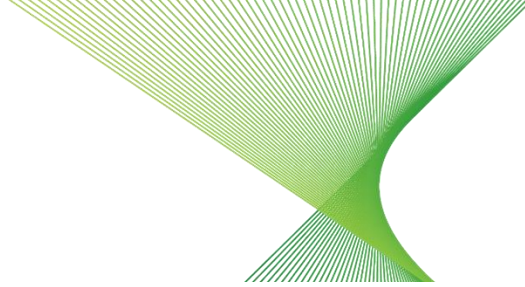


Meeting Minutes

HumeLink Construction Reference Group – Snowy Valleys/Cootamundra-Gundagai



Meeting title:	HumeLink Snowy Valleys/Cootamundra Construction Reference Group	Date:	26 March 2026
Location:	Online (Microsoft Teams)	Time:	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Chairperson:	Reem Nasr (RN), Community Investment and Benefits Lead, Transgrid
Attendees:	Anne Shanahan (AS), Snowy Valleys Council Mellisa Meli (MM), Tumbarumba Business Chamber Alec Brown (AB), Transgrid Michael Howard (MH), Transgrid Theresa Ashford (TA), Transgrid Samantha Willoughby (SW), Transgrid Isobel Manchee (IM), Transgrid Jacques Coetzee (JC), Acciona-Genus Joint Venture Suzie Presswell (SP), Acciona-Genus Joint Venture Vincent Newton (VN), UGL-CPB Joint Venture Damien Wilson (DW), UGL-CPB Joint Venture Maria Simunovic-Winchester (MSW), Grand Pacific Health
Apologies:	Trevor Dando (TD), Cootamundra-Gundagai Council Michael Hannah (MH), Snowy Business Chamber Allan Tonkin (AT), Community Member Rachel Whiting (RW), RDA Riverina Chantelle Garrett (CG), HumeLink West Coral Bulger (CB), Brungle/Tumut LALC Supt Stewart Alexander (SA), Fire and Rescue

Agenda items

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
Acknowledgement of Country & Welcome	RN acknowledged the Wiradjuri people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which a significant portion of HumeLink is being built and acknowledged the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands of all those joining via Teams. RN paid respects to Elders past and present. RN noted that, as a housekeeping matter, the CRG Terms of Reference already include provisions for alternate representatives. Members	

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	<p>who are unable to attend are encouraged to notify the project team and arrange an alternate. AB noted that the project team will seek to ensure better representation at future meetings.</p>	
<p>Confirmation of previous meeting minutes and review of action items</p>	<p>RN reviewed action items from the previous meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Terms of reference to include provisions for alternate representatives. Status: Confirmed as already included. 2. Consult with HumeLink Safety Manager regarding participation in the Cootamundra-Gundagai LEMC. Status: Complete. The HumeLink Interface Manager (Shaun DaCosta) now attends these meetings. 3. Include a three-month look ahead with staging and traffic movements in future agendas. Status: Complete. Incorporated into agenda. 4. Implement earlier notice protocol for major activities and establish direct channel with business chambers. Status: Complete. Each delivery partner has established good relationships with local business chambers. 5. Send Dave Eisenhower's contact number to HumeLink East for radio promotion of the SMS programme. Status: Complete. 6. Provide data updates to RDA Riverina for workforce histogram. Status: Pending. 7. Investigate restriction of heavy vehicle deliveries during school bus hours. Status: Complete. Road safety included as a standing agenda item. 8. Provide general traffic movement forecast for East and West. Status: Complete. Covered in the three-month look ahead. 	<p>Action: RN / HumeLink East and West to provide workforce data updates to RDA Riverina for the workforce histogram.</p>
<p>Project overview – long lead item deliveries</p>	<p>Presenter: Michael Howard (MH), Project Director, HumeLink West (Transgrid).</p> <p>MH provided a brief overview of long lead item deliveries - large electrical equipment (transformers and reactors) manufactured in China and Korea, now arriving at Port Kembla. These items will be progressively transported to site over coming months:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bannaby Substation (HumeLink East, near Taralga) Gugaa Substation (near Wagga Wagga) Maragle Substation (Maragle State Forest, HumeLink West) <p>Exact delivery dates are still being confirmed, pending council permits for heavy vehicle routes. Some equipment has already arrived at port; additional deliveries are expected imminently.</p>	
<p>HumeLink East – project update and three-month look ahead</p>	<p>Presenter: Jacques Coetzee (JC), Construction Manager, HumeLink East.</p> <p>Construction progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 230 tower pads completed 153 km of access tracks completed 80 foundations (piles) completed 29 towers assembled on the ground and ready for erection 30 towers erected Worker camps operational at Yass and Adjungbilly <p>Three-month look ahead (Snowy Valleys):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access tracks: 102 km of tracks to be built in the southern section of the project (south of the Murrumbidgee River), which is within and adjacent to the Snowy Valleys LGA. Steel deliveries: underway at Wadawi, Fedara and Snowy Valleys locations. Tower assembly: towers continuing to be assembled along the alignment, ready for erection. Hurdle deliveries: new activity. Hurdles are being installed along the alignment at crossings over existing assets (utilities, infrastructure) to protect them during conductor stringing. Commenced approximately two weeks prior to this meeting. Tower erection: 76 towers to be erected in the Snowy Valleys LGA. Conductor stringing: expected to begin in May 2026 using helicopters, starting near Adjungbilly (near the Murrumbidgee River) and progressing south towards the HumeLink West interface. JC noted helicopters are preferred over traditional ground-based bulldozer stringing as they are faster, more efficient and cause significantly less ground disturbance and paddock clearing on properties. <p>Workforce (as at meeting date):</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 275 project employees expected by June 2026 • 400 blue collar workers expected by June 2026 • First international linesman crews have arrived to begin preparations for stringing • Local staff and subcontractors based at project offices in Tumut • Accommodation at Adjungbilly (approx. 190 people housed) <p>Traffic movements: JC noted there will be an increase in both light and heavy vehicle movements on local roads through to project completion (late 2027). These include worker travel to and from construction sites and heavy vehicle deliveries of steel, concrete and construction equipment. Temporary road safety measures may be implemented on selected roads (speed limit reductions, traffic controls, signage).</p> <p>Road safety: JC outlined HumeLink East's vehicle safety approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All project vehicles fitted with GPS tracking systems (live tracking, approved route compliance) • 102 additional tracking units ordered for subcontractor water carts and concrete trucks (expanding on the existing fleet units) • Internal driver safety campaign targeting speeding, fatigue and journey management planning • Disciplinary framework in place: written warnings; loss of driving privileges; and termination of employment - several warnings issued and some driving privileges already removed • Safety messaging communicated through weekly toolbox presentations, weekly town halls, and leader communications to teams <p>Member question (MM): MM raised concerns received through the Tumbarumba Business Chamber about concrete trucks - specifically the speed of fully loaded trucks and the associated loss of vehicle control under full load.</p> <p>JC confirmed the project has a Chain of Responsibility (CoR) obligation and conducts monthly meetings and regular toolbox talks with concrete truck operators specifically targeting the Snowy Valleys area. Trackers are now being fitted</p>	

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	<p>to subcontractor concrete trucks to improve monitoring. MM confirmed she appreciated the steps being taken.</p>	
<p>HumeLink West – project update and three-month look ahead</p>	<p>Presenter: Vincent Newton (VN), Construction Director, UGL-CPB Joint Venture.</p> <p>Construction progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37 towers erected (approximately 40 including towers assembled and ready) • 202 tower pads completed out of 365; focus now shifting to southern end of the project • 185 km of access tracks completed (of approximately 325 km total) • 49 access points constructed (of 71 total) • Approximately 90 sets of tower foundations completed (~25% of total) • Gugaa and Maragle substations: bulk earthworks and drainage complete; piling approaching completion; transformer and reactor bunds under construction in preparation for April deliveries • Wagga Wagga substation (Ashford Road): works progressing towards first stringing of the existing line deviation, anticipated mid-April to May • Cullinga Park Lane (Tarcutta) concrete batch plant operational • Lower Bago concrete batch plant commissioned in the week prior to the meeting, now servicing the southern end of the project • All compounds and laydowns operational; focus moving southwards toward Maragle <p>Completed works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road upgrades: Mates Gully Road (Tarcutta), Ashford Road (Gregadoo), Green Hills Access Road (Kunama) — all completed and operational <p>Three-month look ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing foundation excavation and piling across the alignment • Continued deliveries of foundation steel and tower steel into laydowns, progressing southwards • Vegetation clearing and access track construction continuing, with major focus on hardwood and pine forests at the southern end (toward Maragle) 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nesting box installation and preparation of glider crossing poles (to be installed within three months of clearing) • Tower assembly and erection continuing across the alignment (approx. 10 crews) • Stringing to commence near Wagga substation, initially using drones, then transitioning to helicopters from approximately mid-year <p>Vehicle management and road safety (VN and DW):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All project vehicles fitted with In-Vehicle Monitoring System (IVMS) (speed, braking, acceleration, kilometres, idling, route compliance) • Forward-facing dash cameras enable driver observation for incident investigations • Geofencing and audible cab alerts for restricted roads; historical tracking available • Mandatory lower speed limits programmed via IVMS on specific roads following community feedback (e.g. 80 km/h on roads otherwise posted at 100 km/h) • UHF call-up systems installed on identified roads for heavy vehicle awareness • Regular toolbox talks and pre-starts discussing journey management, fatigue and driver behaviour • VN noted the project undertakes approximately 200,000 kilometres of vehicle travel per week, making road safety a key risk priority • DW confirmed branded project signage displaying the 1800 number and approved vehicle routes will be installed across the project footprint within approximately one month. <p>Workforce (DW):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 2,000 workers inducted; 500 are local and regional • Apprentices and trainees directly employed across civil construction and overhead transmission lines crews • Pre-employment programs underway for civil construction and Certificate II in OHTL • Peak camp occupancy expected mid-year as stringing crews come on • A programme is being trialled allowing camp workers to leave in early evenings to visit local facilities and community activities 	

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	<p>in Tumbarumba and surrounding areas (e.g. soccer at Batlow, dinners at local venues)</p>	
<p>Biosecurity management</p>	<p>Presenter: Damien Wilson (DW), UGL-CPB Joint Venture.</p> <p>DW outlined the biosecurity approach for HumeLink West, noting the added complexity of the interface with both hardwood and softwood state forests in addition to private landholdings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual property biosecurity management plans developed with each landowner, specifying requirements above the standard controls • Individual risk assessments conducted per property • Additional washdown bays installed where required • Landowner-supervised vehicle inspections available on request • Extensive record keeping supporting landowner reporting and auditing (e.g., Meat and Livestock Australia audits) • Standard controls: washdown at property entry/exit; biosecurity kits in vehicles; records maintained for compliance auditing. 	
<p>Community enquiries and complaints summary</p>	<p>Presenter: Isobel Manchee (IM), Community and Stakeholder Coordinator, Transgrid.</p> <p>This item was presented in response to an action from the previous meeting requesting a summary and report on the types of complaints received.</p> <p>IM summarised the main themes of complaints received from January 2026 to the date of the meeting, for both HumeLink East and West:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dust (primary issue) 2. Traffic and driver behaviour 3. Property access 4. Road condition impacts <p>IM noted that QR codes are available (displayed in the slide deck) linking directly to the publicly available complaints registers for both HumeLink East and HumeLink West. These registers are updated monthly and published on the respective project web pages, showing complaints and their resolutions.</p> <p>MM provided positive feedback, noting that the project's drivers in the Tumbarumba area are generally observed to be following the rules, and</p>	

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	<p>commended the workforce for their conduct on local roads.</p>	
<p>Community Investment and Benefits update</p>	<p>Presenter: Reem Nasr (RN), Community & Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, HumeLink / Transgrid.</p> <p>HumeLink Community Investment Benefits Program (CIBP) 118 applications received across the HumeLink alignment: 22 projects awarded following a community prioritisation survey, council screening, and weighted criteria assessment. Projects of relevance to the Snowy Valleys / Cootamundra-Gundagai area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carcoola Children's Centre (Tumbarumba) – landscaping, resurfacing and inclusive play equipment • Batlow Multi-Purpose Leisure Hub – clubhouse, equipment and landscape improvements including revegetation and arboretum • Adelong Golden Gully Caravan Park – upgrade addressing accommodation shortage following 2019–2020 bushfires • Tarcutta Recreational Grounds Infrastructure Improvement Project – multi-stage community hub upgrade • Tumut Showground – electrical upgrade and earthworks <p>Landscape Rehydration Program (Mulloon Institute) Transgrid is partnering with the Mulloon Institute to deliver a landscape rehydration program, developing three communities of practice across the HumeLink alignment. The first is established at Tools Creek (HumeLink West alignment, near Wagga). An Expression of Interest for the other two communities of practice locations will be released. The Mulloon Institute is currently undertaking catchment mapping along the alignment to identify suitable areas. The program builds landowner capacity around water management, on-ground demonstration projects, and improving water quality in local catchments.</p> <p>Telecommunications Program AB outlined the AER-approved telecommunications connectivity program. Booster units are mounted on project towers, picking up a mobile signal from up to 20 km away and rebroadcasting it for 2.5–3 km. Solar-powered with a lithium iron phosphate battery: low maintenance. Sites are selected based on black spot data,</p>	<p>Action: AB / Transgrid to confirm and share first HumeLink telecommunications booster site locations within approximately two weeks.</p> <p>Action: AS to contact MSW to discuss connection with the Council's inter-agency forum.</p>

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	<p>emergency services input, road coverage, and tourist/community areas. The first two HumeLink sites will be confirmed and communicated within approximately two weeks. AB noted that Transgrid has been consulting emergency services, councils, and community to identify priority locations.</p> <p>Mental Health Program (Grand Pacific Health) Presenter: Maria Simunovic-Winchester (MSW), Community Resilience and Engagement Coordinator, GPH. MSW delivered an acknowledgement of lived experience before presenting. GPH provides mental health services across South West NSW, Murrumbidgee, South East Sydney and ACT, and manages the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) statewide. GPH employs 450+ staff and operates 12 headspace centres and 4 Medicare Mental Health centres. Program aim: to strengthen mental health, wellbeing and resilience of communities within the HumeLink project area, through outreach services, early intervention, referral pathways and capacity-building.</p> <p>Upcoming activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accidental Counsellor Training – Tumbarumba (31 March 2026, hosted at Tumbarumba Sports Academy) and Batlow (1 April 2026, hosted at the Snowy Valleys Resilience Hub). A one-day workshop equipping participants to support others disclosing mental health difficulties. Some spots still available at both locations. • Mental Health First Aid – two-day accredited training course; dates being finalised and will be confirmed shortly across the HumeLink catchment. • Community Resilience Expo – proposed for September 2026, in early planning in partnership with the Snowy Valleys Resilience Hub. • Wellbeing sessions – meditation, martial arts, sleep hygiene and healthy eating; multiple sessions across impacted communities, locations and dates TBC. <p>AS (Snowy Valleys Council) noted that Council runs a quarterly inter-agency forum with local services and offered to connect MSW with relevant local services, particularly in the lead-up to the Community Resilience Expo. MSW welcomed this and asked AS to make contact via email.</p>	

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<p>Additional items / any other business</p>	<p>Transformer and reactor deliveries through Tumbarumba (raised by MM)</p> <p>MM noted she has been receiving community questions about anticipated heavy vehicle movements through Tumbarumba relating to transformer deliveries to Maragle Substation, with mid-April referenced. MM asked whether confirmed dates could be shared so she could advise local businesses and the community.</p> <p>VN and AB confirmed that dates are not yet locked in; mid-April remains the general reference point. Dates are contingent on finalising council permits for heavy vehicle routes. AB confirmed that once dates are confirmed, the project will keep CRG members informed. TA suggested AB liaise with Mark Millevoy (project logistics) for the most up-to-date scheduling information. AB confirmed he is already working with Mark on this.</p> <p>DW noted that for specific complaints or road incidents in the meantime, community members can contact the project via the 1800 number or directly, and the project will investigate.</p> <p>MM commended Humelink drivers generally for their conduct on local roads in the Tumbarumba area.</p> <p>Kunama accommodation camp – capacity and community access (raised by MM)</p> <p>MM asked about the current capacity at the Kunama camp and the planned expansion.</p> <p>VN confirmed: current operational capacity approximately 315 people (circa 350 maximum, less 10% for room management and cleaning). The Tarcutta expansion (96 beds / 24 modules) is underway and will take approximately four weeks. The Kunama expansion (72 beds) will follow approximately five weeks after Tarcutta commences.</p> <p>MM raised the opportunity for the local Tumbarumba business community to better cater for workers choosing to visit town in the evenings. MM noted she would like to understand numbers and patterns (e.g. activities preferred, whether workers travel individually or in groups, transport arrangements) so local businesses could adjust their capacity and hours accordingly.</p> <p>DW confirmed: workers are permitted to leave the camp in early evenings; the programme is informal</p>	<p>Action: AB / Transgrid to notify MM (and CRG members) once confirmed dates for transformer/reactor deliveries through Tumbarumba are available.</p> <p>Action: DW to contact MM to coordinate sharing of worker activity preferences and patterns to assist local Tumbarumba businesses in planning their capacity.</p>

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	<p>and voluntary; workers travel in small groups in company vehicles with designated drivers; a bus is used for larger group outings (e.g. soccer at Batlow); all standard camp rules apply including check-out/check-in and a 9:00pm return. DW offered to reach out to MM the following day to share information about available local activities with workers, and to coordinate better communication between the project and the local business community.</p> <p>AS (Snowy Valleys Council) noted she maintains regular contact with the project team between meetings and had no additional items to raise.</p>	
Next meeting	<p>RN confirmed the next meeting will be held in person in the third week of June 2026. A location has not yet been confirmed. RN advised she will circulate a meeting request within the next couple of days.</p> <p>AB thanked all attendees for their time and participation.</p>	Action: RN to confirm in-person location and circulate meeting invitation for the next CRG meeting in June.

Agenda Item	Description / Action	Responsibility
Action items review	Provide workforce data updates to RDA Riverina for the workforce histogram (outstanding from previous meeting).	HumeLink East & West
Community investment update	Confirm and share first HumeLink telecommunications booster site locations with CRG members within approximately two weeks.	AB / Transgrid
Community investment update	AS (Snowy Valleys Council) to contact MSW to discuss connection with Council's inter-agency forum and relevant local services ahead of the Community Resilience Expo.	AS / MSW
Additional items	Notify MM and CRG members once confirmed dates and routes for transformer / reactor deliveries through Tumbarumba are available.	AB / Transgrid
Additional items	DW to contact MM to coordinate sharing of worker activity preferences and camp patterns with Tumbarumba businesses, to assist local capacity planning.	DW / UGL-CPB JV
Next meeting	Confirm in-person location for next CRG meeting (third week of June 2026) and circulate meeting invitation.	RN

Minutes prepared by: Isobel Manchee

Date of distribution:

Minutes approved by: Alec Brown

Date approved: