project will deliver a range of benefits including:



Cheaper electricity – improving the affordability of electricity for consumers by increasing supply and driving down electricity prices



Reduced emissions – a greater mix of renewable energy in the National Electricity Market



Improved reliability – delivering large amounts of new energy and strengthening and reinforcing the grid in the local region



New local jobs – opportunities for local workers and businesses during construction

Project location

The project area which is made up of Portland and Wallerawang is located approximately 20 kilometres north-west of Lithgow on the western fringes of the Blue Mountains.

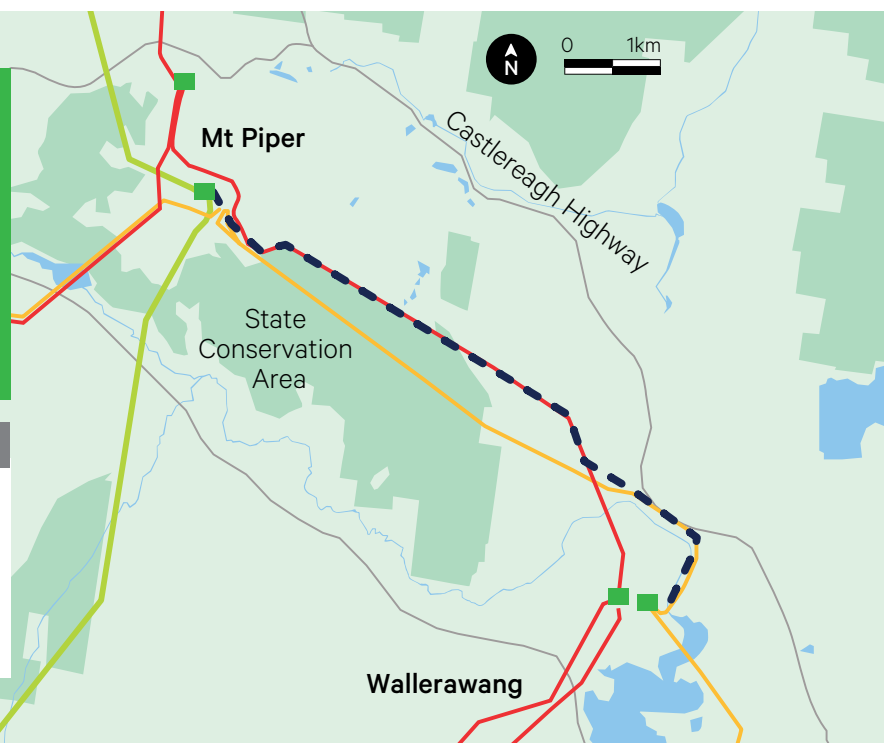
The preferred route, Option B-4 is shown in the map.

More information is available on the [project webpage](#).

Legend

- Existing 132kV line
- Existing 330kV line
- Existing 500kV line
- Option B4 60m Corridor (preferred route)
- Roads
- Existing substation

Indicative only





Key project updates

CSSI declaration

On 3 July 2024, the project was declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI). CSSI projects are declared when a project is essential for NSW for economic, environmental and social reasons. All CSSI project applications must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The local community and other key stakeholders will be able to provide feedback on the EIS during the public exhibition period. This will take place in early 2025 and the project team will consult widely during this period to ensure stakeholders can actively participate in the process. More information about the NSW Government's announcement is available [here](#).

EPBC referral declaration

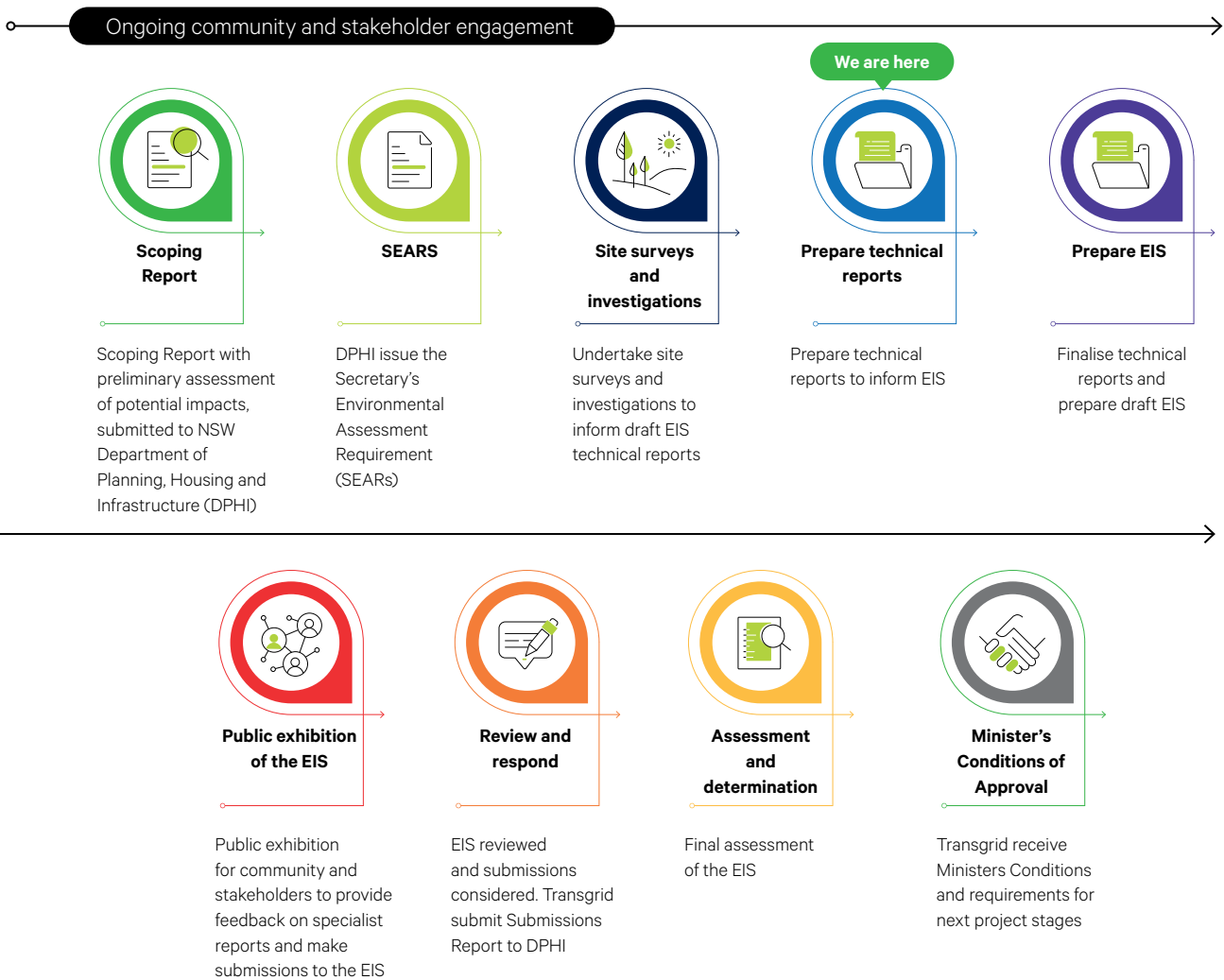
Transgrid submitted a referral under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The EPBC Act is Australia's main environmental law and provides a legal framework to protect matters of National Environmental Significance. The project has been decided as a 'controlled action' and will need Commonwealth approval. The referral can be viewed [here](#).

SEARs

On 24 July 2024, the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) issued the final Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the project. This is a key step in the Environmental Impact Statement process. More information is available on DPHI's [major projects planning portal](#).

Community and stakeholder engagement

Receive feedback from community and stakeholders as part of the project decision making process



The image above shows the approvals pathway the project will follow up to 2025.



In the community

Community Partnerships Program update

Transgrid supports local, grassroots initiatives by providing grants in areas where our assets are located and under development. Our Community Partnerships Program (CPP) is designed to help not-for-profit groups to deliver initiatives that will have a tangible and lasting impact on local communities.

Transgrid's CPP offers grants of up to \$5,000 for not-for-profit organisations that are local to our planning, operations, and major project areas. Since 2020, over 215 organisations have shared in almost \$1 million in Transgrid grants, for a range of initiatives

spanning from community infrastructure to workshops, along with inclusivity and accessibility projects.

For more information on the program and past beneficiaries, see Transgrid's CPP webpage [Transgrid.com.au/community/community-partnerships-program](https://www.transgrid.com.au/community/community-partnerships-program).

Thank you again to everyone who applied for the March 2024 round of the Program.

Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc.

Last month Transgrid's Community Engagement Officer, Prudence Inwood, visited the Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc. The organisation was a proud recipient of a Transgrid grant in late 2023. Prue had the pleasure of meeting Eleanor Martin, a founding member and current President of the society, who discussed the positive impact the funding will have on their work in Lithgow and surrounding regions.

Since its establishment in 1986, the society has been pivotal in preserving and documenting the rich heritage of Lithgow and its surrounding regions. With members spanning local, interstate, and international locations, the society is dedicated to unearthing and safeguarding local family history.

The society has made commendable efforts in the field of research for publications including 'A Long March from Lithgow', a book comprised of records, letters and information about those who lived or enlisted in the Great War from the Lithgow region. Additionally, their collection of physical artifacts offers a tangible link to the past, from a meticulously crafted replica of the Black Pearl Ship made by a former member to a flag waved by a local woman in 1954 as Queen Elizabeth II visited Lithgow.

The CPP grant allowed the society to purchase much-needed equipment including new desks, large computer monitors, and ergonomic office chairs. "We received two new desks, five new large monitors, and all of our workers now have a new ergonomic chair which has made a vast difference," Eleanor said. "We're so used to second hand furniture it was lovely to receive something new."

The new resources have substantially improved the society's working environment, directly benefitting the dedicated members who work to preserve and share the community's rich heritage.

If you would like to learn more about the Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc. and their important work, please visit their [Facebook page](#) or to get involved email secretary.ldfhs@gmail.com



Image: Replica of the Black Pearl Ship and a flag from the 1954 tour of Lithgow by Queen Elizabeth II.



Image: Elizabeth enjoying her new monitor, desk and ergonomic chair.



Acknowledgement of Country

Transgrid acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which the preferred route is located and would like to thank the Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council for their feedback and advice to date.

Traditional Owners have lived in the area for thousands of years and have an enduring custodianship and connection over the land and waterways of this region. We pay our respects to the people and the Elders past, present and emerging. And we celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the land and water.



Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities through the development of Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project. **Please connect with us for more information.**



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