

Fact sheet

Update: Controlled Blasting for HumeLink East

July 2026

What is HumeLink?

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

Controlled blasting for HumeLink East

With main construction of HumeLink East well underway, controlled blasting is being used in areas where the ground is too hard to excavate with standard equipment. This will help prepare sites for tower foundations, brake and winch areas, and access tracks. This approach will allow rocks to be broken up efficiently while reducing disturbance to nearby areas.

Benefits of controlled blasting

Controlled blasting can help make construction work quicker and safer by breaking up hard rock so it can be removed more easily. Using modern techniques means the rock breaks in a predictable way, which reduces the amount of heavy machinery needed and helps keep the overall project running efficiently. This approach minimises disruption by shortening the time crews need to work in an area.

Safety controls

Safety is the highest priority during controlled blasting and strict controls will be in place.

Before each controlled blast:

- warning signs/barricades will be installed
- blast guards will control site access
- blast areas will be cleared of personnel
- workers will be moved to designated safe areas
- a warning siren will sound.

After each controlled blast, the area is inspected and an "All Clear" is issued before work resumes.

When controlled blasting may happen

Controlled blasting started at selected sites along the alignment in late March 2026 and will be continuing towards the end of the year and into 2027.

Controlled blasting work is only permitted:

- Monday to Friday: 9:00am to 5:00pm
- Saturday: 9:00am to 1:00 pm
- Sunday and NSW public holidays: No blasting permitted

What to expect

Noise from a controlled blast is brief and can be compared to a clap of thunder. HumeLink's Conditions of Approval set strict limits on air blast noise and vibration, and all controlled blasts are modelled and monitored to ensure these limits are met.



Examples of hard rock on the HumeLink East project near Adjungbilly

Dust, noise and vibration may be generated during drilling and controlled blasting, but these effects are short in duration and managed within approved limits. Nearby residents may experience:

- a short loud noise when the blast occurs
- brief ground vibration
- a temporary dust plume at the blast site
- temporary access restrictions.

Traffic

For safety, there will be short stoppages on roads in any controlled blasting exclusion zone. We'll communicate changes on our project webpage, roadside signage and directly to residents.

Working with landholders

We will consult with landholders and share information face-to-face and via phone calls, emails and SMS.

Landholders and neighbours within 500 metres of a blast site will be notified of any controlled blasting well before it begins.

Property Inspections

We do not expect controlled blasting to cause damage to nearby properties.

However, all properties within 500 metres of a blast site will be offered a property condition survey to record the condition of the house before work begins.

This report will provide a record of the property's pre-blast condition in the unlikely event that the controlled blasting causes any damage.

Managing potential dust and noise impacts

We understand controlled blasting may create dust, noise and vibration.

All reasonable steps will be taken to minimise impacts on nearby residents and landowners, including:

- site-specific risk assessments to determine appropriate dust controls
- wetting blast areas before or after controlled blasting where conditions are dry
- using appropriate stemming materials to contain blast energy monitoring weather conditions, particularly wind.

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

Privacy statement: Transgrid recognises the importance of privacy and protecting the personal information it holds, uses and discloses in line with the Privacy Act. It is committed to protecting personal information and handling personal information responsibly and in accordance with its obligations.

Managing potential environmental impacts

Animals that may occur in the project area include bats, owls, cockatoos, raptors and parrots.

Controlled blasting activities will be planned to minimise impacts on surrounding ecosystems, including:

- pre-blasting ecological surveys
- identifying sensitive habitats
- considering breeding periods of sensitive species and adjusting controlled blasting timings as needed.

How controlled blasting impacts are controlled

All controlled blasts are designed and supervised by a qualified blasting engineer or licensed Shotfirer.

Control measures that will be in place include:

- management of explosive charge weights
- control of detonation timing sequencing
- monitoring of ground vibration
- establishment of safety exclusion zones.

Monitoring and reporting

Each controlled blast is monitored to confirm compliance with regulatory limits.

Monitoring includes:

- ground vibration monitoring
- airblast (overpressure) monitoring.

A post-blast report is prepared, documenting monitoring results, weather conditions and blast performance. Controlled blasts may also be filmed.

Handling of explosives

Explosives are strictly controlled under NSW legislation. A licensed Shotfirer is responsible for explosives while they are on site. Other key controls include:

- explosives only handled by authorised and trained personnel
- personnel must hold an NSW explosives security clearance
- explosives delivered only when required
- no permanent explosives storage on site
- unused explosives returned to licensed off-site location.

Our commitment

Controlled blasting for HumeLink East will be carefully planned and managed to prioritise:

- community wellbeing
- worker safety
- environmental protection
- compliance with all regulatory requirements.

Contact us

We understand that maintaining peace and quiet in local communities is essential and additional support is available, if required.

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

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

Privacy statement: Transgrid recognises the importance of privacy and protecting the personal information it holds, uses and discloses in line with the Privacy Act. It is committed to protecting personal information and handling personal information responsibly and in accordance with its obligations.