

Fact Sheet – Controlled Blasting for HumeLink West

August 2026

What is HumeLink?

HumeLink is one of NSW largest energy infrastructure projects and will deliver about 365 kilometres of new 500kV transmission line connecting Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle. The western portion connecting Wagga, Wondalga and Maragle is known as HumeLink West, and is being delivered in a joint venture by UGL Engineering Pty Ltd and CPB Contractors Pty Ltd.

Controlled blasting for HumeLink West

During construction of HumeLink West, controlled blasting will be used to prepare sites for tower foundations in areas where the ground is too hard to excavate with standard equipment. This approach will allow rocks to be broken up efficiently while reducing disturbance to nearby areas.

Benefits of controlled blasting

Controlled blasting can help make construction work quicker and safer by breaking up hard rock so it can be removed more easily. Using controlled, modern techniques means the rock breaks in a predictable way, which reduces the amount of heavy machinery needed and helps keep the overall project running efficiently. This approach minimises disruption by shortening the time crews need to work in an area.

When controlled blasting may happen

Controlled blasting is scheduled to begin at selected sites across the alignment from August 2026 and continue towards the end of the year.

Blasting work is only permitted:

- Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm
- Saturday: 9am to 1pm

What to expect

With impacts expected to be minor to negligible, noise from a controlled blast is brief and can be compared to distant thunder. HumeLink's Conditions of Approval set strict limits on air blast noise and vibration, and all blasts are modelled and monitored to ensure these limits are met. Dust, noise and vibration may be generated during drilling and blasting, but these effects are short in duration and managed within approved limits. Nearby residents may experience:

- a short loud noise when the blast occurs
- brief ground vibration
- a temporary dust plume at the blast site
- temporary access restrictions.



Rock fracturing makes it easier for drilling rigs to bore deep foundations.

Safety controls

Safety is the highest priority during controlled blasting and strict controls will be in place.

Before each controlled blast:

- warning signs/barricades will be installed
- blast guards will control site access
- blast areas will be cleared of personnel
- workers will be moved to designated safe areas
- a warning siren will sound.

All blasts will be designed and supervised by a qualified blasting engineer or licensed shotfirer. Explosives will only be handled by authorised personnel with an NSW explosives security clearance. Warning signs/barricades and safety exclusion zones will also be in place. After each blast, the area is inspected and an "All Clear" issued before work resumes.

Handling of explosives

Explosives used for controlled blasting purposes are strictly controlled under NSW legislation. A licensed shotfirer is responsible for explosives while they are on site.

Other key controls include:

- explosives only handled by authorised and trained personnel
- personnel must hold an NSW explosives security clearance
- material for controlled blasting delivered only when required
- no permanent explosives storage on site
- unused material returned to licensed off-site location.

Our commitment

Controlled blasting for HumeLink West will be carefully planned and managed to prioritise:

- community wellbeing
- worker safety
- environmental protection
- compliance with all regulatory requirements.

How controlled blasting impacts are managed

All controlled blasts are designed and supervised by a qualified blasting engineer or licensed shotfirer.

Control measures that will be in place include:

- management of explosive charge weights
- control of detonation timing sequencing
- monitoring of ground vibration
- establishment of safety exclusion zones.

Managing potential dust and noise impacts

All reasonable steps will be taken to minimise impacts on nearby residents and landowners, including:

- site-specific risk assessments to determine appropriate dust controls
- wetting blast areas before or after controlled blasting where conditions are dry
- using appropriate stemming materials to contain blast energy and monitoring weather conditions, particularly wind.

Managing potential environmental impacts

Animals that might be present in the project area include bats, owls, cockatoos, raptors and parrots. Controlled blasting activities will be planned to minimise impacts on surrounding ecosystems, including:

- pre-blasting ecological surveys
- identifying sensitive habitats
- considering breeding periods of sensitive species and adjusting controlled blasting timings as needed.

Traffic

For safety, there will be short stoppages on roads in any controlled blasting exclusion zone. We'll communicate changes on our [project webpage](#), roadside signage and directly to residents.



Click or scan the QR code to watch a controlled blast.

Working with landowners

We will consult with landowners and share information face-to-face and via phone calls, emails and SMS.

Residents within 300 metres of a controlled blast site will be notified well before it begins.

Property inspections

We do not expect controlled blasting to cause damage to nearby properties. However, all properties within 300 metres of a blast site will be offered a property condition survey to record the condition of the house before work begins.

This report will provide a record of the property's pre-blast condition in the unlikely event that the controlled blasting causes any damage.

Monitoring and reporting

Each controlled blast is monitored to confirm compliance with regulatory limits.

Monitoring includes:

- ground vibration monitoring
- airblast (overpressure) monitoring.

A post-blast report is prepared, documenting monitoring results, weather conditions and blast performance.

Controlled blasts may also be filmed.

Contact us

We'll continue to keep you updated about the project and let you know of any work we're planning that might impact you.

If you have questions or concerns about any of the above, please contact our Community and Stakeholder Engagement team on 1800 317 367 or by emailing humelink@transgrid.com.au

Connect with us

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



1800 317 367
(free call)

humelink@transgrid.com.au
www.transgrid.com.au/humelink-west/



For an interpreter, call **131 450** and ask the service to call Transgrid on **1800 317 367**.

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