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Monday, 14 July 2025

Kiersten Fishburn

Planning Secretary

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street,

Parramatta NSW 2150

Locked Bag 5022,

Parramatta NSW 2124

CC: Rebecca Eddington

Dear Ms Fishburn,

**Re: HumeLink – Accommodation Camps – SSI-36656827 Condition B58 Request for Agreement from Planning Secretary – Updated Information**

On 16 June 2025 Transgrid submitted a request for the Planning Secretary's agreement to commence construction on Stage 3b HumeLink West of the project (SSI-36656827) prior to the operation of accommodation camps as otherwise required by Condition B58 (PA-91).

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department, DPHI) issued a letter on 26 June 2025 requesting additional information. Transgrid provided a response to the requested information on 8 July 2025.

Following submission of this response, Transgrid became aware of a change to proposed timeframes for construction commencement and to the commencement of operation of the Green Hills accommodation facility:

The request submitted on 16 June 2025 was based on a construction commencement date in July 2025, with operation of both Tarcutta and Green Hills accommodation facilities expected to commence at the end of September 2025.

Construction is now anticipated to commence in August 2025 and, while Tarcutta accommodation facility is still expected to commence operation at the end of September 2025, Green Hills accommodation facility is now expected to commence operation at the end of October, as construction of the accommodation facility has been impacted by unexpected inclement weather events include substantial rain and snow.

Transgrid notes that there have not been any local accommodation related complaints to date and that, in addition to the consultation support noted in the request submitted on 16 June 2025, ongoing consultation with Snowy Valleys Council (in meetings attended by Transgrid's stakeholder management team) has confirmed that they are supportive of the use of local accommodation as

interim worker accommodation and do not want a limit placed on the use of caravan parks in Batlow and Tumbarumba.

### **Interim Accommodation Strategy (Update)**

The consistency assessment attached to the request submitted on 16 June 2025 included an interim accommodation strategy that was summarised in Table 2-1 (Breakdown of worker accommodation as part of the Proposed Change) (see below). An updated summary (Table 2-1a) is also provided for comparison.

### **Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Change (Update)**

A summary of the environmental assessment undertaken to compare the environmental impacts of the Proposed Change relative to the environmental impacts of the Humelink project was provided in the request submitted on 16 June 2025.

All aspects were assessed as being consistent with the approved project.

Transgrid has reviewed this assessment and confirmed that no change to environmental impacts associated with Green Hills accommodation facility would occur as a result of the change to proposed timeframes as the length of time that temporary accommodation would be in use for construction activities would remain unchanged (from July-September 2025 to August-October 2025). Environmental impacts associated with Tarcutta accommodation facility would be reduced due to the decrease in the length of time that temporary accommodation would be in use for construction activities (from July-September 2025 to August-September 2025).

### **Request**

Transgrid seeks the Planning Secretary's agreement under condition B58 to:

- Operate Tarcutta accommodation facility after the commencement of construction, at the end of September when construction of Tarcutta accommodation facility is expected to be completed
- Operate Green Hills accommodation facility after the commencement of construction, at the end of October when construction of Green Hills accommodation facility is expected to be completed.

Transgrid is seeking to establish the accommodation facilities as early as possible. Should construction of either accommodation facility be completed earlier than expected, Transgrid will notify DPHI ahead of the commence operation of the accommodation facility.

Table 2-1: Breakdown of worker accommodation as part of the Proposed Change (HLW interim worker accommodation facilities - Consistency Assessment, 4/06/2025) – Superseded proposal

Month	Rex Pilot Academy Headcount	Local Accommodation Facility Headcount			Local DIDO not requiring accommodation	Total Headcount	Location
		Wagga Wagga LGA	Snowy Valleys LGA	TOTAL			
<b>Jun-25</b>	0	122	32	154	59	213	Enabling works*
<b>Jul-25</b>	179	25	32	57	59	295	REX Pilot Academy + various accommodation facilities
<b>Aug-25</b>	179	85	83	168	59	406	REX Pilot Academy + various accommodation facilities
<b>Sep-25</b>	179	99	156	255	68	502	REX Pilot Academy + various accommodation facilities
<b>Oct-25</b>	0	0	0	10**	68	623	555 workers at Tarcutta and Green Hills camps

\* All worker accommodation has been pre-booked at the following hotels in June: Quest, Quality Rules, Quality Carriage House, Best Western Bolton on the Park, Mercure, Lawson Suites, Tumbarumba Motel, Tumut Valley Motel.

\*\* Workers onsite for a short period of time will continue to use local accommodation

Table 2-1a: Breakdown of worker accommodation as part of the Proposed Change (updated information) – Current proposal

Month	Rex Pilot Academy Headcount	Local Accommodation Facility Headcount			Local DIDO not requiring accommodation	Total Headcount	Location
		Wagga Wagga LGA	Snowy Valleys LGA	TOTAL			
<b>Jun-25</b>	0	122	32	154	59	<b>213</b>	Enabling works*
<b>Jul-25</b>	107	25	32	57	59	<b>223</b>	Enabling works*
<b>Aug-25</b>	179	25	32	<b>57</b>	59	<b>295</b>	REX Pilot Academy + various accommodation facilities
<b>Sep-25</b>	179	85	83	<b>168</b>	59	<b>406</b>	REX Pilot Academy + various accommodation facilities
<b>Oct-25</b>	0	10	156	<b>166</b>	68	<b>502</b>	268 at Tarcutta camp + various accommodation facilities
<b>Nov-25</b>	0	0	0	<b>10**</b>	68	<b>623</b>	555 workers at Tarcutta and Green Hills camps

\* All worker accommodation has been pre-booked at the following hotels in June: Quest, Quality Rules, Quality Carriage House, Best Western Bolton on the Park, Mercure, Lawson Suites, Tumbarumba Motel, Tumut Valley Motel.

\*\* Workers onsite for a short period of time will continue to use local accommodation

If you wish to discuss this request, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned by email at [Sam.Pathammavong@transgrid.com.au](mailto:Sam.Pathammavong@transgrid.com.au) or by telephone on 0461 465 726.

Yours sincerely

Sam Pathammavong  
Environment & Sustainability Manager, HumeLink