

# EnergyConnect Community Newsletter

Q4 2025



## A message from the Project Directors

As 2025 comes to a close, we celebrate the achievements of the past year as we progress the delivery of Australia's largest electricity transmission project – EnergyConnect.

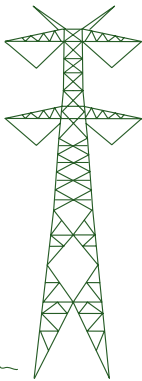
It was a year of milestones as we delivered the first 150mW release of power to the National Energy Market in April, connecting the grids of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia via our world-class substation in Buronga.

We completed the expansion and upgrade of the Wagga Wagga 330kV substation in June, preparing the eastern end of the project alignment for connection to the wider Transgrid network.

In August, Stage 1B of the Buronga substation expansion was delivered in readiness for the completion of the project, which will unlock the full 800mW capacity of EnergyConnect. Works continue at the Dinawan substation site, near Bundure, NSW where construction is nearly completed.

We recently completed the construction of our final tower and the full transmission line stringing program between Wagga and Buronga - over 500 kilometres of line is now connected across 1,150 towers. This is a significant milestone for the project and signals our shift toward the final stages of construction and the commencement of rehabilitation works. We are looking forward to 2026 and the energisation of EnergyConnect as we deliver a key piece of infrastructure in Australia's transition to a clean energy future.

**From the  
EnergyConnect team,  
have a Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year.**



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Felipe Delgado  
*Felipe Delgado*  
Project Director,  
Elecnor, Australia



John Burke  
*John Burke*  
Program Director,  
Transgrid







## Project Snapshot



**1508 towers completed**  
including 733 guyed tower structures and 338 500kV Danubio towers



**Buronga Substation**  
the largest in Australia, now linking NSW, SA & VIC grids at 150mW capacity. Wagga substation upgrade finished and Dinawan nearing completion



**\$269M+ invested locally**  
with more than 300 businesses across the Riverina, Murray and Sunraysia



**1500+ jobs created**  
and generational upskilling via Legacy 100 and CSU engineering scholarships



**6 worker camps**  
to ease housing pressure, 3 now demobilised as project nears completion



**Almost \$300,000 in community grants**  
awarded to organisations in local government areas



**15,000 hectares of land preserved**  
under biodiversity stewardship agreements



**Line 1 Buronga to SA Border completed**

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

1



**Buronga substation completed**

- Stage 1A
- Stage 1B

SA border

Red Cliffs

4



**Line 4 Buronga to Red Cliffs completed**

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

2

**Line 2 Buronga to Dinawan completed**

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

5

**Line 5 Dinawan to Wagga Wagga**

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

Dinawan substation



**Wagga Wagga substation upgrade completed**



Indicates progress of works completed





## Project Update

### EnergyConnect named finalist in NSW Sustainability Awards

The collective efforts of our teams have been recognised by the Banksia Foundation and the NSW Government, with EnergyConnect being named a finalist in the 2025 NSW Sustainability Awards, in the Biodiversity category. This recognition celebrates our industry-leading approach to biodiversity protection and ecological innovation in energy infrastructure construction.

From the earliest planning stages, our teams challenged conventional transmission line construction methods, working together to review and adjust tower locations, access tracks, and laydown areas to minimise environmental impact. Key actions included relocating towers to avoid threatened ecological communities and culturally significant sites, reducing the width and footprint of access tracks, and introducing guyed suspension towers to further limit disturbance. The approach also saw the elimination of clearing for tower laydowns, careful planning of brake and winch sites, and partial clearing of easements to preserve habitat.



Wedge-tailed eagle nesting on an EnergyConnect Tower.

These efforts have delivered tangible outcomes for biodiversity, including a 45% reduction in native vegetation clearing, more than 1,000 hectares of habitat preserved, and over 6,400 nest boxes installed, the largest program of its kind in Australia.

In addition, 23,000 hectares are now protected under Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements, supporting long-term conservation and management. Enhanced monitoring and partnerships with local ecologists and government agencies have created a valuable model for future infrastructure projects.

As EnergyConnect progresses, being named a finalist is a privilege and highlights our ongoing commitment to sustainable energy solutions. We look forward to sharing updates as the project continues to deliver benefits for communities and the environment.



Emu's walking on an easement.







## Construction

### Final tower rises as colossal construction effort powers EnergyConnect

The last of 1,500+ steel towers have been constructed on EnergyConnect, bringing millions of consumers closer to accessing cleaner and more affordable power.

Transgrid and its construction partner Elecnor Australia erected the final tower at Bundure, near Coleambally, in the Riverina region, marking a significant milestone for the nation-critical project.

The final tower forms part of Line 5, which stretches 165km from Wagga Wagga to the new Dinawan substation. This milestone has also enabled the completion of transmission line stringing on this section of the project.

1,508 towers and monopoles have been erected from the South Australian border to Wagga Wagga and into Victoria, using 46,068 tonnes of structural steel. Installation of the final tower caps off a massive logistical operation and construction effort involving up to 1,700 personnel working in parallel across a 700km project alignment.

As part of our commitment to sustainability, the project includes 733 guyed towers which require 21% less steel and 15% less concrete to construct compared to conventional self-supporting structures. We have also used low carbon concrete in all tower foundations.

EnergyConnect has seen the first Danubio towers erected in Australia, with 338 of the structures specially designed for the 500 kV line between Dinawan, near Coleambally, and Wagga Wagga. Each of these towers weighs an average of 60 tonnes and takes 16 days to construct.



The final tower to be built on the EnergyConnect transmission line.

### Dinawan Substation update

Elecnor Australia and Transgrid are finalising construction of the substation. The focus will then move to pre-commissioning works and testing of equipment before energisation.

More than 750 people have worked on the substation to date, with construction including:

- 275,000 m<sup>3</sup> was used to create the bench, equivalent to 27,500 standard tipper truck loads
- 6,820 m<sup>3</sup> of concrete for foundations, equal to 1,137 average concrete truck loads
- Two 120MVar synchronous condensers – weighing 300 tonnes each – installed in a 60m long, 1,200m<sup>2</sup> machine hall. These large spinning machines will help maintain voltage stability on the transmission network and provide system resilience services using inertia
- Four shunt reactors and two capacitor banks to increase the power system efficiency by stabilising voltages and reducing energy losses in the transmission network.

### Transmission Line update

- All 800 330kV towers on Line 2 between Buronga and Dinawan, near Bundure, have been completed, in addition to the completion of all 500kV towers on Line 5.
- Transmission line stringing of both Line 2 (Buronga to Dinawan) and Line 5 (Dinawan to Wagga Wagga) has been completed.



Dinawan Substation nearing completion.

### Upcoming work

- Works outside of approved construction hours are scheduled across the alignment from 5 January to 31 March 2026 to ensure these activities are carried out safely and to minimise disruption to the community.
- The Cobb Highway Camp workforce, located near Hay, is scheduled to close and be demobilised in January 2026.
- Completion of the construction of the Dinawan substation, near Bundure, is scheduled for March 2026.
- All construction works leading to energisation of the lines is scheduled to be completed in mid to late 2026.

\*Construction schedules are variable and subject to change.





## Business spotlight

### Southland Supply Group and EnergyConnect: Supporting local jobs and partnerships

Founded in Wagga Wagga, Southland Supply Group has grown from its regional roots to become a trusted national supplier of uniforms and personal protective equipment (PPE). The company has been supporting the EnergyConnect project since its early stages, supplying essential PPE and workwear to teams across the alignment.

As an Australian-owned business with branches in Wagga Wagga, Sydney, and other regional centres, Southland is known for its practical solutions, commitment to safety, and customer-focused service. The company's core values—knowledge, performance, honesty, and integrity—guide its approach to supporting industry. Continued growth in regional NSW reflects Southland's commitment to investing in local capability and building long-term partnerships. Southland's investment in a new state of the art showroom and distribution centre in Wagga earlier this year is a testament to this long-term commitment.

Supplying PPE and uniforms for EnergyConnect has been a significant driver for Southland's Wagga operations, creating local jobs and strengthening the company's service network.

"EnergyConnect has reinforced our capability to deliver on large-scale contracts and has been a fantastic driver for our local team," said Allan Doven, Wagga Store Manager. "The relationship with Elecnor head office and the project team has been extremely positive."

A milestone moment for the team was being awarded the original contract, which opened new opportunities and strengthened relationships with other local businesses such as Ironbark and RTS in the training sector. The experience gained from working on a major infrastructure project has positioned Southland to apply its expertise to future developments and continue expanding its regional and national presence.

By maintaining its commitment to employing local people and building strong partnerships, Southland is contributing to the long-term strength of the region and showcasing the capability of regional Australian businesses on major national projects.



Southland Supply Group PPE and clothing store rooms at Wagga Wagga.



Southland Supply Group showroom at Wagga Wagga.







## In the community

### Spirit of the Land Festival Camp Tours

The project team attended the very popular Spirit of the Land Festival which is held in Lockhart on the 11-12 October every year. In 2025, there were more amazing sculptures, local artworks and stalls than in previous years.

Another new feature this year was the introduction of EnergyConnect camp tours as part of the festival program. These tours were well attended by locals who enjoyed meeting some of the construction crew and hearing about life working and living in the nearby Lockhart camp.

The group was given a “cooks tour” which involved being shown a bedroom, dining, kitchen and movie areas plus the gym and work offices.

All money raised from the camp tours was donated to the festival.



EnergyConnect team members lead a tour to the Lockhart Camp.

### Urana Art Show

Organisers of the Urana Art Show were pleased with the continued sponsorship of their annual art show by Elecnor and Transgrid.

This is an annual fixture on the Riverina arts scene with artists from across the region taking part.

There was a wide range of mediums for sale with several artworks sold on the night of the official Exhibition in the historic Urana Courthouse.

Hats off to the team at the Urana Progress Association for their commitment to delivering this much-loved event.



Elecnor, Transgrid and Urana Courthouse team members at the Urana Art Show.



Participants of the tug-of-war event at the Rock Show.

### The Rock Show

On Saturday 18 October, the project team attended The Rock Show at the historic Rock Show which is now in its 76th year. The Society held its inaugural show in 1947 and it continues to be an important part of the fabric of this community.

Thousands of people rolled through the gates to experience this country show.

Our team spoke with some of our landholders as well as community members who have been keenly watching the progress of the Danubio towers on Line 5.



## Coleambally Playgroup Donation

The project team has been able to successfully deliver a shipping container to the Coleambally Playgroup at Coleambally, who were running out of room.

The group wrote to us requesting the donation of a shipping container to put the playgroup's equipment in, leaving more space for the little ones to learn and play.

Our logistics team at Deniliquin stepped in and provided a container which they painted; installed shelving; and even organised to be transported at no cost.

As you can see by the children's reactions, they were delighted with the finished product, and we hear it is being well used.



## Jerilderie Golf Day

The Jerilderie Golf Club hosted its annual Presidents Cup - a much-loved event drawing more than 150 keen golfers from across the region in October.

While Team Elecnor didn't hit the fairways this year, we were proud sponsors and delighted to support a local club in a town so close to our project.

In fact, with several of our team staying in Jerilderie, the golf club has become a friendly local spot, particularly for those diligently working their way through the bistro menu!

Elecnor Superintendent Dean Hunter (centre) represented the project on the day, shared a few words, and helped present the winners' trophy.

Thanks for flying the Elecnor flag, Dean, great work and great community spirit!

## Driving community engagement at Henty Field Days

Transgrid and Elecnor Australia attended this year's Henty Machinery Field Days, southern Australia's largest agribusiness event.

The Henty Machinery Field Days, which attracts over 60,000 visitors and 1,200 exhibitors annually, provided a key opportunity for Transgrid to connect with landowners, near neighbours, community members and stakeholders from across south-west NSW at the one location.

Transgrid engaged with the community about project updates, the energy transition and renewable generation developments. Staff also had the opportunity to talk about community investment and grants programs, biodiversity offsets and employment opportunities.

Thanks to everyone who attended came by our tent at the event.





## Cultural Immersion at Sandy Hills with EnergyConnect leaders

In October the EnergyConnect Senior Leadership team and project team members joined Uncle Michael Lyons for an immersive experience on Country at Sandy Hills Narrandera.

It was a unique experience and an opportunity to learn about Wiradjuri traditions, stories and practices. The day began with a Welcome to Country and a smoking ceremony. The team then went out for a walk on Country where they saw ancient birthing caves and learned about the rich flora and fauna and bush medicines used. The highlight of the day was the rare sighting of 3 koalas in the wild.

Luke Fania, EnergyConnect's Sustainability and Environment Manager said, "Being immersed in Country allows us to appreciate the complexity and richness of local ecosystems. We learn how different species interact, how landscapes breathe, and how cultural knowledge can guide the way we do projects. That understanding helps us protect biodiversity more meaningfully and design with greater sensitivity to place".

The experience was enriched by beautifully prepared emu spring rolls, kangaroo curry and fresh Murray cod. The day celebrated cultural knowledge and reminded us that reconciliation is built through relationships, respect, and time on Country.



Transgrid Team at Cultural Immersion.

## Acknowledgment of Country

Transgrid acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this great land. We recognise and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first explorers, scientists, farmers, astronomers and storytellers.

We pay respects to the people, the Elders both past and present and celebrate the diversity and successes of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing connections to the lands and waters where we work and live.

## Health and Safety is everyone's business

Elecnor has delivered a unique all-workforce event called 'Health Day 2025' which has inspired the entire EnergyConnect workforce to take charge of their personal health and wellbeing.

The program of the day is built around four key pillars of our Stay Well framework:

- Eat Well – nutrition and smart food choices
- Move Well – exercise and physical health
- Be Well – mental wellbeing and mindset
- Live Well – managing key personal health markers

The day featured industry experts, a keynote speaker, and a series of interactive sessions that made learning and managing personal health practical, engaging and energising.

We're focused on setting a new benchmark for workforce wellbeing and driving the standard in what it means to care for our people in the energy and infrastructure sector.



The EnergyConnect workforce at the Health Day 2025.

## Festive season closedown

EnergyConnect will be closing down for the Christmas/New Year period. This commences Saturday 20 December 2025, with work resuming on Monday 5 January 2025. Security services will continue to operate at project camps and laydowns during this time.

For community project enquiries during this period please contact 1800 49 06 66 (free call) for assistance.

## Connect with us

Transgrid and Elecnor Australia are committed to working with landowners and communities through EnergyConnect project. **Please connect with us for more information.**



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