

# HumeLink Community Consultative Group

## Meeting minutes

### 1.1 HUMELINK SNOWY VALLEYS COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP: INAUGURAL MEETING

<b>Time</b>	5.00pm – 7.00pm
<b>Date</b>	28 October 2021
<b>Attendees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Inaugural Chair: Brian Elton</li><li>– Secretariat: Katie Casson</li><li>– Transgrid: Sumaya Osman, Tim Edwards, Fleur Laurence, Cristina De Maria, Matthew Pirie</li><li>– CCG: Cllr Julia Ham, Johanna Armour, Jessica Campbell, Pippa Quilty, Matthew Suter, Phil Clements, Dean Hawkins, Rebecca Tobin, Lee Kingma, Ian Robson, Daniel Brear</li><li>– Independent Landowner and Community Advocate (Observer): Rod Stowe</li><li>– Deputy Landowner and Community Advocate (Observer): Barbara El-Gamal</li></ul>
<b>Apologies</b>	Sue Bulger, Jonathon Caffery, Luke Penrith
<b>Meeting location</b>	Online meeting
<b>Meeting materials</b>	Code of Conduct Agreements, Presentation
<b>Purpose of meeting</b>	Inaugural Meeting
<b>Attachments to minutes</b>	Question tracker, presentation, Stowe report recommendations

### 1.2 AGENDA

Item	Agenda topic	Discussion summary	To note
1	<b>Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country</b>	<b>Welcome:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Welcome from the Inaugural Chair to the inaugural Community Consultative Group (CCG) meeting for Humelink, Snowy Valleys</li><li>– Background and interest in the project from CCG members</li><li>– Introductions from the independent Landowner and Community Advocate and Deputy Landowner and Community Advocate</li><li>– Introductions and involvement in the project from Transgrid attendees.</li></ul>	
2	<b>CCG establishment</b>	<b>About the Code of Conduct Agreement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– About the Code of Conduct Agreement and its purpose for members to sign</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– All members are to agree to and sign the Code of Conduct Agreement ahead of the next meeting</li><li>– All members are to notify the Inaugural Chair and Secretariat on attendance and alternatives ahead of each meeting</li></ul>

Item	Agenda topic	Discussion summary	To note
		<p><b>General housekeeping:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Format of the CCG and attendance</li> <li>– General housekeeping, format of meetings, minutes and actions and timing</li> </ul> <p><b>Expectations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Inaugural Chair is available to respond to matters out of session and out of session questions are encouraged, to be sent directly to the Inaugural Chair and Secretariat</li> <li>– As members of the CCG you are to act as a representative of your community and contact details will be made available.</li> </ul> <p><i>The Inaugural Chair then called for any additional questions or comments on the expectations of the CCG.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All meetings should have adequate video capability for those who are unable to travel or attend face-to-face meetings (pending COVID-19 health restrictions)</li> <li>– The CCG are able to share and circulate questions ahead of each meeting, but these must be sent to the Inaugural Chair and Secretariat for coordination of response from Transgrid and recording</li> <li>- All members of the CCG are comfortable for their contact details to be made available for members of the community who might want to ask questions or seek clarity on matters.</li> <li>- No additional comments or questions were posed from the group to note.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Introducing the HumeLink team and overview of engagement improvements</b></p>	<p><b>Team introductions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Fleur introduced the HumeLink community engagement team and their roles</li> <li>– Transgrid is committed to improving engagement</li> <li>– All 20 recommendations in the Stowe report have been adopted by Transgrid</li> <li>– Tailoring materials for the broader community needs, making sure concerns are addressed, being respectful and engaging.</li> <li>– The commitment is to build better engagement with the local community, with the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Cristina De Maria and Deb Pobjie are the day-to-day contacts from Transgrid’s community team for the region and contact details will be shared</li> <li>– Counselling services for impacted community members can be made through the details available online: <i>Book an appointment by calling Assure on 1800 808 374, or you can request an appointment online,</i> <a href="https://assureprograms.com.au/book-an-appointment/">https://assureprograms.com.au/book-an-appointment/</a> The recommendations made within the Stowe report have been attached to these minutes for reference</li> <li>– Transgrid is to share details of CCG members to the group as well as</li> </ul>

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		<p>CCGs being one of many forums to facilitate this</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Local Place Managers have been appointed to help improve engagement with local community members within the region</li> <li>– To better support impacted members of the community an independent counselling service has been established.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p><i>The Inaugural Chair then asked the group to pause and open up for discussion and recommendations on Transgrid’s engagement program.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Transgrid needs to act on what it says it will do; the community need to see ongoing evidence that it is committed to engaging</li> <li>– It’s acknowledged that bushfires and the pandemic have been disruptive, but the needs of local landholders need to remain a priority with information shared in a timely manner</li> <li>– Transgrid would benefit by sharing further detail on how decisions are made and what inputs are considered</li> <li>– There needs to be more sensitivity in project messaging, noting people who will be impacted by the project.</li> </ul> <p><i>Questions and responses have been outlined in the attached Question Tracker.</i></p>	<p>community members who represent traditional owners and custodians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Transgrid is to ensure that good quality information is shared across the regions and that is it easy to access for any interested community member. The CCG does not replace the need for more traditional engagement techniques</li> <li>– Providing broader opportunities for impacted landholders to engage is important</li> <li>– The weighting of environmental impacts, costs and impacts to community would be useful for community members to have better transparency of the project planning process. To date there has been a lot of confusion as to how and why corridors change</li> <li>– There needs to be better information on undergrounding options</li> </ul>
4	Orientation to the Humelink Project	<b>About the project and status:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The key definitions are available in the attached Presentation</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tim gave an overview of the project and its need to the group</li> <li>– HumeLink is a critical energy infrastructure project which will see a new 360km 500kV double circuit transmission line connecting Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle to the existing power network</li> <li>– The project is being driven by new renewable generation sources and to increase capacity in the network</li> <li>– The Project Assessment Conclusions Report (PACR) was submitted to the AER in July 2021 and subsequent revisions have been undertaken to help refine the project and its corridor</li> <li>– The CCG will be an important group to help form a better understanding on proposed corridors and feedback will help narrow the corridor.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key definitions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Sumaya discussed the key project definitions to ensure consistency in language and to help minimise any confusion going forward for the group of the key project definitions.</li> </ul> <p><b>How a study corridor is defined</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Sumaya then presented how Transgrid looks to assess a study corridor and the types of constraints that are considered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Transgrid notes that there needs to be broader consultation with community members outside of the corridor</li> <li>– Transgrid needs to be more certain when communicating potential impacts and design of easements and pay particular attention to ensuring the size of proposed infrastructure is articulated</li> <li>– The interactive map for landholders and the local community is on the <a href="#">project web page</a></li> <li>– Further detail is needed for the CCG to better understand inputs into the fire risk map</li> <li>– Transgrid is to acknowledge that the community remain concerned and unclear on how they might be impacted while the corridor is yet to be finalised</li> </ul>

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		<p><i>The Inaugural Chair paused the presentation to open up for questions and discussion.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– There needs to be better information on how Transgrid can determine the type of infrastructure needed while the corridor is yet to be finalised</li> <li>– Transgrid will come back to the group with max tower height</li> <li>– Transgrid should work with local organisations to have a current understanding on areas that are prone to fire risks</li> <li>– Organisations have found it challenging to access information on ecology and plant communities that are being assessed across the corridor</li> <li>– Transgrid send a direct webs link to the DPIE SEED portal</li> </ul> <p><i>Questions and responses have been outlined in the attached Question Tracker.</i></p>	
5	Discussion and general business	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p><i>The Inaugural Chair began the discussion with an overview of questions asked to date and facilitated discussion between the CCG and Transgrid. Questions and responses have been outlined in the attached Question Tracker.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The project must have some form of feasibility assessment that weights the various competing factors, and this should be shared with the CCG</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Transgrid needs to remember that assessing the proposed route is not just about the network, the impacts to the community and fire risks also need to be an important determining factor</li> <li>– Transgrid is to present further information on the undergrounding study and approvals process to the CCG</li> <li>– Members of the CCG can contact the Inaugural Chair with any out of session questions.</li> </ul>

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Item	Agenda topic	Discussion summary	To note
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The CCG remains highly interested in underground options</li> <li>– The work done to date on the proposed route should be shared with the CCG, including why the current option has been determined.</li> </ul>	
6	Agenda setting for subsequent meetings	<p><b>The next meeting and information and timing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Inaugural Chair asked the group if the time and proposed date for the next meeting is agreed</li> <li>– Proposed agenda items were discussed and agreed in principle.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 5.00pm, 17 November 2021, location is proposed to be Adelong or Tumut, pending an appropriate venue.</li> <li>– Travel expenses and reimbursement is to be clarified with Transgrid.</li> <li>– Next meeting venue to have adequate video capability for those who are unable to travel or attend face-to-face meetings (pending COVID-19 health restrictions).</li> </ul>
7	Meeting close	<i>The Inaugural Chair closed the meeting and thanked attendees for their time and input.</i>	

### 1.3 OPEN ACTIONS

Action	Status or comment
Secretariat is to follow up with members on administrative details including signed Code of Conduct Agreements and sharing of contact details	Underway
The 20 recommendations outlined in Transgrid's commitment to improve engagement are to be circulated for reference to members – link to report is <a href="#">here</a>	Complete
Transgrid is to consider advice provided by members of the CCG and broaden its engagement process for community members across the region, with attention to project messaging and the business' social license to operate	Underway

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Transgrid will send a direct web link to the DPIE SEED portal where this information can be found	Underway
Transgrid is to share more information on the current route and why an option running to the western side of Talbingo crossing over the Dam and running parallel to the Snowy Mountains. It is proposed that a detailed map issued out of session would be a good way to address	Underway
Transgrid is to share an explanation on Network Operational Risks	Underway
Transgrid is to share deep dive information and proposed engagement activities for undergrounding options	To be presented at next session
Transgrid to make the contact details for members of their Community Team (Place Managers) available to the CCG	Complete

### 1.4 NEXT MEETING

Item	
1	Deep dive and discussion on engagement with the community including improvements to consultation and project messaging
2	Deep dive into undergrounding and feasibility studies for Humelink
3	Presentation on potential tower heights

### 1.5 CLOSED ACTIONS

No.	Action	Status or comment
2	The 20 recommendations outlined in Transgrid's commitment to improve engagement are to be circulated for reference to members – link to report is <a href="#">here</a>	Complete
6	Transgrid to make the contact details for members of their Community Team (Place Managers) available to the CCG	Complete

Endorsed by the Chair of the SV CCG  
18/11/21