



VNI West Community Consultative Group

**Meeting 13 – 16 July 2026
Deniliquin**

People. Power. Possibilities.



Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri, Wamba Wamba, Perrepa Perrepa and Yorta Yorta people as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today.

We pay respect to Elders past and present.



Agenda

Time	Agenda item	Time allocated	Presenter
9:45 – 10:00	Morning tea	15 mins	
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome - Acknowledgement of Country - Introductions - Housekeeping and review of previous minutes	15 mins	Brendan Blakeley
10:15 – 11:15	What are you hearing?	60 Mins	Brendan Blakeley
11:15 – 11:35	Project Director's update - Property update - Community update - Environment update	20 mins	Claire Moore
11:35 – 12:20	Response to submissions What we heard and how we've responded	45 mins	Nathan Menser
12:20 – 12:50	Construction planning update - Traffic and transport - Tower construction - Questions and other matters	30 mins	Nathan Menser / Wardia Kessal
1:00pm	Wrap up and close - Next meeting - Staying in touch	10 Mins	Brendan Blakeley

Review of Meeting 12 Minutes and action items



Action items

Agenda item	Description	Responsible	Status
Welcome and introductions	Transgrid to meet with EnergyCo regarding a coordinated approach to telecommunications, and to understand the approach from each proponent.	Paul McFadyen	Ongoing
	Transgrid to provide an update at the next AFG meeting on the results of the test pit excavations.	Geoff Hudson	Complete
What are you hearing?	Include details on traffic and transport routes at next CCG meeting.	Nathan Menser	Complete
	Transgrid to send information of detailed route alignment to Murray River Council and offer project briefing.	Nathan Menser	Complete
Property	Send supporting information on acquisition to CCG members.	Beatrice Hobson	Complete
Environment update	GH to confirm if the history of seeds and pollens is considered as part of the ACHAR.	Geoff Hudson	Complete
Wrap up and close	The CCG to be informed of any updates on telecommunications and roads	Nathan Menser	Ongoing

What are you hearing?

Brendan Blakeley



Project update

Claire Moore

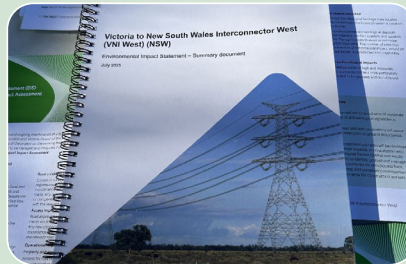


Project update: Key areas



Submissions Report

Submitted to DPHI.
We'll take you through how we've addressed submissions later in this presentation.



Amendment Report

Submitted to DPHI.
DPHI reviews in conjunction with EIS and Submissions Report before a determination is made.



Project pathway

Stage 1: Substation and TL51 – now known as South West RNIP (EnergyCo); Request for Tender (RfT) commencing shortly
Stage 2: Transmission Line



Social legacy

Upcoming engagements on social legacy aligning with EnergyCo.

Both reports can be accessed via the NSW Planning Portal
<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/victoria-nsw-interconnector-west>

Property update



Property Update

- **Negotiations** with landholders Dinawan to NSW-VIC border continue in accordance with *Just Terms Act*.
- **Landholders are generally engaged** across the project.
- Transgrid has requested Stage 2 landholders **consider the revised holding maps in their compensation claims**.
- Transgrid **covers reasonable fees** for landholders in seeking legal and valuation advice.



Letters of offer process



Slide 10

BH1 [@Ben Doran] please provide any property updates to this slide ahead of the next CCG meeting

Beatrice Hobson, 2026-06-25T03:36:41.903

BD1 0 [@Beatrice Hobson] - I have now updated the slide

Ben Doran, 2026-07-01T23:11:29.888

Community engagement and Social Legacy



Community Partnerships Program 2026

Community Partnerships Program:

Successful grant applicants for **Round 1, 2026** will be announced soon.

(We can't announce the eight recipients just yet ... they will be notified shortly)

Round 2 to open in October 2026

Visit: <https://www.transgrid.com.au/cpp>



Community initiatives to deliver real benefits across regional NSW

A diverse range of not-for-profit organisations will invest in vital equipment, facilities, training and services after being successfully funded by Transgrid's Community Partnerships Program.

Grants have been awarded to 71 community groups from locations including Wagga, Yass, Coleambally, Lockhart, Muswellbrook, Glen Innes, Deniliquin and Moulamein.

[Learn more](#)

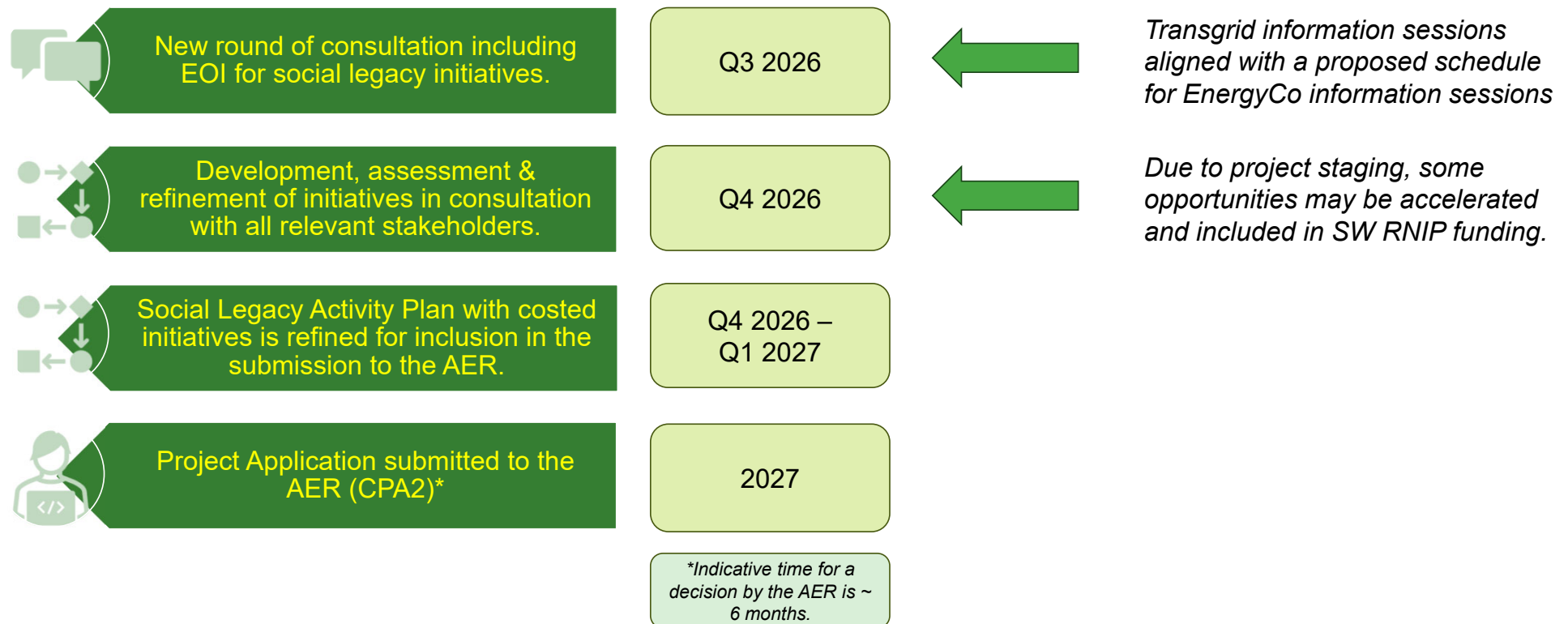


Moulamein Bowling Club

The Moulamein Bowling Club plays a central role in the local community, providing a welcoming space for connection and support. With funding from our Community Partnerships Program, the club hosted a Men's Health Night—a free event that provided meals, transport, and access to important health and wellbeing services.

[Learn more](#)

Community investment & benefits



Submissions and Amendment Report – Community Information Sessions

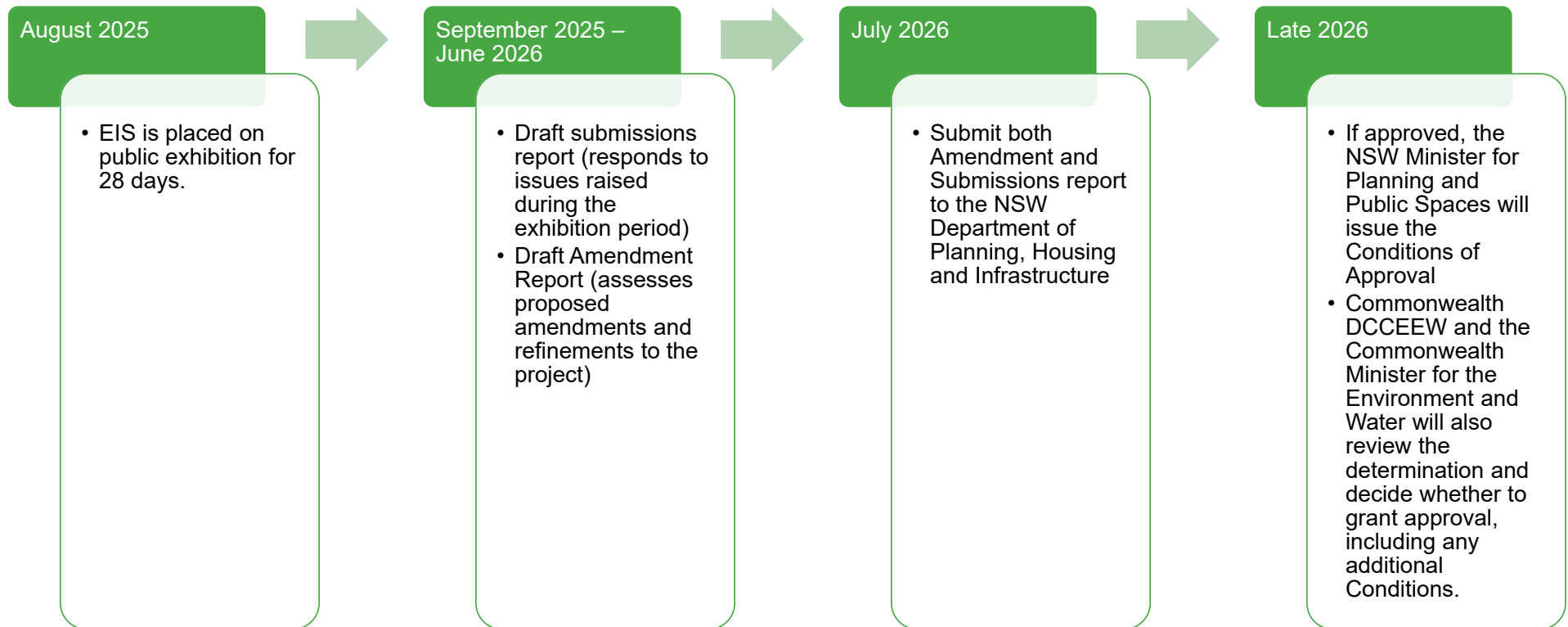
Throughout August 2026, we are hosting drop-in sessions to share information about how the project has responded to the Submissions and the proposed changes and findings of additional technical studies documented in the Amendment Report. We will also welcome discussion on social legacy initiatives.

Monday 10 Aug	Tuesday 11 Aug	Wednesday 12 Aug	Thursday 13 Aug	Friday 14 Aug
Wagga Wagga 10am – 5pm Transgrid Discovery Hub 27 Kincaid Street	Mallan 9am – 12pm Mallan Hall Cunninyeuk Road	Jerilderie 9.30am – 12.30pm Jerilderie Civic Hall 37 Jerilderie Street	Moulamein 10am – 1pm Moulamein Art Gallery Morago Street	Wanganella 9am – 12pm Wanganella Hall Lang Street
<i>Green: Transgrid only</i>	Deniliquin 3.30pm – 6.30pm Deniliquin Golf Club 1 Golf Club Road	Coleambally 3pm – 6pm Coly Community Hall Kingfisher Avenue	Barham 3.30pm – 5.30pm CluBarham Neimur Street	Conargo 3.30pm – 6.30pm Conargo Hall Conargo Road
<i>Blue: Transgrid schedule aligned with proposed EnergyCo schedule.</i>				

Environment update



Amendment Report and Submissions Report

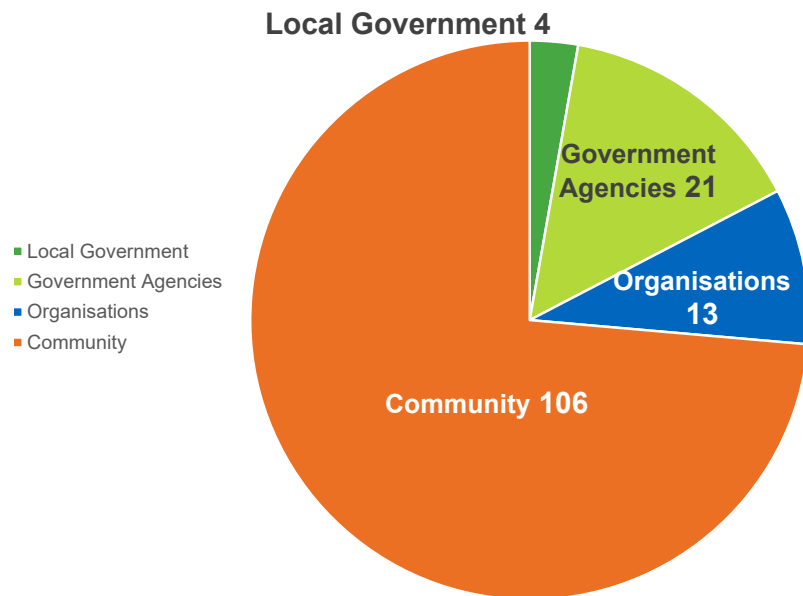


Response to submissions – what we heard and how we've responded



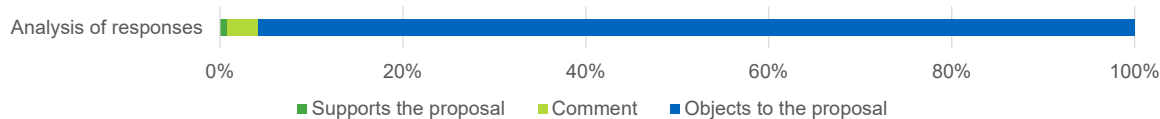
Overview of submissions

Submissions: Total - 144



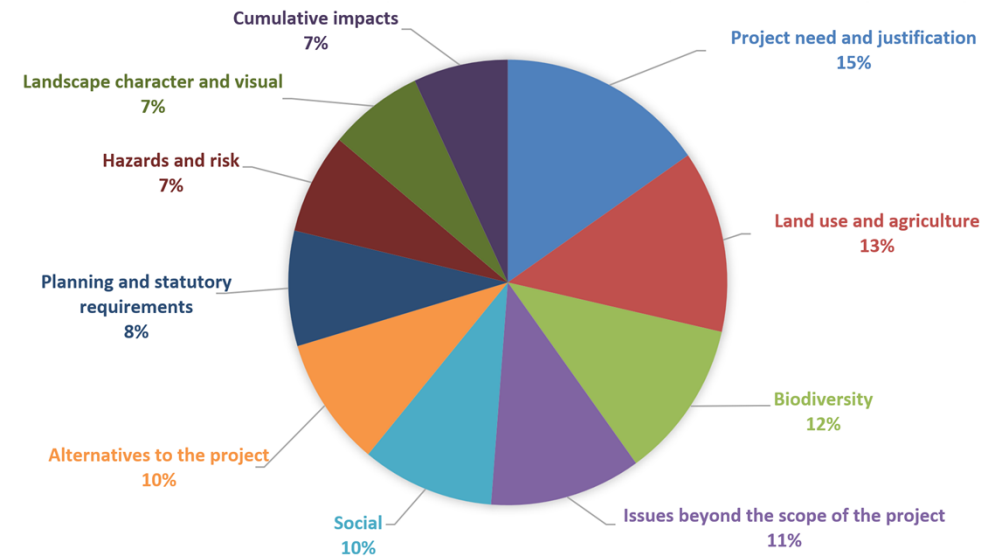
Most community submissions focused on **project need, land use and agriculture, biodiversity and social impacts.**

Response analysis (Community & Organisations)



Community and organisation issues

Theme	What we heard
Agriculture & land	Farming operations Biosecurity Water
Environment	Biodiversity Offsets Clearing
People & communities	Housing Wellbeing Cumulative impacts
Project delivery	Traffic Workforce Project need



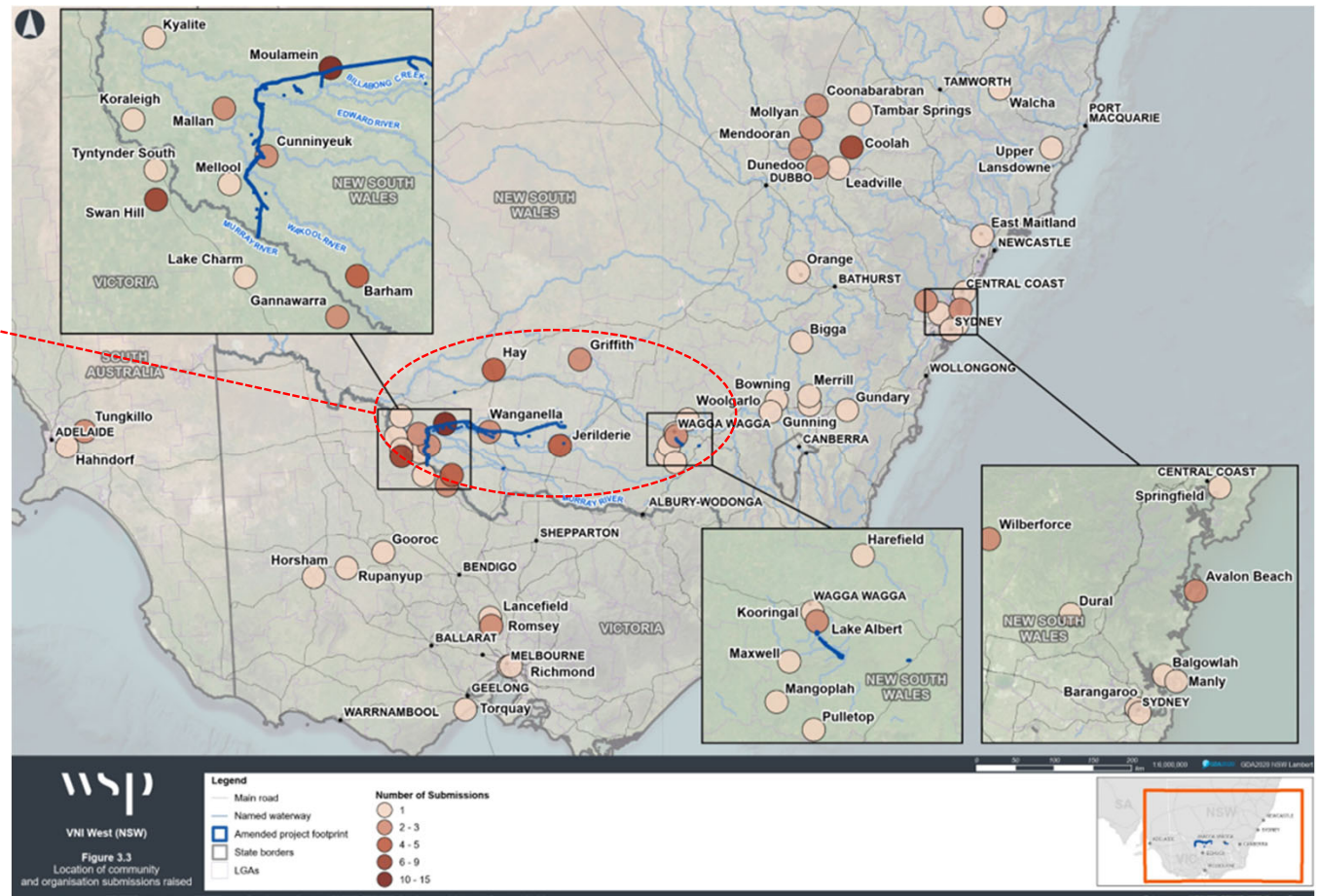
Summary of community and organisation submission locations

Community and organisation submissions were received from around Australia:

- NSW – 89

51 submissions of the 89 from NSW were received from the Murray-Riverina region.

- VIC – 22
- QLD – 5
- SA – 3.



Council feedback

Key feedback from Council has informed additional commitments and ongoing engagement during delivery

Theme	How we're responding
Roads & transport	Upgrade program and road management
Workforce & housing	Accommodation camps and workforce planning
Water	Ongoing consultation during detailed design
Environment	Offset strategy and management plans

Community / organisation feedback

Feedback from communities / organisations will require ongoing commitment from Transgrid

Key community concerns

Agriculture

Biodiversity

Social impacts

Bushfire risk

Aboriginal heritage

Employment

Response / next step

Landholders: Property Management Plans

Environment: Biodiversity offset strategy

Social: Community Wellbeing Strategy

Social / Environment: Bushfire management planning

Indigenous: Ongoing RAP engagement

Economy: Workforce Development Plan

Economy: Local Industry Participation Plan

Ongoing Council and community engagement

Deep dive



Biodiversity and environmental management

Key issues

- Biodiversity impacts and proposed offsets
- Concern about dust and air quality
- Agricultural impacts through land loss, biosecurity, risks etc.
- Claims of inadequate biodiversity surveying
- Vegetation clearing, and any impact on habitat and to threatened species
- Impact of noise on species

Response

- Optimised project alignment
- Landholder's biosecurity controls to be documented in PMPs.
- Biodiversity Offset Strategy
- Construction monitoring eg dust deposition gauges
- Biodiversity surveys Sept 2023 – Dec 2025; or, assumed presence.

Next step

- Implement measures to best avoid impact
- Noise impacts: localised, short-term, progressive movement.



Cattle grazing on Cobb Highway in between Wanganella and Deniliquin

Cumulative impacts

Key issues

Housing, short-term accommodation and other services in nearby towns.

Roads

Bushfire fighting capacity

Changes to community wellbeing and impact on social cohesion

Impacts to telecommunications

Response

- Self-contained camps (Stage 2) incl paramedic/first aid, catering, fitness/rec
- Workforce accommodation plan (Stage 1) – consult WWCC / industry
- Coordination with road authorities and renewable projects
- Social management sub-plan

Next step

- Implement a Community Wellbeing Strategy (support mental health and community resilience) and a Community Investment and Benefits Plan (to support community projects/initiatives).
- Regarding telecommunications, Transgrid is engaging with stakeholders including Telstra, EnergyCo and renewable energy developers.



Example: Dinawan construction compound and accommodation camp, EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern section) project

Traffic and Transport

Key issues

- Road capacity, safety and suitability for heavy vehicles
- Impacts to unsealed rural roads and seasonal traffic
- Traffic controls and wet weather protocols
- Impacts on road condition

Response

- Program of intersection upgrades / road treatments
- Road condition surveys / inspection & maintenance programs (construction contractor)
- Establish road closure / alternative route protocols

Next step

- Pre-construction commitments on a per-Council basis.
- Engagement on management plans in delivery phase

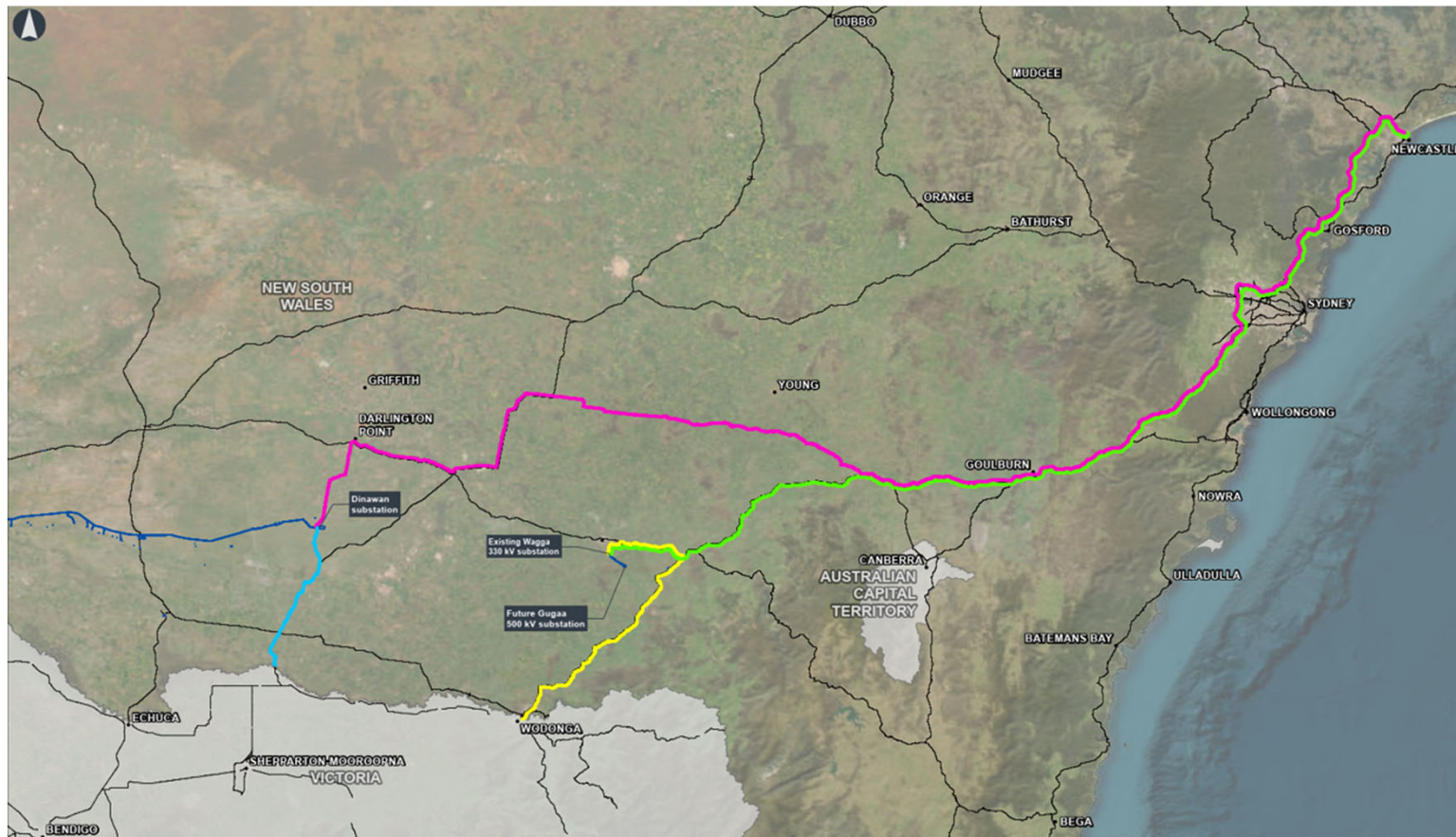


Intersection of Cobb Highway and Wanganella-Moulamein Road

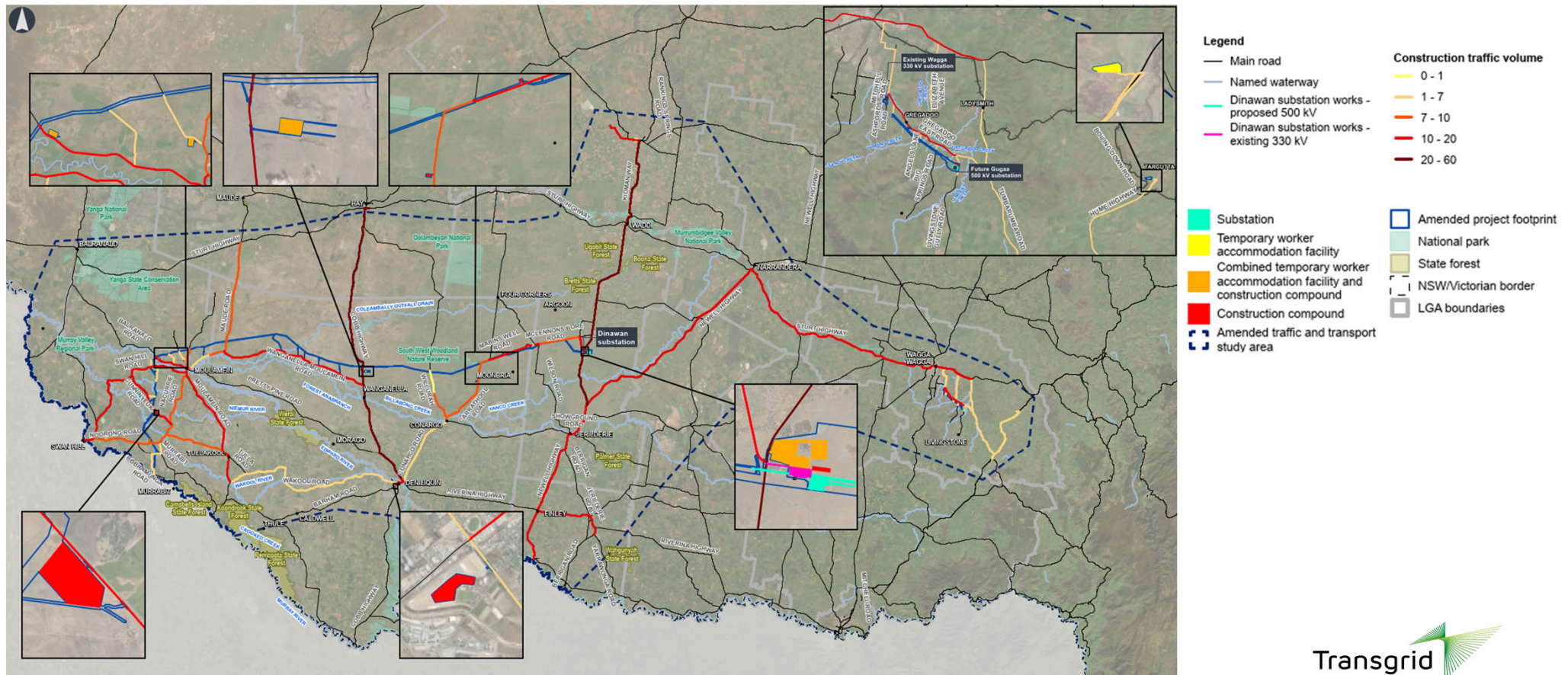
Traffic and transport update



Proposed oversized and overmass vehicle routes



Construction traffic volume routes



Predicted Vehicle Movements – Murrumbidgee LGA

Road name	Typical daily movements (average)		Peak daily movements (one off)		Total movements over duration of project	
	Light vehicles (including minibuses)	Heavy vehicles	Light vehicles	Heavy vehicles	Light vehicles	Heavy vehicles
Mabins Well Road	16	10	16	25	2,596	1,558
Wilson Road	16	10	16	25	2,596	1,558
McLennons Bore Road	10	8	20	50	4,092	3,328
Cadell Road	11	14	32	69	4,532	5,706
Kidman Way*	11	13	32	69	4,532	5706

* Excludes heavy movements to and from local quarries associated with Dinawan substation expansion (i.e. 120 quarry movements per day for 8 months period)

Predicted Vehicle Movements – Edward River LGA

Road name	Typical daily movements (average)		Peak daily movements (one off)		Total movements over duration of project	
	Light vehicles (including minibuses)	Heavy vehicles	Light vehicles	Heavy vehicles	Light vehicles	Heavy vehicles
Mabins Well Road	5	14	40	100	2,112	6,600
Carrathool Road	1	9	20	50	396	4,606
Willurah Road	0	1	26	10	0	26
Cobb Hwy*	12	18	64	138	8,228	13,122
Wanganella Moulamein Road	5	5	52	119	2,332	2,760
Maude Road	5	6	20	50	1,276	1,630
Conargo Road	0	6	0	50	0	2,816
Ochertyre Street*	0	26	0	26	0	4,598
Wakool Road	0	26	0	26	0	4,598

Predicted Vehicle Movements – Murray River LGA

Road name	Typical daily movements (average)		Peak daily movements (one off)		Total movements over duration of project	
	Light vehicles (incl minibuses)	Heavy vehicles	Light vehicles	Heavy vehicles	Light vehicles	Heavy vehicles
Maude Road	4	4	12	32	2,376	2,814
Tchelery Road	10	11	20	50	9,196	10,202
Paterson St	6	8	20	50	5,148	7,272
Robbs Road	10	13	4	25	9,196	12,052
Berambong Road	0	1	4	25	0	26
Balranald Road	10	13	56	105	9,196	12,078
Moulamein Road	6	6	32	69	5,148	5,254

Predicted Vehicle Movements – Murray River LGA

Road name	Typical daily movements (average)		Peak daily movements (one off)		Total movements over duration of project	
	Light vehicles (incl minibuses)	Heavy vehicles	Light vehicles	Heavy vehicles	Light vehicles	Heavy vehicles
Swan Hill Road	9	16	32	69	2,816	5,132
Kaylock Road	3	4	4	25	352	474
Pike Pike Road	3	4	24	36	924	1,202
Cunninyeuk Road	4	15	32	69	1,452	6,372
Wood Lane	3	5	4	25	352	500
Nacurrie Road N	8	17	20	50	2,332	5,564
Noorong Road	8	17	20	50	2,332	5,590

Predicted Vehicle Movements – Murray River LGA

Road name	Typical daily movements (average)		Peak daily movements (one off)		Total movements over duration of project	
	Light vehicles (incl minibuses)	Heavy vehicles	Light vehicles	Heavy vehicles	Light vehicles	Heavy vehicles
Fisher Lane	3	4	20	50	880	1,118
Nacurrie Road S	6	7	12	32	1,364	1,620
Murrabit Road	4	5	12	32	968	1,174
Cobramunga Road	4	5	4	25	660	902
Wakool Road	0	26	0	26	0	4,598

Environmental approvals



Next steps

Environmental assessment

- The Submissions Report and Amendment Report has been lodged with the DPHI published on the Planning Portal.
- DPHI will now review the reports as part of the project assessment and will make a recommendation to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to either approve the project along with any conditions, or provide a reason for refusal.
- The Minister's determination, including any conditions of approval, will be published on the DPHI Major Projects Planning Portal.
- **We are expecting a determination in late 2026.**

Preferred tenderer

- Transgrid will be working with shortlisted tenderers regarding infrastructure delivery for South West RNIP (VNI West Stage 1).
- **Transgrid is expecting to award a contract for delivery in early 2027.**

Wrap up and close



Next meeting

Meeting frequency

- Meeting #14: Target – November 2026
 - Transgrid to provide updates on progress regarding approvals, Request for Tender process, Community Investment & Benefit, proposed construction, and a look ahead to 2027.

Staying in touch



Meeting close

Thank you for your time

1800 955 588

vniw@transgrid.com.au

www.transgrid.com.au/vniw