

Community News



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Welcome to HumeLink East Community News

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2026!

On HumeLink East we have started the year off with a flurry of activity, with the first tower fully assembled and erected at Adjungbilly in January. Since then, our team has continued to make steady progress in the area and has started tower assembly near Gurrundah and Bannister. You can read more about our construction progress in the newsletter.

Our team is now preparing for the project's next major milestone: the start of stringing in April this year. We will continue with our upgrades at Bannaby substation and the building of access tracks, whilst also progressing tower assembly and erection along the alignment.

You will also see our team out and about in the community at upcoming local shows, hosting community information sessions and meeting with landowners.

Thank you for your ongoing engagement. We look forward to keeping you updated as we reach major construction milestones in the months ahead.



Carel Nagel

HumeLink East Project Director

First towers go up

Construction on HumeLink East continues to ramp up with more than 25 towers now erected across Adjungbilly, Gurrundah and Bannister.

Tower assembly and tower erection marks the most visible sign of progress on the project to date, with tower assembly and erection to continue along the alignment throughout 2026.

HumeLink East's first tower was successfully erected near the Adjungbilly worker accommodation facility in January and was a major milestone for the project.

Construction of tower pads is also continuing with more than 55 foundations completed across areas near Dalton, Gurrundah, Windowie and Adjungbilly, ready for tower assembly and erection to continue throughout the year.

Bannaby substation works continue to take shape with more than 191 piles now drilled and poured, with mechanical and electrical works now underway.

As construction activity increases, there will be more HumeLink East vehicles and steel deliveries travelling along local roads and near construction sites. We want to thank the community for their patience with this increased traffic. We will keep the community informed of major deliveries in your area.



Rigging crew working on a tower near Adjungbilly (January 2026)



First completed tower at Adjungbilly (January 2026)



Foundation team with a piling rig at Adjungbilly (January 2026)

Managing road conditions and road safety

Transgrid and its HumeLink Delivery Partners have been working closely with local councils to proactively address any impacts on local roads, as required under the project's planning and environmental approvals.

Discussions are continuing with other councils along the HumeLink alignment about the prospect of entering into similar maintenance agreements.

Independent road condition surveys were completed before construction began and shared with councils, and the same process will occur at the end of construction to identify any rectification works not already completed.

All project vehicles in the Transgrid and HumeLink fleets are fitted with monitoring systems that provide live tracking and ensure compliance with approved routes.

"These measures are in place to reduce road and traffic impacts for local communities throughout construction," Transgrid HumeLink Program Director Jeremy Roberts said.

"We acknowledge that construction work can be disruptive and we thank the local community for their cooperation, patience and understanding as we deliver this nation-critical project which will provide access to cleaner and cheaper renewable energy for households and businesses."

For further information, please see the HumeLink Traffic and Transport Factsheet on the project website.

Water use management

HumeLink East is mindful of our water usage on the project during the current drought conditions.

Water sources and locations have been determined in consultation with councils.

Where possible, HumeLink East uses wastewater or recycled water for construction activities including dust suppression.

In the event of an emergency, the water needs of the community will be prioritised over the needs of the HumeLink project.

This ensures that essential services and critical needs are met promptly and efficiently, helping to safeguard the wellbeing of the community.



Trader & Co founder Danuel Neuhaus

Showcasing local businesses

HumeLink East is bringing a range of benefits for local businesses, in addition to contracts with direct suppliers and subcontractors.

Since December 2023, HumeLink East has invested more than \$37.9 million through signed contracts and local accommodation with 121 local and First Nations businesses across the Southern Tablelands, Riverina and Snowy Mountains.

One of the businesses that has benefited from local spending is Trader and Co café in Yass.

Danuel Neuhaus and four friends founded Trader and Co in 2016 in an old hardware store. It is now a popular community space and has hosted multiple HumeLink East functions.

“These bigger projects like HumeLink have really been quite beneficial for us. It has given a boost in finances and people coming into the region and our business as well.

“In the short-term having those extra personnel on the ground here spending money locally is really important, but also, long term, just having that infrastructure in place is going to be beneficial to the community as well.”

As construction ramps up, we are continuing to seek opportunities to support local suppliers and businesses across the project alignment.

Upcoming on HumeLink East

- Ongoing tower assembly and erection in Adjungbilly, Gurrundah and Bannister
- Attending Yass Show (21 March)
- Helicopter stringing for first towers due to start in April
- Bannaby substation upgrade continues with piling works for gantry foundations
- Continuation of access track and tower pad construction across alignment.

Yass Valley and Snowy Valleys Councils visit HumeLink East

In February we welcomed the Snowy Valleys Mayor and Councillors for a behind the scenes look at our worker accommodation facility at Adjungbilly. They also visited a recently completed tower in the area.

We were also pleased to welcome a delegation from the Yass Valley Council to our Yass worker accommodation facility in late December.

We gave the Yass Valley Mayor, Councillors and executive team a tour of the facility and provided an update on the work that was happening in the Yass community.

These tours gave two of the local Mayors and Councillors a behind the scenes look at the work occurring on the project.



Snowy Valleys Council visit to tower site

Community investment benefits program update

Seventeen community organisations along the HumeLink East corridor were awarded a total of \$1.8 million for projects that will bring lasting social, economic and environmental benefits.

Yass Swimming Club was one of the successful recipients, with funding to install new shade structures.

Yass Swimming Club’s Deborah Donaldson said the new shade structures will improve sun safety for the 30,000 people who visit Yass Memorial Swimming Pool every year.

“The pool currently has only 10 percent shade coverage following the recent removal of diseased trees, which is well below the national standard of 30 percent,” she said.

“By integrating solar panels into the structures, we will also be able to generate clean electricity to power the pool filters and pumps, saving around \$10,000 a year.”

Pre-employment programs open doors for students in Yass and Tumut

HumeLink East has partnered with TAFE NSW to deliver a range of pre-employment programs to help high school students gain skills for new careers.

Students from Yass High School and Tumut High School participated in the programs which focused on developing skills in the automotive industry and essential business skills.

As part of their training, they visited our vehicle workshops for some hands-on lessons.

Five young First Nations men successfully participated in the HumeLink East Clontarf Foundation Introduction to Light Automotive Program delivered through TAFE.

Six young First Nations women also completed the HumeLink East Stars Foundation Introduction to Business Program at Tumut TAFE.

Four students from the pre-employment programs have joined HumeLink East in 2026 in one-day-a-week traineeships. We look forward to seeing them learn new skills and grow in confidence throughout their traineeships.



Yass High School students visiting the HLE project



New HLE trainees Ruby McNally and Chelsea Collins

Turning waste rock into critical habitat

While excavating pads for towers between Bannaby and Yass, construction crews have repurposed waste rock to create new habitat for native fauna, especially vulnerable lizards.

Often mistaken for a snake, the Striped Legless Lizard (*Delmar impar*) can live for up to 20 years but having good habitat to escape predators is critical.

Instead of carting away rocks removed during excavation of new tower pads, they've been piled up to create critical habitat known as 'reptile stacks' which provide sunny, open spots for basking and shaded areas and crevices for the lizards and other species to shelter.

By creating these stacks with waste material, we are protecting the lizards from predators, fire, and construction machinery.

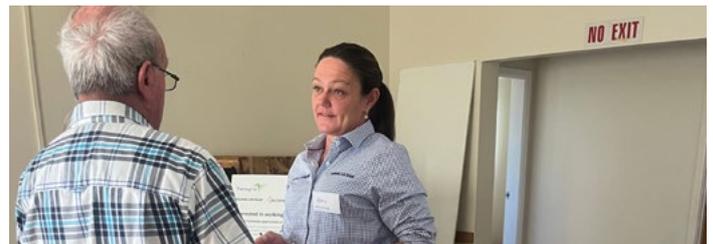


An example reptile stack between Bannaby and Yass

In the community

The HumeLink East Construction Reference Group will be meeting for the second time in late March. These meetings are an opportunity for community representatives to share feedback on construction progress, road use and communication. These discussions help shape how we deliver the project in partnership with the community. Thank you to our reference group who attended the first meeting in December 2025.

Thanks to everyone who attended our community information sessions in Adjungbilly, Tumut, Taralga and Yass in December 2025. It was great to meet with the community to discuss our tower assembly and erection progress and steel deliveries in the region.



Taralga Community Information session (Dec 2025)