Meeting Minutes

HumeLink Construction Reference Group – Snowy Valleys and Cootamundra-Gundagai

Meeting title:	HumeLink Snowy Valleys / Cootamundra-Gundagai Construction Reference Group (CRG)	**Date:**	Thursday 24 September 2026
Location:	Online – Microsoft Teams	**Time:**	4:00pm – approx. 4:41pm
Chairperson:	Alec Brown (Transgrid)		
Attendees:			**Apologies:**
Transgrid Alec Brown (Chair) Isobel Manchee	**HumeLink West (UGL CPB JV)** Vincent Newton – Construction Manager Chantelle Garrett **HumeLink East (AGJV)** Jacques Coetzee Nea Pilgrim	**CRG members / stakeholders** Anne Shanahan Melissa Melli Michael Hannah	

Agenda items

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
1. Acknowledgement of Country	Alec Brown delivered the Acknowledgement of Country, acknowledging the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which the meeting was held and the lands of all attendees joining via Teams, and paying respects to Elders past and present.	Noted.
2. Welcome and housekeeping	Alec Brown welcomed members and outlined the agenda.	Noted.
3. Previous minutes and action items	Previous minutes tabled; no amendments raised. Action items reviewed: • **Links to HumeLink East and HLE SIMP to be added to meeting minutes:** Closed. • **Update on repeater locations at upcoming CRG meetings:** Included in this presentation (see item 7, Telecommunications Program). • **Stringing section to be placed on the next agenda:** Video update of stringing included in the HumeLink West presentation.	All previous actions closed.

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
4. HumeLink West – project update and three-month look ahead	Vincent Newton (Construction Manager) and Chantelle Garrett presented. **Completed** • 125+ towers erected. Overall: 81% clearing, 90% access tracks and tower pads, 55% tower foundations, 33% towers. • 500kV HumeLink upgrades to the 330kV Wagga Wagga substation complete and energised; site demobilisation underway. • Three mono-poles installed at Gregadoo and TL51 cut over to Line 6 (works 5–9 September). Line 6 energised. • First energisation of HV equipment at Gugaa substation. Last transformers and reactors installed – all oversize/overmass deliveries now complete. • Cullinga Park Lane, Tarcutta batch plant decommissioned. **Current works** • Raking and mulching as part of final corridor clean-up. Remaining 10% of access tracks and tower pads is mostly at the southern end. • Nest boxes and glider poles being installed across the alignment. • Gugaa and Maragle substations: bulk civil works and foundations complete (approx. 95% of concrete works), gantries erected. Works now moving into the electrical phase – HV equipment installation, cable pulling and termination. • Workforce and activity shifting south, with increased activity around the Snubba and Lower Bago laydown areas. Tower erection underway around Ellerslie and Green Hills. **Next three months** • Stringing on L2 underway, starting at the Gugaa end and heading south. Helicopter stringing from October/November. • Removal of redundant TL51 towers at Gregadoo to allow completion of L4 towers.	Noted.

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	• Foundation works continuing on L1 (T-Point to Maragle), L3 and the eastern end of L2 (piling wrapping up). Focus moving to L1. • Tower assembly finishing on L4, well underway on L2; tower erection started on L1. • Hurdles and road crossings, including the Hume Highway. • A video showcasing the latest construction activities was presented. **Local capacity (Chantelle Garrett)** • 175 total contracts (up from 156 last quarter); 50 local contracts (unchanged – expected to remain flat as most suppliers are now onboarded). • Indigenous business spend $17m (up from $9.95m). Local and regional spend $108m (up from $24m). • Spend by area: Wagga Wagga $36m (from $10m); Snowy Valleys $17m (from $4.8m); Goulburn $10m (from $7.5m); Hilltops $12m (from $3.4m); Cootamundra-Gundagai $5.3m (from $1.1m); Yass Valley $453k (from $197k); ACT $18m (from $8.5m); Greater Hume $9m (from $4.8m); Albury $4.5m (from $2.8m). **Kunama worker accommodation facility expansion** • Additional 240 beds proposed to be operational by December 2026, for a total of 659 beds. Driven by workforce projections indicating a peak workforce demand between December and March (peak requirement 630 in February 2027). • Expansion includes additional rooms, laundry, outdoor area, gym and car parking, all within the existing EIS project footprint. Chantelle advised the Department is expected to approve the expansion following stakeholder consultation.	
5. HumeLink East – project update and three-month look ahead	Jacques Coetzee (Construction Manager) presented. • **Project wide:** 365 of 459 tower pads; 234 km of 304 km access tracks; 312 of 459 foundations; 144 of 459 towers erected. Tower assembly and steel deliveries ongoing. Two shunt reactors	Noted.

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	delivered to Bannaby substation. Stringing ongoing in South and Central. • **South (Murrumbidgee River to Adjungbilly, covering Cootamundra-Gundagai and Snowy Valleys):** 117 of 145 tower pads; 78 km of 97 km access tracks; 94 of 145 foundations; 68 of 145 towers erected. • **Next three months:** Hurdle installation to protect existing infrastructure during stringing; steel deliveries across the whole alignment; ongoing tower assembly and erection. Helicopter stringing began in May near Adjungbilly and Tumut and will continue through 2027. Stringing activities will continue in October, before returning to the southern end.	
6. Community investment projects update	**HumeLink East (Nea Pilgrim)** • 18 projects funded along the HumeLink East alignment; a number are now completing with positive community feedback. • Gundagai Historical Museum – equitable access to toilet amenities; not started. • RFS South West Slopes – electronic fire danger rating signs and fire intelligence cameras; in progress. • RFS Southern Tablelands Logistics Brigade – capability enhancement. • Tumut Showground Trust – electrical upgrade completed; earthworks to start end of September, completion early October. • Country Universities Centre Snowy Valleys – opened April 2026; now supporting 85 local students aged 18 to 64, 27 of whom are the first in their family to undertake tertiary study. • Riverina Highlands and Murrumbidgee Landcare – team supported tree planting days with preschool and high school students, and National Tree Day. More than 750 native trees donated across events. • Bright Horizons Childcare, Tumut – edible plants and materials donated; southern environment team helped children plant a new garden.	Transgrid to provide update on Snowy Valleys telecommunications booster site locations when confirmed.

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	• Upcoming: sponsoring Battle on the Bidgee; joint sponsorship (with HumeLink West) of the Snowy Valleys Cycle Challenge this weekend. **HumeLink West (Chantelle Garrett)** HumeLink West is delivering four larger-scale projects: • Tarcutta Recreational Grounds – most complex project given DA requirements. Design follows Batlow design, expected to start this week. Grid connection design submission to Essential Energy nearly ready. • Batlow Multi-Purpose Leisure Hub – design complete; DA submission imminent. • Adelong Golden Gully Caravan Park – DA being resubmitted with fire and flood studies by end of September, as requested by council. • Carcoola Children's Centre, Tumbarumba – pending council approval; works to start next week, completion by end of 2026. • Smaller initiatives include event sponsorships, CWA defibrillator donation, Ladysmith and Humula Memorial Hall fundraisers, and nearly $6,000 donated to Tarcutta Public School through worker hoodie sales and Return and Earn. Discussions underway on an internet upgrade at Batlow Caravan Park. • Tarcutta and Kunama camp gyms opened to the community following a community suggestion; 30+ people inducted. • Batlow Central School and Tumbarumba High School attended a half-day surveying and careers session at Kunama. **Transgrid programs (Alec Brown)** • Landscape Rehydration Program (with Mulloon Institute): field days introduce the program; bootcamps deliver practical, hands-on training for landowners. Tooles Creek is the closest site to Snowy Valleys and has had strong input. • Telecommunications Program: solar-powered boosters on existing Transgrid	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	or new HumeLink towers pick up signal from up to 20 km away and extend coverage by approx. 2.5km–3 km. Sites installed at Myrtleville and Chatsbury (Upper Lachlan) and Wyangle. Four to five further Snowy Valleys sites under investigation, including south-west of Tumut and Laurel Hill. • Mental Health and Resilience Program (with Grand Pacific Health): recent Mental Health First Aid course in Tumut (20–21 Aug) and Parenting Connection Session at Puggles Early Childhood Service, Ladysmith (2 Sep). Upcoming: Women's Wellness Workshop, Yass (8 Oct); Mental Health First Aid, Yass (23–24 Oct); Snowy Valleys Community Expo, Batlow Showground (8 Nov). • Community Partnerships Program Round 2, 2026 now open: grants up to $5,000, approx. $100,000 awarded per round. Closes Sunday 25 October (midnight). Online drop-in sessions Wednesday 14, Thursday 15 and Friday 16 October, 3–6pm; register via the Transgrid website or QR code. No questions raised.	
7. General business	• **Gregadoo mono-poles (Alec Brown):** Asked why mono-poles were used. Vincent explained only a four-day outage was available on the circuit, which was not long enough to build a traditional tower. Monopoles could be erected quickly and allowed one phase to be cut over at a time, giving the network operator flexibility to re-energise Line 51 if recalled, and allowing a shorter outage overall. • **Melissa Melli:** No recent complaints in town. Thanked contractors for changes made, which have been noticed locally, and noted the project's progress since the first meeting. • **Michael Hannah:** Thanked HumeLink East and West for supporting the Chamber's industry breakfasts, which have been well received by the business community. • **Anne Shanahan:** Nothing further to add.	Noted.

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
8. Next meeting	Next meeting to be held next quarter, expected early December 2026. Transgrid to confirm details.	Alec Brown to confirm next meeting date.

Action items

Agenda item	Description	Person responsible	Date
6. Community investment	Provide update on locations of Snowy Valleys telecommunications booster sites (incl. south-west of Tumut and Laurel Hill) once confirmed.	Alec Brown	Next meeting
8. Next meeting	Confirm date and send invitation for next CRG meeting.	Isobel Manchee	Early December 2026

Next meeting

Date:	Early December 2026 (TBC)	**Time:**	TBC
Location:	TBC	**Chairperson:**	Alec Brown