



HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement

Air Quality

JUNE 2023

What is an Environmental Impact Statement

The HumeLink project has been classified by the NSW Government as Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI). All CSSI development applications must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of the EIS is to identify and assess the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of the project to help government agencies, relevant authorities, community and stakeholders to make an informed decision or provide an informed submission on the merits of the project.

EIS project footprint

The HumeLink project extends from the existing Wagga Wagga 330 kV substation to the existing Bannaby 500 kV substation and the future Maragle 500 kV substation.

The EIS footprint is based on an indicative 200 metre corridor and is defined as the area directly affected by the construction and operation of the project. It includes the indicative location of project infrastructure, the area that would be directly disturbed during construction and any easement required during operation.

The final location of all proposed infrastructure will be confirmed during detailed design.

HumeLink planning approvals and the EIS

As part of the planning approval process for HumeLink, Transgrid is preparing an EIS in accordance with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The SEARs identify matters which must be addressed in the EIS and essentially form its terms of reference. It includes the requirements from both the NSW and Commonwealth Governments.

An air quality technical study was completed as part of the HumeLink EIS to inform the project's Air Quality Impact Assessment. Details about this study are included in this fact sheet.




















Can I provide feedback?

Once the EIS is finalised, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) will place the EIS on exhibition and call for public submissions. You will be able to provide feedback on the EIS directly to the DPE during this public display period. More information on how to make a submission will be provided closer to the EIS exhibition period.

To learn more about the HumeLink EIS, please visit the EIS Frequently Asked Questions on our website.



HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement Specialist Studies

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|  Aboriginal heritage |  Electric and magnetic fields |  Social |
|  Agricultural land |  Greenhouse gas and climate change risk |  Soils, geology and contamination |
|  Air quality |  Historic heritage |  Surface water and groundwater |
|  Aviation safety |  Hydrology and flooding |  Sustainability |
|  Biodiversity |  Landscape character and visual amenity |  Traffic and transport |
|  Bushfire risk |  Land use and property | |
|  Economic |  Noise and vibration | |



Air Quality Impact Assessment

As part of the HumeLink EIS, Transgrid has undertaken an Air Quality Impact Assessment to evaluate the potential impacts on air quality during construction and operation of the project. Measures to reduce these impacts are also considered.

What does this study tell us?

The study area for the air quality assessment comprised a 500 metre buffer on either side of the project footprint to identify potentially impacted sensitive receivers. The assessment considered six sections along the project footprint to evaluate potential air quality impacts of construction activities at a local level. These sections are outlined in the figure below.

The assessment included:

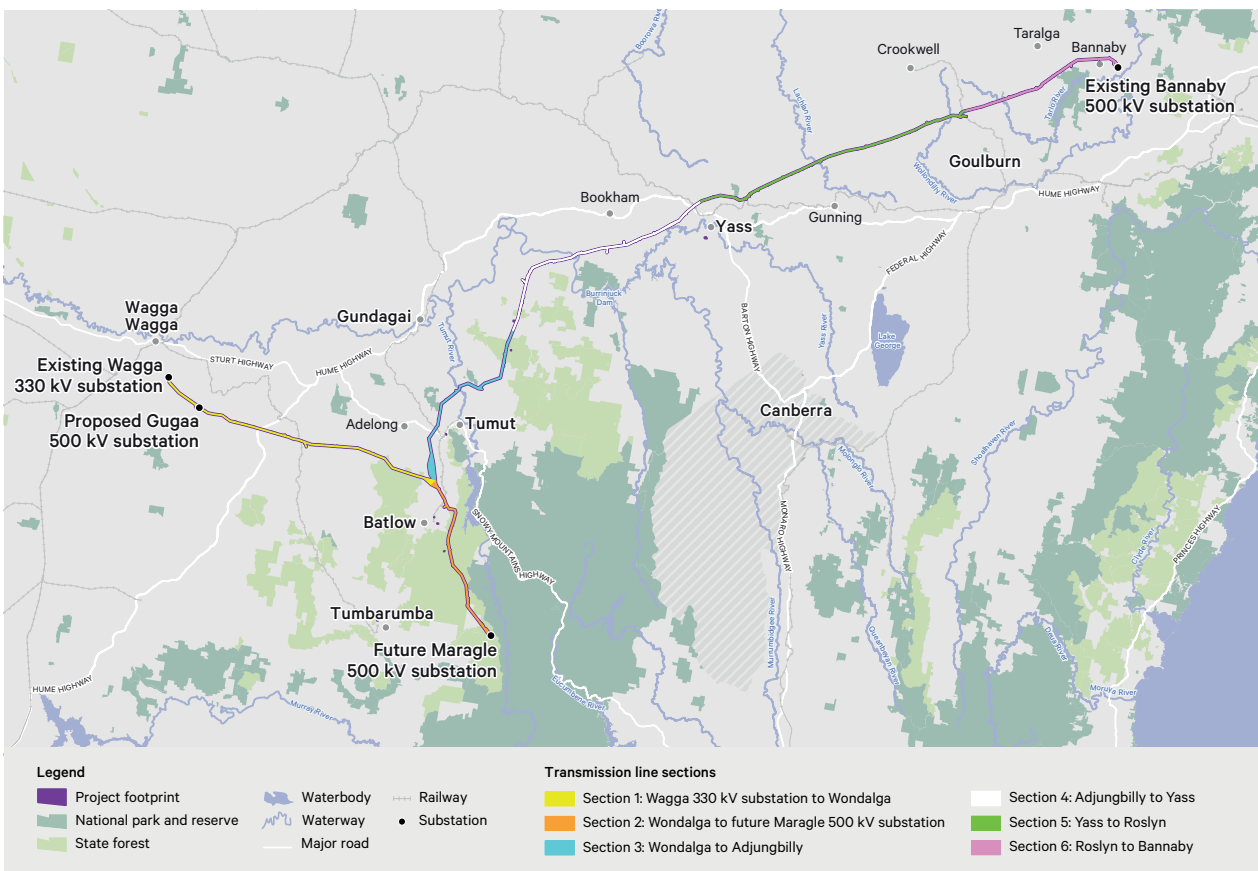
- identifying of potential pollutants generated by the project
- reviewing of local topography, existing (background) air quality and recorded local weather conditions
- undertaking a qualitative risk-based assessment of dust and combustion emissions (exhaust fumes)
- recommending mitigation measures.



Sensitive receivers

Air quality sensitive receivers include residences, schools, hospitals, offices or public recreational areas. Most sensitive receivers within the study area are homes.

The largest number of sensitive receivers within the air quality study area are located between Wondalga and the future Maragle 500 kV substation, as well as the section between Yass and Roslyn.



Pictured: Transmission line sections assessed in the air quality impact assessment.



Potential impacts and how they are proposed to be managed?

Potential air quality impacts were identified as a result of dust and gaseous emissions from the following activities:

- earthwork and vegetation removal
- establishment and use of construction compounds and worker accommodation facilities
- construction and use of access tracks
- movement of vehicles to and from construction areas including exhaust fumes
- main construction work for project infrastructure.

The dust and emissions which can occur on site might vary substantially from day to day depending on activities undertaken, duration, size of the work site, proximity to sensitive receivers, weather conditions and other factors.

Dust and emissions can pose a nuisance to sensitive receivers and can be associated with human health impacts.

During operation of the project, the potential for air quality impacts is considered to be negligible and primarily associated with infrequent vehicle use for inspections and maintenance activities.



Pictured: A water cart is used to control dust on construction sites.

Proposed management measures

A range of measures will be used to minimise potential impacts. These may include:

- using water or other binding agents to minimise dust
- where possible locating dust generating activities away from homes and other sensitive areas
- covering or protecting stockpiled materials from wind and positioning stockpiles away from homes and other sensitive areas
- implementing measures to minimise the tracking of mud and dirt onto paved roads
- covering truck loads during transportation
- minimising ground disturbance
- stabilising disturbed areas as soon as practicable
- planning and scheduling vegetation clearance to minimise areas of open and exposed soil.

All vehicles and machinery will be maintained in accordance with manufacturers' specifications to reduce the impact of emissions.

Mitigation measures and monitoring requirements will be specified in the HumeLink Construction Environmental Management Plan.

As the project progresses through the development of the EIS and detailed design, more information about the identified impacts to air quality as well as the proposed mitigation measures will become available.



Pictured: 500 kV transmission towers in Muswellbrook, similar to those that will be built on HumeLink.

Connect with us

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



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