

Fact sheet

Use of helicopters to string transmission towers

April 2026

What is HumeLink?

HumeLink is one of NSW's largest energy infrastructure projects, with about 365 km of new 500kV transmission line which will connect Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle. The eastern portion between the existing Bannaby substation and Wondalga is being delivered by Acciona Construction Australia Pty Ltd and Genus Infrastructure (NSW) Pty Ltd in a joint venture as AG JV HumeLink East.

Using helicopters for transmission tower stringing

During HumeLink East's construction, we plan to use helicopters to string conductor cable between transmission towers. Helicopters are being used instead of ground-based stringing methods to reduce construction and environment impacts. Transmission tower stringing **will begin in May 2026**.

Helicopter stringing has multiple advantages over traditional ground-based stringing, including being safer and faster to complete, causing less disruption by not requiring bulldozers to pull cable overground, limiting access track use and reducing traffic on local roads.

What stringing involves

To string cables (conductor) between towers insulators, pulley blocks are put in place to enable the conductors to be installed. During the stringing process, the helicopter installs the pilot cable (draw wire) through the pulley blocks from the winch site to the brake site. The draw wire is then used to pull the permanent conductor through the pulley blocks.

During this work, helicopters will be flying close to the top of new transmission towers. Stringing between towers will typically take around one to two days to complete in one location. Adverse weather may mean this takes longer.



An example of a similar helicopter stringing set up as will be used on HumeLink East

Benefits of using helicopters

HumeLink East has chosen to use helicopter stringing as they provide safer, faster, and lower-impact installation in difficult terrain compared to ground-based methods. Traditionally, on-ground stringing methods would involve using a bulldozer and multiple other machines on the ground to pull cables between towers.

Using helicopters for stringing provides significant benefits to landholders, the community and the environment, including:

- shorter time spent on each property
- less ground disturbance to properties and state forests
- fewer project staff and access required on properties
- less impact to ground cover and reduced need for paddock clearing
- significantly less vehicle traffic, meaning less deterioration to local roads.

Managing potential impacts from noise and dust

We understand that noise and vibration from helicopters could temporarily disturb residents and livestock and we take management of noise and vibration very seriously.

Stringing is expected to last approximately one to two days per tower, as we pull conductors and install equipment on the new line.

To help reduce impacts on residents, livestock and animals we will:

- limit helicopter operations to daylight hours where possible
- flights will be planned to minimise flight noise near communities. Helicopters will take a direct flight path from the aerodrome to the construction easement then follow the construction alignment to the work zone
- activities will be coordinated so that multiple noisy tasks don't occur at once
- wet down the landing areas within the construction easement to minimise dust.

Monitoring

We take noise and vibration management seriously and are committed to reducing its impacts wherever we can. Our team operate under a detailed Noise and Vibration Management Plan, which outlines the strict environmental and community standards in which work is undertaken. Whilst work is being undertaken on a property, the following will be in place:

- real-time noise and vibration will be monitored at key locations, with alerts and action if required
- our community hotline at **1800 317 367** is available 24 hours a day.

Traffic

By using helicopters, there will be reduced light and heavy vehicle traffic on local roads. Traffic plans will be developed for areas where helicopter stringing is located near local, state and federal roads.

Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities through the development of HumeLink. Please connect with us for more information.



1800 317 367 (free call)
humelink@transgrid.com.au

www.transgrid.com.au/humelink

How will I know if helicopter will fly near my property?

All impacted landowners will be notified of upcoming helicopter stringing works, and the Community and Stakeholder team will work with each landowner to undertake any necessary planning for their property.



An example of a similar helicopter stringing set up as will be used on HumeLink East

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns you would like to discuss about any of the above, please contact our Community and Stakeholder Engagement team on **1800 317 367** or by emailing **humelink@transgrid.com**

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