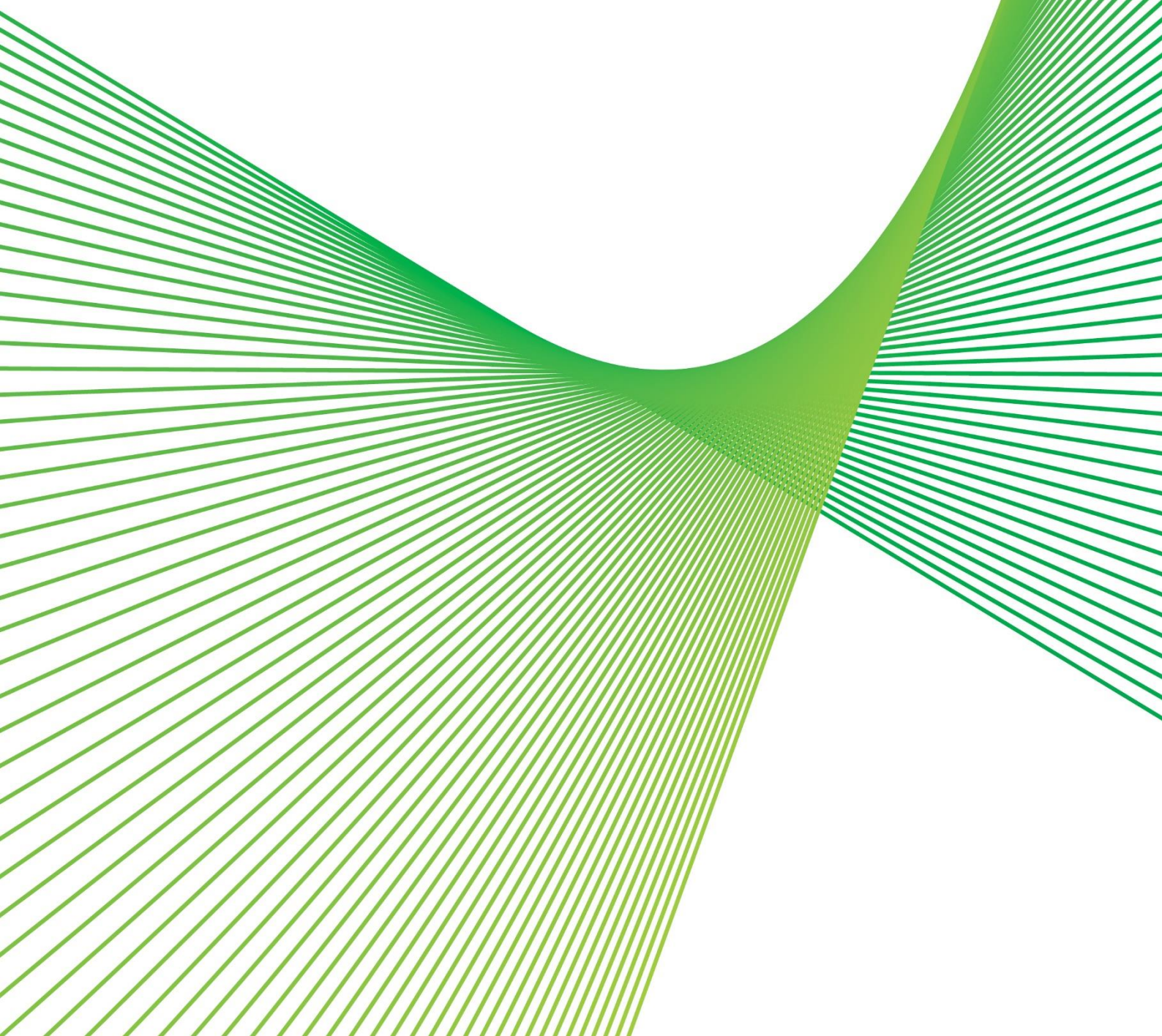


Consultation Outcome for the Environmental Impact Statement Public Exhibition

Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project

August – September 2025



Acknowledgement of Country

Transgrid acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which the Project is located and would like to thank the local knowledge holders for their time and feedback to date.

Traditional Owners have lived in the area for thousands of years and have an enduring custodianship and connection over the land and waterways of this region. We pay our respects to the people and the Elders past, present and emerging. And we celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the land and water.

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Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to summarise the consultation and engagement conducted between 27 August to the 24 September to support the EIS Public Exhibition.

Engagement snapshot



Background

Transgrid proposes to deliver a new 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission line of approximately 8 km in length between the Mount Piper and Wallerawang 330 kV substations. The project is located approximately 14 kilometres (km) west of Lithgow in the City of Lithgow Local Government Area (LGA) in the central west of NSW. The project is crucial to reliably transfer power from the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWOREZ) to the Greater Sydney region.

The key objective of the project is to support the NSW Government's delivery of the CWOREZ and the State's energy policies and strategies, including Australia's greenhouse gas emission targets. The project is essential to NSW for economic, social, and environmental reasons. It will increase the network's capacity to transfer additional power from the CWOREZ to major electricity demand centres. Additionally, it will facilitate the delivery of at least 4.5 gigawatts of renewable energy to consumers, aiding NSW and Australia in reaching net zero emissions by 2050.

The project was declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) on 4 July 2024 and is subject to approval by the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. The project was deemed a controlled action on 2 August 2024 under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) and also requires approval from the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water. All CSSI project applications must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The EIS for the Project was on public exhibition between 27 August and 24 September 2025. The purpose of the EIS was to identify and assess the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of the Project. There were 15 specialist studies undertaken that identify the potential impacts to the environment and communities and propose measures to avoid or mitigate those impacts.

Transgrid recognises the vital role that landowners and the community have in the planning and delivery of our projects. Consultation with landholders and the local community plays a key role in our project planning process.

Engagement framework

The Project is guided by a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP), which ensures activities are planned and delivered to the depth and breadth required for a CSSI project. Engagement has included consultation with relevant local, State and Commonwealth Government authorities, community groups, directly impacted landowners and near neighbours, Native Title holders and mineral license title holders to ensure a strategic, comprehensive feedback strategy and comply with Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) requirements. All engagement activities undertaken have been considered in line with the interests, needs, accessibility and availability of stakeholders and the community.

Engagement objectives

The public exhibition of the EIS is an important step in keeping stakeholders informed and engaged. Transgrid committed to engaging the community through a wide range of accessible and inclusive channels and platforms to provide stakeholders with just and fair opportunities to understand and share their input into transmission planning.

The engagement objectives were to:

- Inform community members and external stakeholders that the EIS is on Public Exhibition and encourage them to make a submission
- Answer questions that the community have about the impact of the project during the construction and operational phases
- Raise awareness of the project to a broader cross section of the community (beyond impacted landowners)
- Capture information, sentiment and feedback about the project from the community
- Demonstrate Transgrid's commitment to community engagement.

Consultation tools and channels

A variety of communication tools and channels were used to target the Project's stakeholders and the community.

In-person local community events

Transgrid held three Community Information Sessions to target local community members in the project area, provide an opportunity for locals to drop in and speak to Transgrid's technical experts face-to-face.

One Community Information Session was held on Thursday 11 September at the Portland Library. The second Community Information Session was held on Saturday 13 September, at the Wallerawang Library. The third Community Information Session was held on Tuesday 16 September at the Black & Gold Motel Wallerawang.

The project team had in-depth conversations with 16 community members, distributed printed project materials and recorded feedback. All feedback recorded can be located in Appendix A.

The printed take-home material available included eight fact sheets on varying specialist reports and the EIS guide fact sheet. Printed materials available to view at the session included the project alignment maps, the EIS document and the specialist reports.

Figure 1 Transgrid staff at the community information sessions



Social media - organic

There were two social media posts shared on Transgrid's own LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook channels.

Post one promoted the launch of the EIS Public Exhibition period. It received:

- LinkedIn: 7408 views, 240 clicks, 0 shares, 0 comments
- Facebook: 3749 views, 22 clicks, 1 share, 0 comments

Post two promoted a community benefit initiative and reminded users of the EIS Public Exhibition closing date. It received:

- LinkedIn: 2352 views, 60 clicks, 0 shares, 0 comments
- Facebook: 1494 views, 2 clicks, 1 share, 0 comments
- Instagram: 560 views

A total of 15,563 people were reached and 324 clicked on the link on the two posts.

Figure 2 Screenshot of Facebook post promoting launch of EIS



Social media – paid

Transgrid created six paid ‘campaigns’ that geotargeted Facebook users within Wallerawang and Lithgow postcode areas. The campaigns received a total reach over 37k, link clicks reached 6,352 and impressions of 453k. The post contained the same content as Figure 4 above. One community member who attended the in-person information session remarked that they had seen the sponsored Facebook post appear on their feed and decided to attend.

Newspaper advert

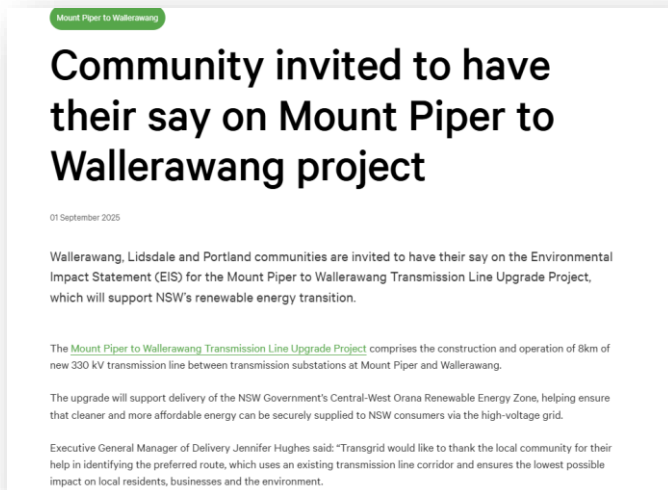
An advert was placed in the Lithgow Mercury newspaper to promote the in-person community events and notify of the EIS Public Exhibition. The Lithgow Mercury has a print circulation of 4658.

Online news media

A press release was sent to local media outlets on 1 September 2025 and was picked up by one outlet, 2LT AM Radio. Their area of coverage Lithgow, Oberon and Bathurst.

The Transgrid press release was available online via the project website.

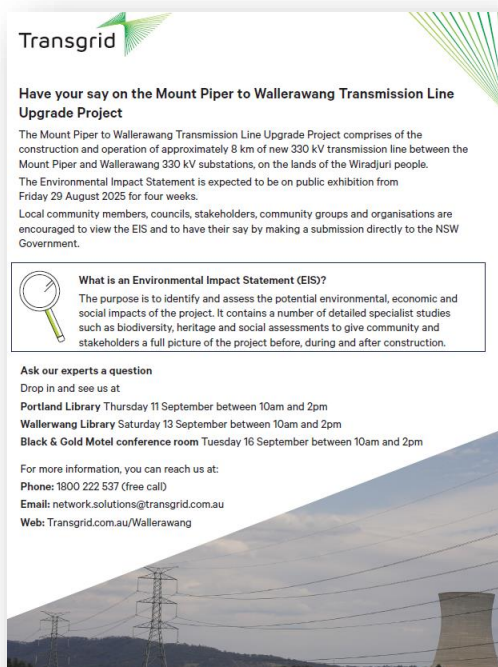
Figure 3 Transgrid's online press release



Letterbox drop

Transgrid engaged Australia Post to deliver an A5 flyer to all letterboxes around the project footprint including Wallerawang, Lidsdale, Blackmans Flat and Portland. The notification was distributed to 2,753 letterboxes in total.

Figure 4 A5 flyer



Community inbox and freephone 1800 number

Dedicated lines of communication to the project team are available via email and phone five days a week 9am – 5pm for stakeholders and the community to actively seek project information, make enquiries or provide feedback. The project received zero emails to the community inbox and zero calls to the 1800 number. However, one nearby neighbour called the Community Engagement Lead directly asking for more information on the project after having seen the EIS in Wallerawang Library.

The toll-free number (1800 222 537) and public email address (network.solutions@transgrid.com.au) was set up in early 2022 and will be kept available throughout the life of the project. The project 1800 number and project email address have been included in all advertisements, email communications, printed materials and available on the project website

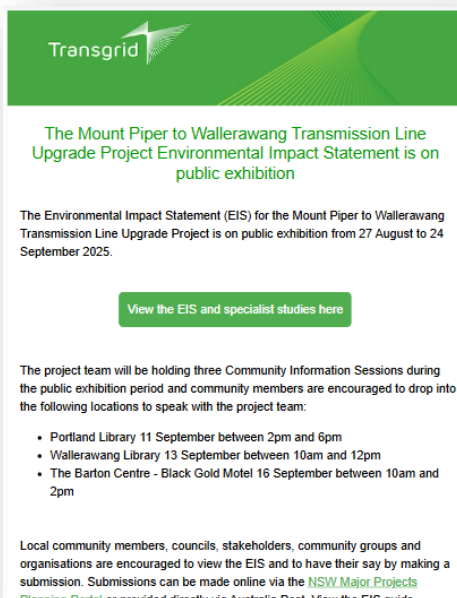
Electronic Direct Mail (emails)

Three emails were sent to a list of 69 stakeholders who have subscribed to receive project updates.

- The first email was distributed on 28 August and promoted the launch of the public exhibition period. It received 106 opens and 29 link clicks.
- The second email on the 8 September reminded subscribers of the Community Information Sessions. It received 113 opens and 60 link clicks.
- The third email was sent on the 17 September and notified subscribers of the upcoming close of Public Exhibition. It received 120 opens and 62 link clicks.

The three emails received a total of 339 opens and 151 clicks of hyperlinks.

Figure 5 Sample email to subscriber list



Website

Two webpages were made available and updated for all stakeholders. The Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project webpage (Transgrid.com.au/Wallerawang) contained detailed information on the entire project including the EIS Public Exhibition information sessions, factsheets and links to the NSW Planning Portal. The CWOREZ (Transgrid.com.au/CWOREZ) webpage directed users to the Mount Piper to Wallerawang webpage with a small explanation of the EIS Public Exhibition.

Between the period from August 27 to September 24, the Mount Piper to Wallerawang webpage received 4,387 views, 252 users downloaded EIS documents and 182 users clicked on the NSW Planning Portal hyperlink.

The project webpages will continue to be updated at key milestones and act as the central location for information and document.

Figure 6 Screenshot of project webpage



Factsheets

Transgrid created nine factsheets to support the public exhibition of the EIS and were developed in plain English to ensure technical information was digestible but facilitated a sound understanding of key information that would be available. Eight of the factsheets were related to the specialist reports and one factsheet was a guide on the EIS and how to make a submission. The factsheets were available digitally on the project website and printed copies were made available at the Wallerawang Library and distributed at the Community Information Sessions.

Figure 7 Screenshot of the EIS overview factsheet



The Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project (the Project) comprises the construction and operation of approximately 8 km of new 330 kV transmission line between the Mount Piper and Wallerawang 330 kV substations, on the lands of the Wiradjuri people.

The Project will carry out upgrades to our transmission network in the State's Central Tablelands to support the NSW Government's delivery of the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWOREZ).

The Environmental Assessment Process

As a Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) project, the Project must go through a comprehensive Commonwealth and State environmental assessment process. This acknowledges that CSSI projects are large and complex, and can have major economic, environmental, and social impacts. It also ensures the community have the opportunity to have their say before a final decision is made.

Commonwealth and State government approval

The NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) and Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (EP&A Regulation) form the statutory framework for environmental assessment and planning approval in NSW. As part of the planning approval process for the Project, Transgrid is required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Project's EIS will be assessed by the NSW Government and then sent to the Commonwealth Government for assessment.

About the EIS

The purpose of the EIS is to identify and assess the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of the Project. It contains detailed specialist studies to understand potential impacts and propose management measures to avoid or minimise those impacts. The EIS is placed on public exhibition and government agencies, relevant authorities, community members and stakeholders are invited to make submissions and provide their feedback. The feedback is then considered and responded to before a decision is made on whether to approve the Project and progress toward construction. The EIS is on public exhibition from 27 August to 26 September 2025.

The approval pathway



The first step in the regulatory process required a preliminary assessment of the Project's potential environmental impacts. The Scoping Report was submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in April 2024, and the DPHI subsequently issued the Project's Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The SEARs

set out the matters that must be investigated as part of the EIS and provided the basis of the requirements, including the specialist studies that must be conducted to inform the EIS. A total of 15 specialist studies were required to identify potential impacts from the Project, and to propose measures to avoid or mitigate those impacts.

Stakeholder engagement

Transgrid emailed 15 stakeholders directly during the EIS public exhibition period to offer a one-to-one briefing meeting. They included:

- Transport for NSW
- National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Heritage NSW
- Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Conservation Programs, Heritage, and Regulation Group
- State Emergency Services
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Paul Toole MP
- Andrew Gee MP
- Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Lithgow Environmental Group
- Lidsdale Wallerawang Progress Association
- Wilderness Australia
- Lithgow City Council
- One nearby neighbour contacted Transgrid directly seeking a meeting, which was held on 22 September.

Landowner engagement

On day 1 of Public Exhibition (27 August 2025), all landowners were sent a Section 181 Letter formally notifying them of the start of the EIS Public Exhibition period and offering a briefing. Transgrid did not receive any requests for briefings from landowners in response to these emails. However, in July and August 2025, Transgrid had held a 1-2 hour briefing meeting with all landowners separately, to update them of the contents of the EIS ahead of the Public Exhibition period and answer any questions the landowners had about the project.

Engagement results

The key themes resulting from the engagement have been grouped into the following:

Project details and timeline:

- Attendees were keen to understand the construction timelines, project deadlines, and how it fits with existing infrastructure, such as nearby wind farms and transmission lines
- Questions about specific project elements like power load, tower specifications, and whether the project should use a 500kV towers
- Some inquiries about the EIS timeline and next steps

Environmental concerns:

- One stakeholder engaged thoroughly on biodiversity, including the potential impact on species like bats, possums, Feathertail Gliders and the Purple Copper Butterfly
- Queries regarding habitat clearing, biodiversity offsets, the collection of seeds, alongside concerns about the environmental management of the State Conservation Area
- Highlighted the importance of including environmental groups in key stakeholder discussions

Community and local impact:

- Community members asked about local benefits, such as community initiatives and how residents would be impacted
- Suggestions for planning and communication, including the need for early updates on accommodation numbers and engagement with local council and environmental groups
- Many were supportive of the project, highlighting its importance for local progress and the town, while others were focused on how it could benefit the community

The reach from the communication activities was high but the amount of feedback received back to Transgrid was comparatively low. However, the insights and feedback that were received were detailed. The relatively low amount of feedback could indicate that overall, stakeholders and community felt relatively 'neutral' about the project and did not feel a need to respond.

It should be noted that Transgrid has been involving key stakeholders and the community for more than three years in planning. We have listened to stakeholders and community feedback on the different route options, and this feedback has been used to determine the preferred route. Therefore, the low number of respondents could be a sign of satisfaction that the Transmission line route is the most suitable.

At the end of the Public Exhibition period, the project received 53 submissions on the EIS from members of the public. 5 supported, 45 objected and 3 commented. It is of note that all objections originate from individuals who do not live in or around the project footprint.

Next steps

All submissions received will be responded to in a Submissions Report, which collates, categorises and responds to submissions received from community members and groups, council and government agencies. All submissions received are available on DPHI's website. Any amendments to the project footprint that have been raised in the EIS, and updates from ongoing design development and construction planning, will be placed into an Amendment Report. These reports will be put on public display and used to guide the project's final determination and any Conditions of Approval.

Once the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has made a decision, the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water will review the determination and make a decision about whether to approve the proposal along with any Conditions of Approval. Subject to the NSW and Commonwealth Government planning approvals, construction would commence in late 2026 and be completed by late 2028. A project timeline is available on the project's homepage (Transgrid.com.au/Wallerawang).

Consultation will continue during the project's construction stage as required in line with a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Management Plan (CSEMP). The plan will be prepared by the construction contractor and finalised before construction begins. Transgrid will evaluate and endorse the CSEMP in consideration of any relevant Minister's conditions of approval.

Appendix A Feedback received

1.1. Email responses

Feedback	Sentiment
<p>Morning Emily,</p> <p>I so, appreciate your prompt follow up email with my questions and suggestions. Thank you as well to the other ladies who were supportive with their information last Saturday.</p> <p>Cheers</p>	Supportive

1.2. Community Information Sessions

Thursday 11 September, 2pm-6pm

Feedback and comments	Sentiment
Asked about benefits to local residents	Supportive
Passed on our factsheet to a friend	Neutral
Asked if the project was the wind farm project	Neutral
<p>Saw the Facebook advert and visited.</p> <p>Should it be a 500kV tower instead?</p> <p>Who did the EIS assessment?</p> <p>Does Transgrid paint the towers?</p>	Supportive
Agreed that the route should follow the existing transmission line. Understood the need for the project and very supportive.	Supportive
Asked about construction timeline	Supportive
Asked about the towers and easement widening	Neutral
Took all the available factsheets home	Unknown
Asked if the project was the wind farm project	Neutral

Saturday 13 September, 10am–12pm

Feedback and comments	Sentiment
Individual took factsheet, no comment	Unknown
Asked if the project was the nearby windfarm project. Supportive of progress in the town and that project 'needs to happen'.	Supportive
Noted there is 'already a line there' and the project 'needs to happen'.	Supportive
<p>Confused about route asked if it had changed since 2022</p> <p>Clearing in the State Conservation Area</p> <p>Did Transgrid identify anything in the creek lines?</p> <p>Will seeds be collected?</p>	Supportive

<p>Noise impacts on bats</p> <p>Asked about host plant for Purple Copper Butterfly</p> <p>Have Transgrid identified possums?</p> <p>Have Transgrid identified Feathertail Gliders?</p> <p>Where will biodiversity offsets be located?</p> <p>What are proposed community benefits?</p> <p>Emphasised environment groups should be included in conversations with Councils and local projects</p> <p>What are the construction timelines?</p> <p>What will be power load be when switched on?</p> <p>When is the deadline given by NSW Government to have project completed by?</p>	
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Tuesday 16 September, 10am-2pm

Feedback and comments	Sentiment
<p>Asked about accommodation plans and if the Black and Gold Motel can be updated on numbers sooner rather than later. Multiple nearby projects will be beneficial, but they need to plan. Left their contact email for future communication.</p>	<p>Supportive</p>