

TAC Meeting Notes

Meeting title: Quarterly TAC Meeting #4	Date: 2 September 2025
	Time: 9.30am-10.30am
Location: Microsoft Teams and Transgrid Office, 180 Thomas Street Ultimo	
Chairperson: Maryanne Graham, EGM Stakeholder, Regulatory and Corporate Affairs	

Attendees:

TAC Members

Wendy Black	Business Council of Australia
Kim Woodbury	City of Sydney
Scott Young	Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Michael Dello-Iacovo	Energy Consumers Australia
Leigh Clemow	Energy Users Association Australia (EUAA)
Mary Karras	Ethnic Communities Council – <i>in person</i>
Louise Benjamin	Independent – <i>in person</i>
Michael Lynch	Justice and Equity Centre
Brian Williams	Snowy Hydro
Gavin Dufty	St Vincent de Paul - <i>in person</i>

Transgrid Representatives

Brett Redman	Chief Executive Officer
Nadine Lennie	Chief Financial Officer
Jennifer Hughes	Executive General Manager Delivery
Gordon Taylor	Executive General Manager Major Projects
Jason Krstanoski	Executive General Manager Network
Michael Drew	Executive General Manager of Corporate
Maryanne Graham	Executive General Manager Stakeholder and Corporate Affairs
Stephen McSweeney	Executive General Manager, People & Culture
Eric Lalauze	General Manager Corporate Finance and Strategy
Grant Nowland	General Manager Development
Hugh Laurie	General Manager Finance - Network
David Mulally	General Manager of Corporate Affairs
Kasia Kulbacka	General Manager of Network Planning
Monika Moutos	General Manager of Regulation, Policy and Governance
Nicole Ryan	General Manager of Strategic Advocacy, Government and Legacy
Jeremy Chee	Head of Strategy
Olga Iaroshevskia	Senior Manager Regulation
Jane Deane	Senior Manager Stakeholder and Corporate Engagement

Amelia Baker	Stakeholder Relations Advisor
Transgrid Board of Directors	
Cristina Cifuentes	
Phillippe Wind	
Anthea Mckinnell	
Stasha Prnjatovic	
Other attendees	
Matt Pearce	KPMG
Ash Moore	SEC Newgate
Isabel Thompson	SEC Newgate
Sophie Travers	SEC Newgate
Apologies	
Grant King	Transgrid Non-Executive Director and Chair
Christopher Curtain	Transgrid Board Director
Rod Stowe	TAC member - Landowner Advocate
Adrian Dwyer	TAC member - Infrastructure Partnerships Australia
Panos Priftakis	TAC member - Snowy Hydro

Meeting Notes

The meeting commenced with an Acknowledgement of Country, recognising the Traditional Custodians of the land and paying respects to Elders past and present, as well as any First Nations attendees joining in person or online.

The Executive General Manager Stakeholder, Regulatory and Corporate Affairs opened the meeting and welcomed participants, noting the hybrid format of the meeting. Attendees were advised that the session would be recorded for the purpose of preparing notes. The Executive General Manager Stakeholder, Regulatory and Corporate Affairs acknowledged the presence of several Transgrid Board Directors and extended a warm welcome to those attending their first TAC meeting. Apologies were noted from a number of TAC members and Board representatives who were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

CEO Update

Transgrid's Chief Executive Officer provided a strategic overview of recent developments across the energy sector, referencing key reports including Transgrid's Transmission Annual Planning Report (TAPR), the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) Electricity Statement of Opportunities (ESOO), the Nelson Review, the NSW Planning Inquiry, and the Productivity Commission's draft interim report. These documents collectively signal a period of accelerated change and deep transition for the energy system.

The CEO outlined a three-phase model of energy transition: the ramp-up phase (to 40% renewables), the deep transition phase (targeting 90% renewables by 2035), and the post-2035 new transition era. Planning for the end state, including customer bill modelling, was highlighted as a priority.

The ESOO's assumption of Eraring Power Station's closure in 2027 prompted discussion on system security, with emphasis on synchronous condensers (syncons) and non-network solutions. Transgrid's recent publication of the system security Project Assessment Conclusions Report (PACR) is being actively referenced by government stakeholders.

The Productivity Commission's recommendations were also discussed, particularly the need to streamline planning processes without compromising consultation quality.

Project Updates

The CEO provided an overview of several major projects:

- **Victoria to NSW Interconnector West (VNI West):** The project is progressing through regulatory planning and stakeholder consultation processes, with work underway to explore the optimal configuration for delivering system benefits. The substations component is advancing as a priority, while broader planning continues in collaboration with government and regulatory bodies.
- **HumeLink:** Early-stage earthworks are underway. Full construction is expected to begin soon, with the project remaining on track for the scheduled completion date.
- **Waratah Super Battery:** The battery and associated System Integrity Protection Scheme (SIPS) are operational, currently supporting 708 MW. This is a key system security asset, particularly in the context of Eraring's closure.
- **EnergyConnect:** The project is now meeting or exceeding its revised schedule under a new contract with stronger performance incentives.
- **Hunter Transmission Project:** The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been released for public exhibition. While some elements will be addressed in an amendment report, the CEO noted the importance of progressing the project quickly.
- **Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWO REZ) Works and Mount Piper to Wallerawang Line:** A short section of line has been released for public exhibition.

Questions and Answer Session

A TAC member expressed appreciation for the strategic overview and noted the ambition of reaching 90% renewables by 2035. A Board Director raised the tension between reliability, safety, and pricing, particularly in the context of government-directed system security investments.

The CEO responded by referencing the levelised cost of energy analysis in the ESOO, noting that while transmission costs are increasing, the more significant driver of bill impacts is the rising cost of renewable generation itself. The CEO reiterated that transmission remains a relatively small portion of the overall bill (approximately 9%) and that the focus should remain on managing wholesale energy costs.

A TAC member highlighted the importance of cost allocation and the need for a narrative that connects large-scale transmission with consumer-level investments like rooftop solar and batteries.

The CEO agreed, noting the need to deepen the narrative around non-network solutions and the role of transmission in enabling distributed energy resources.

A TAC member asked about the growing impact of data centres on the transmission network and consumer bills.

The CEO acknowledged the opportunity and risk posed by data centres, noting that NSW has received over 10 GW of enquiries. The CEO emphasised the importance of ensuring data centres pay their fair share of fixed costs and do not drive up bills for other consumers.

A TAC member raised a question in relation to visual amenity of transmission lines and how Transgrid engages with affected landowners. They noted that visual impact remains a significant concern in community consultation and asked how Transgrid mitigates these impacts, particularly in areas involving a small number of landowners.

The CEO explained that Transgrid begins with a broad corridor and progressively narrows the route through a process that considers environmental, technical, and community factors. Where feasible, micro-siting is used to reduce visual impact, such as placing towers behind hills or existing vegetation. The Executive General Manager Stakeholder, Regulatory and Corporate Affairs added that screening and landscaping are also considered, and that landowners are engaged directly to explore options. While it is not always possible to avoid all impacts, Transgrid offers Strategic Benefit Payments in addition to standard compensation. The CEO acknowledged the complexity of balancing landowner and community interests and emphasised the importance of early, honest engagement and a commitment to transparency and respectful consultation.

A TAC member asked about lessons from NSW that could be applied in Victoria, particularly in light of recent protests.

The CEO stressed the importance of authenticity and early engagement. The Executive General Manager Stakeholder and Corporate Affairs added that Transgrid has implemented all recommendations from the Stowe Report and now uses a place manager model to ensure consistent, trusted relationships with landowners.

A TAC member reflected on the importance of distinguishing between community engagement, which Transgrid has delivered well, and consumer engagement, particularly in relation to roadmap projects. They noted that as more projects fall under state-led processes, there is a risk that consumer perspectives on cost and value may be lost. The TAC member acknowledged the value of recent board-level discussions on bill impacts and encouraged Transgrid to ensure that consumer engagement remains visible and meaningful, even as the pace of delivery increases.

Reflections on Engagement and Influence

The CEO closed by reflecting on TAC engagement over the past year, noting that 18 meetings and over 50 hours of engagement had taken place. The CEO noted that Transgrid remains committed to building trust and ensuring the TAC's role remains meaningful. Looking ahead, the CEO noted that the Revenue Proposal 2028–33 (RP4) will become a central focus of TAC engagement.

A TAC member noted that while EnergyCo is currently constrained by NSW Treasury requirements, there is willingness to improve transparency and implement roadmap review recommendations.

The CEO and Executive General Manager Stakeholder, Regulatory and Corporate Affairs agreed that this is an area for continued advocacy and improvement.

Action items

Action	Due Date/Status
Consider engaging with the TAC on neighbour payment frameworks, with a future discussion on acquisition and compensation mechanisms.	Under consideration

Next Meeting

This meeting concluded the 2025 quarterly TAC meeting program.

Contact details

If you require any information on this summary or in relation to TAC meetings, please email stakeholderengagement@transgrid.com.au