



Workers are installing cables on new transmission towers between Gregadoo and Keajura over coming weeks.

Cable installation underway on HumeLink West

The HumeLink West overhead transmission lines team has begun stringing conductor cables southeast of Wagga Wagga.

Stringing of the conductors marks a significant progress milestone for HumeLink West, as they are the first to be installed on the 140 km transmission line alignment.

The conductors span six recently erected transmission towers over a 2.3 km section of the alignment that interfaces with Wagga Wagga Substation at Gregadoo.

HumeLink comprises 365 km of 500 kV overhead transmission lines linking Maragle with Wagga Wagga and Bannaby, two new substations and two others that are being upgraded, including Wagga Wagga Substation.

Preparation for the stringing works includes erecting temporary bridge-like structures across three local roads to enable the non-energised conductor cables to safely 'hurdle' live traffic throughout the installation process.

Conductor installation involves using a drone or a helicopter to lift a pilot cable onto temporary pulley blocks fitted to the arms of each transmission tower. This pilot cable is used to winch the conductor cable along the tower alignment in long sections.

Each cable is rolled out from large cable drums fitted with brake mechanisms, which together with the winch, are used to control the rate of release and tensioning of each cable.

Over coming months helicopters will typically take-off and land from brake and winch sites and occasionally from Wagga substation, Gugaa substation and the Cullinga Park Lane compound at Tarcutta. Drones will take-off and land at any location along the alignment.

Each tower on HumeLink supports 24 conductors and earth wires and optic fibre cables. A combined length of almost 4,000 km of conductors and cables will have been installed on the 140 km HumeLink West alignment by the time stringing is completed in 2027.

Meanwhile, a continuous line of erected transmission towers now extends from Wagga Wagga to a crossing point south of Tarcutta, where HumeLink West will hurdle the Hume Highway.

Stringing will progress throughout June, July and August towards that crossing point and then onward to Ellerslie, Green Hills, the Bago State Forest and Maragle in the Snowy Valleys. HumeLink West will connect with HumeLink East at Wondalga, near Adelong.



Temporary hurdles will be installed to minimise the impacts of cable road crossings on local traffic wherever possible.

How helicopters and drones are used to improve conductor stringing

Helicopters and drones will be used to assist with stringing conductors and earth wires and optic fibre cables along the HumeLink West transmission tower alignment throughout 2026.

Aerial stringing offers significant advantages over traditional ground-based methods. Use of aircraft and their highly skilled crews enables cables to be installed more quickly and efficiently, saving time.

It also reduces the amount of time workers need to spend on each property, avoids the impacts associated with use of bulldozers to pull cables over land and reduces heavy vehicle traffic on access tracks and local roads.

To string cables between tower insulators, pulley blocks are put in place on the transmission tower arms to enable the conductors to be installed without placing any unnecessary load stresses on the cables or the tower structure.

To get started, the helicopter or drone installs the pilot cable (draw wire) through the pulley blocks from the temporary winch station to the site of the cable drums.

Back at the winch site, the draw wire then pulls the permanent conductor cable through the pulley blocks towards the winch station.

The rate of release of the cables from the large steel drums is carefully controlled using a mobile hydraulic brake and cable tensioning station. The process is repeated until all of the required cables have been safely installed.

Helicopters will not land or take-off within a kilometre of residences and will operate from designated pre-approved sites.

For more detailed information about tower stringing, please view the [HumeLink Aerial Stringing Fact Sheet](#).

Community Investment & Benefits Program projects in delivery

Transgrid's HumeLink West project team has begun work with local businesses and stakeholders to deliver four significant project legacy initiatives to benefit local communities.

HumeLink West Senior Environment and Stakeholder Manager, Emma Kline, said local professional and trades services supplier partners are in the process of being identified and appointed so that detailed project design and construction can get underway over coming weeks.

“To maximise benefits to the community and to leverage local knowledge, we’re utilising local project managers and services suppliers wherever possible. We’re working with them to finalise the scope and costs to ensure each initiative is successfully delivered on time and in full,” she said.

Earlier this year local communities identified and prioritised four projects through a collaborative evaluation process, that will share a total of up to \$2 million in Transgrid funding. They are:

- The Tarcutta Recreational Ground Infrastructure Improvement Plan
- The Batlow Multi-Purpose Leisure Hub upgrade
- The Adelong Golden Gully Caravan Park Accommodation upgrade, and
- The Snowy Valleys Council Carcoola Children’s Centre Playground upgrade at Tumberumba.

Each of the initiatives will provide enduring social and economic legacies to surrounding communities and is expected to have been delivered in full by late-2027.



Workers celebrate successful delivery of another transformer at Maragle.

Gugaa substation services building

The HumeLink West team at the Gugaa Substation site near Wagga Wagga has taken delivery of a prefabricated auxiliary services building.

Set to function as an operational nerve-centre for the substation, which will serve as a vital interface between HumeLink and the Riverina power supply network, the building arrived by road from Sydney with most of the required monitoring and switching equipment pre-installed.

The building was secured in place within hours of its arrival.

Wagga Wagga Substation upgrade

Transgrid and our delivery partners recently achieved a significant milestone with the first energisation of HumeLink West permanent electrical infrastructure on the project when newly installed equipment at Wagga Wagga Substation was successfully energised for the first time.

The equipment is needed to facilitate integration of the existing 330kV substation network with the new 500kV HumeLink network, now under construction.

Upgrade works at Wagga Wagga Substation are ongoing, with extensive concrete pours being completed for foundations needed to install more electrical equipment and hardware.



The first new electrical equipment on HumeLink West has been energised.

Three transformers installed

Installation of electrical equipment at the new substation under construction at Maragle in the upper Snowy Valleys has moved into high gear, with three of the single phase transformers now delivered and installed.

Each of the transformers weighs about 125 tonnes and has been delivered to site using an oversized 14 axle trailer and up to four prime movers, under police escort from Port Kembla.

A total of six transformers are being installed at Maragle and a further five will be delivered to the new Gugaa Substation site near Wagga Wagga. Substation equipment deliveries will take place throughout June and July.



The auxiliary services building has been installed at Gugaa Substation.

Tarcutta batch plant to close

Having played an integral role in the construction of foundations for dozens of transmission towers between Book Book and the Hume Highway, the concrete batch plant at Tarcutta is set to be decommissioned by the end of June.

With most of the 60 or so towers west of the Hume Highway now completed, the focus is shifting to the erection of about 300 remaining towers between the Hume Highway and Maragle.



The Tarcutta batch plant will be decommissioned soon.

HumeLink supports local suppliers

HumeLink West has so far sourced over \$70 million dollars worth of goods and service from businesses with local outlets in the immediate project area and adjacent regions.

Almost \$20 million has been spent in the Wagga Wagga local government area, over \$8 million in the Snowy Valleys, about \$9 million in the Albury and greater Hume regions and almost \$16 million in the ACT.

The largest contributions being made by suppliers employing local workers and locally serviced machinery are in the civil earthworks, concrete supply and transport logistics sectors.

A diverse array of small to medium sized business suppliers make up the balance of the project's spend in the local project region - from the business that supplies personal protective equipment (PPE) and clothing to HumeLink West workers - through to suppliers of goods and services to our Tarcutta and Kunama accommodation facilities.

Safeguarding local flora and fauna

Ecologists working full time as an integral part of the HumeLink West project delivery team are ensuring that workers comply with carefully documented exclusion zones and take necessary biosecurity measures to prevent the unintended transfer of plant materials between sites.

Potential habitat vegetation is carefully checked in advance of any impactful construction activity and bird boxes and aerial fauna crossings are being installed where needed.

Most of the transmission line corridor is on open farmland and a smaller area of plantation pine trees.



HumeLink West stocks produce at both Tarcutta and Kunama worker accommodation facilities and was again a major sponsor of Batlow's Ciderfest this year.

Local Indigenous businesses are also making important contributions to the delivery of HumeLink West, with the total project spend to date approximately \$12.7 million.



A worker installs a bird nesting box adjacent to the HumeLink West corridor.

HumeLink West 3-month lookahead

Activity (subject to change)	June	July	August
Construction works at Maragle, Gugaa and Wagga Wagga substations	●	●	●
Civil works at transmission tower sites and other locations	●	●	●
Assembly and erection of transmission towers along the HumeLink West alignment	●	●	●
Conductor stringing of transmission towers southeast of Wagga Wagga	●	●	●
Steel and concrete deliveries to transmission tower sites and substations	●	●	●
Vegetation clearing in select forestry areas along the alignment	●	●	●
Operation of concrete batch plants at Tumbarumba, Green Hills and Tarcutta*	●	●	●
Establishment of access points and access tracks along the project alignment	●	●	●

*Operations to cease in late June

Connect with us

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



1800 317 367
(free call)

humelink@transgrid.com.au
www.transgrid.com.au/humelink-west/



For an interpreter, call **131 450** and ask the service to call Transgrid on **1800 317 367**.

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