

HumeLink Community Consultative Group

Meeting minutes

1.1 HUMELINK UPPER LACHLAN YASS VALLEY COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP: INAUGURAL MEETING

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| Time | 5.00pm – 7.00pm |
| Date | 27 October 2021 |
| Attendees | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Inaugural Chair: Brian Elton– Secretariat: Katie Casson– Transgrid: Sumaya Osman, Tim Edwards, Fleur Laurence, Sam Willoughby– CCG: Cllr Pamela Kensit, David Banham, Andrea Strong, Scott Montgomery, Ross Hickey, Russell Erwin, Tyrone Bell– Independent Landowner and Community Advocate (Observer): Rod Stowe– Deputy Landowner and Community Advocate (Observer): Barbara El-Gamal |
| Apologies | Julie Rogers, Roy Robertson |
| Meeting location | Online meeting |
| Meeting materials | Code of Conduct Agreements, Presentation |
| Purpose of meeting | Inaugural Meeting |
| Attachments to minutes | Question tracker, presentation, Stowe report recommendations |

1.2 AGENDA

| Item | Agenda topic | Discussion summary | To note |
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| 1 | Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country | <p>Welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Welcome from the Inaugural Chair, introductions, background and involvement in the project from members of the Community Consultative Group (CCG)– Introductions and overview of the Stowe report from the independent Landowner and Community Advocate and Deputy Landowner and Community Advocate– Introductions and involvement in the project from Transgrid attendees | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Apologies at the meeting, Julie Rogers and Roy Robertson– The Inaugural Chair noted that the meeting is being minuted. |
| 2 | CCG establishment | <p>About the Code of Conduct Agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– The Inaugural Chair ran through the key points within the Code of Conduct Agreement and its purpose for members to sign | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– All members are to agree to and sign the Code of Conduct Agreement ahead of the next meeting– All members are to notify the Inaugural Chair and Secretariat on attendance and alternatives ahead of each meeting– All meetings should have adequate video capability for those who are |

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| | | <p>General housekeeping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Inaugural Chair discussed general housekeeping, format of meetings, timing, and attendance procedures <p>Expectations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As members of the CCG you are to act as a representative of your community and contact details will be made available - Members are able to ask out of session questions and the Inaugural Chair is available in between meetings to discuss matters with members of the CCG as they may arise. <p><i>The Inaugural Chair then opened up for additional input and commentary from members and their expectations of the CCG.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - unable to travel or attend face-to-face meetings (pending COVID-19 health restrictions) - The CCG are able to share and circulate questions ahead of each meeting, but these must be sent to the Inaugural Chair and Secretariat for coordination of response from Transgrid and recording - All members of the CCG are comfortable for their contact details to be made available for members of the community who might want to ask questions or seek clarity on matters. - No additional comments or questions were posed from the group to note. |
| 3 | Introducing the HumeLink team | <p>Team introductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fleur introduced the HumeLink community engagement team - Sam Willoughby was in attendance at the meeting and is the local Place Manager for community members within the region - Fleur reiterated that Transgrid has listened to feedback from the community and has committed to improve engagement. All 20 recommendations in the Stowe report are being adopted. - The CCG is one of three and is part of the approach to improve channels of communication between the community and Transgrid | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sam Willoughby is the Place Manager for the Upper Lachlan, Yass Valley region and remains the day-to-day contact from Transgrid's community team - Transgrid is to share the relevant contact details of the community team - Counselling services for impacted community members can be made through the details available online: - <i>Book an appointment by calling Assure on 1800 808 374, or you can request an appointment online, https://assureprograms.com.au/book-an-appointment/</i> - The recommendations made within the Stowe report have been attached to these minutes for reference |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transgrid has implemented a range of activities and frameworks to provide timely and responsive communication with impacted landholders - To help support impacted members of the community an independent counselling service has been established. <p>Discussion:</p> <p>The Inaugural Chair then asked the group to pause and open up for any questions or discussion points. Comments from the group are below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transgrid needs to ensure that it extends its engagement process for community members who live adjacent to the proposed corridor and within the broader region - Members of the CCG noted that there are community members who are currently unaware of the project and potential impacts to their property - Landholders who reside adjacent to the proposed corridor also need to receive very targeted information, in the form of a letter as information presented on websites and newsletters could be missed - There was concern that information shared to date could be perceived as deceptive with imagery not adequately reflecting the extent of the proposed infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transgrid’s community engagement team need to further engage with local community groups and undertake very targeted activities to help disseminate information across the region - The community members requested Transgrid consult with the community on the content of the flyers distributed to neighbouring landowners. - Future information to use real-life and factual imagery - Transgrid is to note that members of the local Aboriginal community would like to be adequately engaged on the process and have better oversight on the engagement that is being undertaken. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transgrid needs to improve its consultation program with traditional land owners and custodians. Members of the local Aboriginal community would like to take part in surveys with the archaeologist. <p><i>Questions and responses have been outlined in the attached Question Tracker.</i></p> | |
| 4 | Orientation to the Humelink Project | <p>About the project and status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tim gave an overview of the project and its need to the group - HumeLink is a critical energy infrastructure project which will see a new 360km 500kV double circuit transmission line connecting Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle to the existing power network - The project is being driven by new renewable generation sources and to increase capacity in the network - The Project Assessment Conclusions Report (PACR) was submitted to the AER in July 2021 and subsequent revisions have been undertaken to help refine the project and its corridor. <p>Key definitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To help build understanding and clarification of various matters that will be discussed in the CCG, Sumaya gave an overview and explanation of the key project definitions. <p>How a study corridor is defined</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The key definitions are available in the attached Presentation - Transgrid notes that there needs to be broader consultation with community members outside of the corridor - Transgrid is to modify its presentation materials to reflect true and to scale information as to not confuse members of the community. - Community members requested Transgrid support the communities' dispute with the PACR. Transgrid stated that it is not in a position to do so. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As an initial introduction to the project and to support subsequent meetings Sumaya then presented how Transgrid looks to assess a study corridor and the types of constraints that are considered. <p><i>The Inaugural Chair paused the presentation to open up for questions and discussion.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The group suggested that Transgrid ensure that its engagement program seeks to share information with members of the local community and broader region, due to the size and scale of the proposed infrastructure which will be seen from afar - Visual pollution and impacts to tourism for the area is a key concern to be acknowledged <p><i>Questions and responses have been outlined in the attached Question Tracker.</i></p> | |
| 5 | Discussion and general business | <p>Discussion:</p> <p><i>Brian asked members of the CCG for any additional commentary or questions to be answered.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need for better transparency on underground options was also raised and the approvals process for finalising a corridor - Members of the CCG were invited to share contact details - Further clarity is needed for the CCG on the legislative requirements, and guiding Acts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transgrid is to present further information on the undergrounding study and approvals process to the CCG - Community members advised that they haVE a Formal Proposal to undertake an Undergrounding Feasibility Study and to rebuild trust, it is important that this community independent undergrounding study is undertaken. - The Chair stated it was important that there be engagement and discussion of the proposed community Undergrounding Study. |

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|------|--|---|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Commentary and questions were asked in relation to the independence of reports and decision making processes. <p><i>Questions and responses have been outlined in the attached Question Tracker.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Inaugural Chair and Secretariat are funded by Transgrid as part of its improved engagement program but are to act in a non-biased manner – Members of the CCG can raise any concerns directly with the Inaugural Chair, should they arise. |
| 6 | Agenda setting for subsequent meetings | <p>The next meeting and information and timing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Inaugural Chair asked the group if the time and proposed date for the next meeting is agreed – Members of the CCG were encouraged to speak with members of the local community for input on future meeting topics to help clarify areas of interest of uncertainty – Proposed agenda items were discussed and agreed in principle. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 5.00pm, 16 November 2021, location is to be confirmed. – Travel expenses and reimbursement is to be clarified with Transgrid. – Next meeting venue to have adequate video capability for those who are unable to travel or attend face-to-face meetings (pending COVID-19 health restrictions). |
| 7 | Meeting close | <i>The Inaugural Chair closed the meeting and thanked attendees for their time and input.</i> | |

1.3 OPEN ACTIONS

| Action | Status or comment |
|--|--|
| Secretariat is to follow up with members on administrative details including signed Code of Conduct Agreements and sharing of contact details | Underway |
| The 20 recommendations outlined in Transgrid's commitment to improve engagement are to be circulated for reference to members – link to report is here | Complete |
| Transgrid is to consider advice provided by members of the CCG and broaden its engagement process for community members across the region and follow up with more engagement for the community including landholders adjacent to the proposed corridor | Will provide an update at next meeting |

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| Transgrid is to make contact with local Aboriginal community members and improve its current consultation process | Underway |
| Interactive map for landholders and the community is to be shared with the CCG - Link is above | Complete |
| Transgrid to make the contact details for members of their Community Team (Place Managers) available to the CCG | Complete |

1.4 NEXT MEETING

| Item | |
|------|---|
| 1 | Deep dive and discussion on engagement with the community including improvements to consultation with traditional owners and custodians |
| 2 | Compensation for impacted community members and landholders due to the corridor |
| 3 | Deep dive into undergrounding and feasibility studies for Humelink |

1.5 CLOSED ACTIONS

| No. | Action | Status or comment |
|-----|--|-------------------|
| 2 | The 20 recommendations outlined in Transgrid's commitment to improve engagement are to be circulated for reference to members – link to report is here | Complete |
| 6 | Interactive map for landholders and the community is to be shared with the CCG - Link is above | Complete |
| 7 | Transgrid to make the contact details for members of their Community Team (Place Managers) available to the CCG | Complete |

Amended following CCG comments and endorsed as final by CCG Chair

18 November 2021