HumeLink East | acciona | GENUS

Transgrid

Fact sheet

Artificial hollow and nest box program

October 2025

What is HumeLink?

HumeLink is a new 500kV transmission line which will connect Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle. It is one of the state's largest energy infrastructure projects, with about 365 kilometres of proposed new transmission lines, and new or upgraded infrastructure at four locations. To meet our future energy demands, Australia needs to transition to a greater mix of low-emission renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar. HumeLink will help to increase the amount of renewable energy that can be delivered across the national electricity grid to support this transition.

HumeLink East

Construction of the project will occur in two sections known as HumeLink East and HumeLink West.

ACCIONA and Genus Infrastructure (NSW) Pty Ltd are delivering HumeLink East, which includes expanding Transgrid's existing Bannaby 500 kV substation and the design and construction of 237 kilometres of 500 kV double circuit transmission lines from Bannaby to Wondalga.

Installing artificial hollows and nest boxes

HumeLink East is installing artificial hollows and nest boxes across the construction corridor to support local wildlife affected by vegetation removal. Artificial hollows and nest boxes provide essential shelter and breeding sites for a range of species including parrots, microbats and owls, helping to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the area.

This work is guided by the *Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy* which forms part of the Biodiversity Management Plan for HumeLink East. The objective of this strategy is to help mitigate the impacts of vegetation clearing by installing and managing artificial hollows and nest boxes as alternative roosting and/or nesting habitats for threatened fauna.

A range of artificial hollows will be installed including:

- carving hollows in retained trees using a Hollowhog tool
- reusing existing hollows salvaged prior to or during clearing operations
- nest boxes.

The number and type of artificial hollows will be determined based on surveys undertaken by the project ecologist, who will also be onsite to oversee the artificial hollow and nest box installation.

An example nest box

Where nest boxes will be installed

Appropriately sized nest boxes and hollows will be installed as close as possible to where hollows have been removed. Nest boxes will be installed in trees in, and adjacent to, the easement.

Property access

As much as possible, nest boxes will be installed within the project corridor. Any boxes installed adjacent to the easement will only be installed subject to landholder approval and suitable existing trees being present.

Before construction

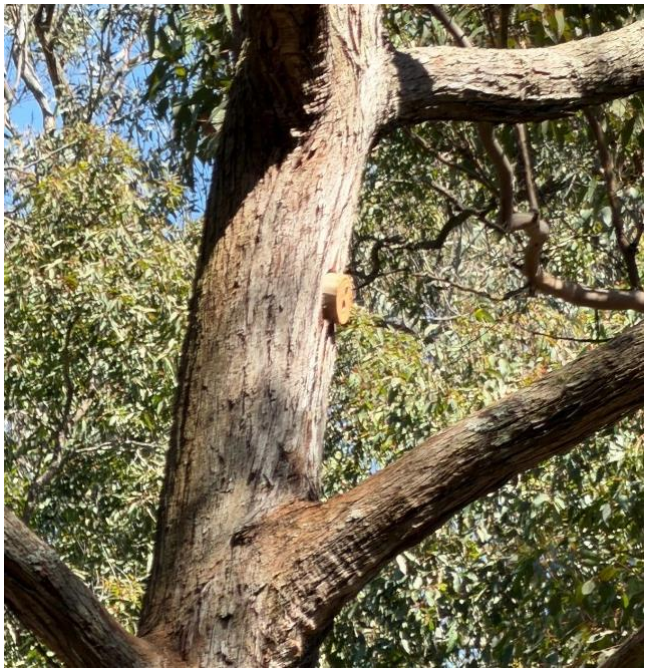
Before we start construction, our project ecologists will carry out pre-clearing surveys to identify nests and hollow bearing trees within areas that will be disturbed by construction. The surveys aim to identify and locate, where possible, all potential nests within the disturbance area.

Impacts on habitat trees and other habitat features have been minimised where possible.

During construction

Where possible, hollows removed during clearing activities will be retained and reinstalled on the project.

Artificial hollows will be installed in trees (both rough-barked and smooth-barked eucalypts) that do not already have hollows of the same size. Artificial hollows will be attached to trees using a non-invasive wiring method or large galvanised nails.



An example of a carved artificial hollow

Monitoring

Monitoring of the artificial tree hollows and nest boxes will be undertaken for a five-year period. During construction, project ecologists will monitor the nest boxes periodically to assess their use and any breeding success. Typically, monitoring will occur every six months. The condition of the nest boxes will also be reviewed during monitoring to determine if any maintenance is required. Post construction, Transgrid will undertake the monitoring and maintenance.

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.

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