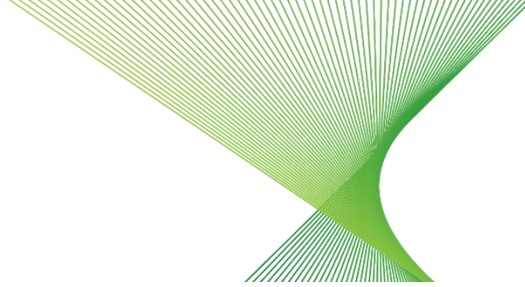


# TAC Meeting Notes



**Meeting title:** Quarterly TAC Meeting #1 **Date:** 18 February 2026 **Time:** 10.30am-12.30pm  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams and Transgrid Office, 180 Thomas St Ultimo  
**Acting Chairperson:** Nadine Lennie, Chief Financial Officer

## **Attendees:**

### **TAC Members**

Tennant Reed (TR)	Australian Industry Group
Wendy Black (WB)	Business Council of Australia
Andrew Richards (AR)	Energy Users Association Australia (EUAA)
Leigh Clemow (LC)	Energy Users Association Australia (EUAA)
Louise Benjamin (LB)	Independent
Adrian Dwyer (AD)	Infrastructure Partnerships Australia
Michael Lynch (ML)	Justice and Equity Centre
Panos Priftakis (PP)	Snowy Hydro
Gavin Dufty (GD)	St Vincent de Paul

### **Transgrid Board**

Grant King	Transgrid Non-Executive Director and Chair
Phillippe Wind	Transgrid Board Director
Anthea McKinnell	Transgrid Board Director
Cristina Cifuentes	Transgrid Board Director

### **Transgrid Representatives**

Brett Redman	Chief Executive Officer
Nadine Lennie	Chief Financial Officer
Maryanne Graham	Executive General Manager Corporate Affairs, Stakeholder Engagement and Environment
Jason Krstanoski	Executive General Manager Network
Stephen McSweeney	Executive General Manager, People & Culture
Alex McPherson	General Manager of Regulation & Policy
Nicole Ryan	General Manager of Strategic Advocacy, Government and Legacy
John Burke	Program Director, Major Projects
Struan Wilson	Program Director
David O'Hara	General Manager of Projects
Daniel Banovic	General Manager Operations
Jane Deane	Senior Manager Stakeholder and Corporate Engagement
Amelia Baker	Stakeholder Relations Advisor
Kathryn Woolcott	Commercial Manager
Cameron Whittington	Development Director

Amber White	Commercial Advisor
Michael Dunkley	Project Director
<b>Other attendees</b>	
Isaac Katz	HardingKatz
Ruth Lavery	RP4 Consumer Working Group Chair
<b>Apologies</b>	
Kim Woodbury	City of Sydney
Mary Karras	Ethnic Communities Council
Rod Stowe	Independent
Craig Memery	Justice and Equity Centre

## Table of Contents

<b>Meeting Summary</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Acknowledgement of Country .....	2
Welcome and Opening Remarks .....	3
Review of Stakeholder Forums .....	3
CEO Update .....	3
Hunter Transmission Project (HTP) .....	4
Reflections and Next Steps .....	5
<b>Action items</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Contact details</b> .....	<b>5</b>

## Meeting Summary

---

### Acknowledgement of Country

The meeting commenced with an Acknowledgement of Country, recognising the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and acknowledging that participants were joining from the lands of multiple Traditional Custodians. Respect was paid to Elders past and present, and to the cultural knowledge they continue to uphold.

## Welcome and Opening Remarks

This first TAC meeting of 2026 provided members with updates on Transgrid's evolving consumer-focused engagement model, current system conditions and the broader energy transition, and progress on major transmission projects across New South Wales. Members also offered reflections on emerging challenges and opportunities across the sector, including the need for clarity, transparency and coordinated planning.

## Review of Stakeholder Forums

Transgrid outlined its transition toward a new Consumer Advisory Group (CAG), which will meet monthly and be supported by a quarterly forum that continues the TAC's broader strategic role. This evolution reflects Transgrid's commitment to strengthening consumer engagement and aligning with best-practice regulatory expectations.

Members welcomed the shift and highlighted the importance of diverse representation. Suggestions included ensuring strong regional voices, representation from small business and vulnerable consumer segments, and clear communication about the purpose and role of the CAG. Transgrid advised that a refined membership proposal is being prepared and will prioritise a balanced cross-section of consumer perspectives.

## CEO Update

### System Conditions and Energy Transition

The CEO outlined sector-wide changes associated with the ongoing transition to higher renewable penetration. He described the current operating environment, noting the growing proportion of renewable generation and the increasing importance of having the right mix of resources to manage variability and maintain system resilience.

The CEO emphasised that diversity in generation — including wind, pumped hydro and storage — remains essential for affordability and reliability as the energy system continues to evolve.

### Investment Signals and Market Challenges

Members discussed challenges facing new generation projects, particularly in relation to market signals and investment confidence. The CEO noted that while policy mechanisms are evolving, developers continue to face hurdles such as cost uncertainty and project sequencing complexities.

There was broad agreement that continued coordination between market bodies, networks and governments is needed to ensure investment settings encourage the right mix of generation and storage.

### Growing Data Centre Demand

The CEO noted the rapidly increasing interest in connecting large-scale data centre loads. This trend is consistent with national and global demand growth and has implications for network planning and connection sequencing.

Members discussed the importance of clear processes for assessing and prioritising enquiries, ensuring equitable cost allocation, and maintaining network security. Transgrid advised that its approach focuses on disciplined queue management and ensuring new loads contribute appropriately to any necessary augmentations.

## **Transparency on Project Benefits**

Members encouraged enhanced public reporting on the realised benefits of major transmission investments. The CEO agreed that improved accessibility and transparency would assist stakeholders and consumers in understanding how projects contribute to system resilience and affordability once energised. He noted that Project EnergyConnect provides an opportunity for this type of reporting once operational milestones are achieved.

## **Broken Hill Update**

Transgrid provided an update on steps being taken to strengthen long-term reliability for Broken Hill. Members were advised that the approach seeks to balance long-duration storage solutions with practical measures to maintain supply to a remote community located at the end of a long transmission line. The update focused on the need for resilient and flexible solutions without detailing commercially sensitive procurement processes.

## **Project EnergyConnect (PEC)**

Transgrid confirmed that PEC remains on schedule for completion in 2026, noting steady progress across civil and electrical works and emphasising the project's role in supporting interregional energy flows and improving system resilience.

## **HumeLink**

HumeLink continues to progress through early works, with activities aligned to its delivery schedule. Members discussed the importance of its role in strengthening the backbone of the New South Wales network and supporting major renewable energy projects such as Snowy 2.0.

## **VNI West**

Transgrid advised that work on key substation components associated with VNI West is advancing. These upgrades, particularly at Dinawan, are considered foundational to improving system strength and enhancing transfer capability between regions.

## **Hunter Transmission Project (HTP)**

The Project Director provided an overview of the Hunter Transmission Project. The project is designed to support future changes in the generation landscape and to ensure that the network remains capable of meeting the state's energy needs.

An outline of the project's proposed route and major construction elements was provided, with emphasis on the varied terrain and the engineering challenges associated with delivering a project of this scale. Members were also briefed on the expected planning approvals timeline and the broad sequencing of construction activities.

Discussion focused on high-level considerations, including community engagement, environmental assessment processes and the importance of clear communication about project benefits. Finally, Transgrid noted there is a plan to establish a local community hub to support ongoing engagement as delivery progresses.

## Reflections and Next Steps

Members reiterated the importance of receiving meeting materials ahead of each session to support meaningful discussion. Transgrid acknowledged this feedback and is working to improve distribution timeframes.

A forward engagement calendar will also be developed to help members plan for upcoming discussions on regulatory processes, major projects and system planning issues.

The Chair closed the meeting by thanking members for their contributions and reaffirming the value of their insights in shaping Transgrid's approach to the energy transition.

## Action items

---

Action	Due Date/Status
Provide TAC members with a copy of the presentation from the meeting	Complete
Transgrid to provide additional information to interested members on key themes expected to be raised in upcoming regulatory processes.	To be addressed on an ongoing basis

## Contact details

---

If you require any information on this summary or in relation to TAC meetings, please email [stakeholderengagement@transgrid.com.au](mailto:stakeholderengagement@transgrid.com.au)