

Meeting Minutes

HumeLink Construction Reference Group – Snowy Valleys/Cootamundra-Gundagai

Meeting title:	HumeLink Snowy Valleys/Cootamundra Construction Reference Group	Date:	25 June 2026
Location:	Snowy Valleys Resilience Hub, Batlow	Time:	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Chairperson:	Katia Reviakina, Transgrid
Attendees:	Anne Shanahan (AS), Snowy Valleys Council Vincent Newton (VN), UGL-CPB Joint Venture Chantelle Garrett (CG), UGL-CPB Joint Venture Laura Young (LY), Transgrid Trevor Dando (TD), Cootamundra-Gundagai Council Michael Hannah (MH), Snowy Business Chamber Allan Tonkin (AT), Community Member Rachel Whiting (RW), RDA Riverina Francis Houlihan (FH), Acciona-Genus Joint Venture Nea Pilgrim (NP), Acciona-Genus Joint Venture Patrick Cave (PC) UGL-CPB Joint Venture
Apologies:	Samantha Willoughby (SW), Transgrid Coral Bulger (CB), Brungle/Tumut LALC Supt Stewart Alexander (SA), Fire and Rescue Melissa Meli (MM), Tumbarumba Business Chamber

Agenda items

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
Acknowledgement of Country & Welcome	Katia Salazar Reviakina (KSR) welcomed attendees, outlined the agenda, and encouraged questions throughout the session. Members and attendees introduce themselves. KSR acknowledged the Wiradjuri people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which a significant portion of HumeLink is being built and acknowledged the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands of all those joining via Teams. KS paid respects to Elders past and present.	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
Confirmation of previous meeting minutes and review of action items	KSR reviewed action items from the previous meeting: 1. Provide workforce data updates to RDA Riverina for the workforce histogram (outstanding from previous meeting). – completed. Noted the data is in the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) hosted on the website for public viewing. Links the SIMP – - HumeLink East Social Impact Management Plan. - HumeLink West Social Impact Management Plan. 2. Confirm and share first HumeLink telecommunications booster site locations with Snowy Valleys CRG members. - Shared in session. 3. Anne Shanahan (Snowy Valleys Council) to contact Maria Simunovic-Winchester (Grand Pacific Health) to discuss connection with Council's inter-agency forum ahead of the Community Resilience Expo (Sep 2026). – completed. 4. Notify Melissa Meli (MM) (Tumbarumba Business Chamber) and CRG members once confirmed dates and routes for transformer/reactor deliveries through Tumbarumba are available. – completed. Noted notifications were distributed via email and published on the website. 5. Damien Wilson to contact MM to coordinate sharing of worker activity preferences and patterns to assist Tumbarumba local businesses in planning capacity (activities, hours, transport). – completed. It was noted that this information is not formally recorded by the HumeLink West Joint Venture and cannot be shared due to privacy constraints. 6. Confirm in-person location for next Snowy Valleys CRG meeting (third week of June 2026) and circulate meeting invitation. – completed. Noted the next meeting (September 2026) will be online.	Action: KSR noted links to HLE and HLE SIMP will be added to the meeting minutes.
Project overview	Katia Salazar Reviakina (KSR) provided a HumeLink project update. Project overview: • ~365km of 500 kV overhead transmission lines • Approximately 833 towers • New substations at Gregadoo 'Gugaa' and Maragle and Bannaby • Substation upgrade at Wagga Wagga	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	• Accommodation facilities at Tarcutta, Kunama, Yass and Adjungbilly • 235 access points • Approximately 609km of access tracks • 143 towers erected, 334 foundations completed, 602 pads completed, 164 towers assembled, 453km of access track constructed, 176 access points completed.	
HumeLink East – project update and three-month look ahead	Francis Houlihan (FH) provided an update on HumeLink East construction progress. • Works are progressing well overall, with: 335 tower pads completed, 55% of access tracks complete, 40% of foundations complete • Construction activity has slowed slightly over winter due to weather conditions. • There are currently 12 tower assembly and erection crews on site, with the workforce expected to ramp up to a peak of approximately 17 crews over the coming month. • To date, 74 towers have been erected. Bannaby Substation has received its second reactor, and gantry installation is largely complete. • Tower dressing is progressing, with approximately 45–50 towers prepared and ready for stringing. • Stringing activities commenced approximately four weeks ago, with three helicopter pulls completed to date. The Batlow Road section is expected to be completed by mid-August, after which works will transition to HumeLink West. • The project is transitioning from civil works into structural and electrical phases. A total of 59 hurdles are being installed to protect third-party assets, with a major hurdle planned for the Hume Highway in September. • Approximately 500 tonnes of steel have been installed to date, with around 30,000 tonnes still to be delivered. All structural steel is expected to be delivered within the country by Christmas, with tower assembly continuing over the coming months. • Stringing activities are underway. There are 18 planned pull sections in the SVC region. Four pulls are expected to be completed by mid-August, before crews transition to the Yass area and return in October to continue works.	
HumeLink West – project update and	Vince Newton (VN) provided a HumeLink West project progress update	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
three-month look ahead	• First infrastructure energised at Wagga Wagga Substation. Noted there will be 2–3-day outages week commencing 29 June 2026 to facilitate more connections. • Additional beds have been added to Kunama and Tarcutta accommodation facilities • The team has hung insulators on the tower in preparation for stringing • Piling is currently underway east of Westbrook Road and continuing to Green Hills State Forest • 234km of access tracks have been constructed • Next month, HLW will be constructing the hurdle over the Hume Highway • The concrete batch plant at Cullinga Park Lane will be demobilised over next couple of months • Trial controlled blasting is underway to aid in constructing the tower foundations. • The project is taking many deliveries of construction material such as pile cages, steel and stringing conductor • Clearing is almost complete, with the last sections underway on Line 1 near Elliots Way and Browns Way in Bago State Forest • Nest boxes and glider poles have been installed. 40 glider crossing have been identified by ecologist. Notes the importance of this work to the project. • HLW will be conducting aerial stringing using helicopter and drones • OSOM deliveries are nearly complete with 6/7 transformers and 1/4 reactors delivered to Gugaa substation and only 4 transformers and 2 reactors are still to be delivered at Maragle substation. • Tower foundations: note fog impacted across part of alignment. Noted how disturbance has been minimised by constructing foundations on smaller bench platforms rather than large flat pads. This approach reduces the overall environmental footprint. Noted 11 piling rigs currently in use with presence in the SVC towards the Maragle end of the alignment • Gugaa substation – noted gantries are continuing to be erected. Questions: No questions raised from the group.	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
Road safety & Property access	Nea Pilgrim (NP) provided an overview of road safety and property access. NP noted that this update was provided in response to an increase in recent community questions and feedback. Road safety: • In-vehicle monitoring systems (IVMS) are being rolled out across subcontractor vehicles, including water carts and trucks, to monitor speed and driving behaviour. • Road safety continues to be a key focus area for the project, with ongoing monitoring and reporting. • The project is continuing to work closely with councils to proactively address any impacts on local roads. • Road maintenance agreements are in place with Snowy Valleys Council. • A driver safety campaign has been implemented, covering: Driving to conditions, Safe parking practices, Fatigue management, Journey management processes • These initiatives are reinforced through toolbox talks and a defined disciplinary framework. Non-compliance may result in warnings and further formal action, including removal of driving privileges on the project. Property access: • NP noted that the project team is actively working with landowners to identify and resolve property access issues, including gate management. • Expectations around property access are reinforced through regular toolbox talks and team briefings.	
Stringing methodology	Patrick Cave (PC) commenced the stringing presentation. Due to connectivity issues, PC experienced intermittent dropouts and the presentation was paused. The agenda then progressed to the next item. KSR advised that the stringing fact sheet will be shared with CRG and the presentation will be shown at another CRG meeting.	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
Community Investment and Benefits update	Nea Pilgrim (NP) provided an overview of HumeLink East Community Investment and Benefits update. • Cootamundra-Gundagai: - Gundagai Historical Museum - equitable access to toilet amenities - RFS South West Slopes - electronic fire danger rating signs and fire intelligence cameras • Snowy Valleys - Tumut Showground Trust - improvements to showgrounds - Country Universities Centre Snowy Valleys - amenities upgrade - Regional initiatives - RFS Southern Tablelands Logistics Brigade – capability enhancement - Notes all projects are progressing at various stages and agreements have been made. - Country Universities Centre Snowy Valleys > The centre is up and running and welcoming local students. It is reducing the need for students to relocate for higher education. Enhancing the region's reputation as a hub for education and innovation. - Tumut SES > Together the two projects purchased emergency equipment, including a hydraulic trolley jack and trailer hitch and mover. > The equipment will be used to help move gear including boats and trailers to assist during emergency responses. - RFS South West Slopes > Two fire intelligence cameras in Gundagai will complete rollout of camera network in Cootamundra-Gundagai and Hilltops LGAs. > The cameras provide the RFS with early intelligence on fires. > New electronic fire danger signs will update automatically every 24 hours. MH thanked the HumeLink East team for attending the Heavy Vehicle Forum events. NP	Action: KSR noted updates on Telco initiative progress will be provided at upcoming CRG meetings.

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	acknowledged the feedback and confirmed the team will continue attending future sessions. Chantelle Garrett (CG) provided a HumeLink West community investment and engagement update. - NRMA has successfully delivered over 250 driving lessons to date as part of its collaboration with HumeLink West, supporting participants in gaining essential driving skills and independence. - Our Under 25 trainees continue to make strong progress, actively engaging in both onsite and classroom-based training. Collectively, trainees have completed more than 175 hours of classroom learning, demonstrating a solid commitment to building their skills and knowledge. - The She Can Too Scholarship program is also delivering positive outcomes. Our 12 scholarship recipients have utilised approximately 22.75% of their allocated funding on essential items such as technology, school forums, uniforms and stationery. Two students have completed year 12 and have gone on to University to study Chemical Engineering and Nursing. Chantelle Garrett (CG) provided a update on the HLW Community Investment and Benefit Program. - HumeLink West funded four projects - Tarcutta Recreational Grounds Infrastructure Improvement Plan: Project manager selected. Scope confirmed. Grid connection in design followed by Crown Lands submission. - Batlow Multi-Purpose Leisure Hub: Project manager engaged. Scope confirmation and concept design for development application and Crown Lands approval in progress. - Adelong Golden Gully Caravan Park Accommodation: Preferred supplier nominated and development application submitted to council. - Carcoola Children's Centre at Tumbarumba: Delivery subcontractor engaged. Design completion target July, followed by development application submission. Construction start target October 2026. CG noted recent smaller community initiatives - Batlow Show	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	• Community First Aid training • Tarcutta Campdraft • Police Girls Program Tarcutta facility tour • Tarcutta and Humula public schools • Tarcutta facility tour • School holiday program, Batlow and Humula • CiderFest • Batlow Library service • Tumut SES equipment donation • Talbingo Women's Shed & Batlow Library Biggest Morning Tea donations Chantelle Garrett (CG) provided a HumeLink West workforce, accommodation and local capacity update. • 3,000 workers inducted - 630 are local or regional workers • 43 apprentices and trainees directly employed, working across substations, assembly and erection crews, site administration, stringing and civil construction • Two pre-employment programs with trainees working onsite; 8 trainees for Civil Construction; 8 trainees for Certificate II in Overhead Transmission Lines; 9 locally based people joined the pre-employment program • 16 apprentices enrolled in Certificate III in ESI Transmission Overhead • Current recruitment focus is Qualified Certificate III in OHTL Lines workers for stringing • There are currently 156 contracts in place, with approximately 50 awarded to local suppliers. employee hosts trivia at the accommodation facility. • \$82m spent with local & regional businesses. 14.3% above HLW target Katia Salazar Reviakina (KSR) provided update on Transgrid community investment and benefits program. Mulloon Institute Landscape rehydration program • Three 'communities of practice' are being established across the project alignment. These will involve a range of activities, including field days and demonstration sites.	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	- Two field days have recently been delivered, both receiving positive feedback from attendees. The sessions aimed to bring together local landowners to provide hands-on experience and practical understanding of landscape rehydration, including its benefits and implementation. - A further field day is scheduled for 11 September in the Crookwell and Taralga area Mental health and resilience program - Noted that the program is working collaboratively with local communities to deliver events and training. This includes engaging with communities to understand local needs and tailor support accordingly. - Mental Health First Aid training sessions are currently being delivered, with upcoming sessions planned in Tumut and Adelong. - Noted there is a session booked for Tarcutta at the end of July Telecommunications program - Three telecommunications repeater sites have been installed on existing towers, including two in the Upper Lachlan area and one in the Snowy Valleys. - Noted that significant analysis is required to determine suitable sites for additional installations, including areas such as Book Book, Batlow, Wondalga and Gregadoo currently under consideration. - Site selection considers a range of factors, including availability of an appropriate Telstra signal; Proximity to existing towers; Road networks and traffic volumes; Identified mobile black spots; Tower suitability and structural capacity; Topographical constraint - Feedback is gathered from key stakeholders including the Rural Fire Service (RFS), councils, and Forestry Corporation. - Once potential locations are identified, a feasibility assessment is undertaken. This includes consideration of whether there is an existing tower or a new HumeLink tower, the benefits of the specific location, proximity to communities, and potential support for emergency services and road networks. - KSR noted updates on locations will be provided at upcoming CRG meetings.	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	Questions: No questions raised from the group.	
Community enquiries and complaints summary	KSR provided an update on complaints, noting this was an area of interest at the previous CRG meeting. - Members were encouraged to scan the QR codes provided to access the complaints register, which outlines complaints received and how they are managed. - Key themes identified include: property access and gate management, traffic and road usage, dust and road condition impacts - The importance of road safety and ongoing road maintenance was reinforced. - Members were encouraged to visit the project website or contact the team directly for further information. Nea Pilgrim (NP) talked to HumeLink was complaints. Advised that 57 complaints were recorded in the first quarter, with fewer than 50 recorded in the second quarter. This reflects a stabilisation and reduction in complaints. NP noted the team is continuing to monitor issues proactively and address them before they escalate into formal complaints.	
Additional items / any other business	KSR apologised for the technical issue that prevented the stringing presentation from being shown and noted that it will be included on the agenda for the next CRG meeting. MH noted positive engagement with both project teams at the heavy vehicle forum event and highlighted that it is beneficial for workers to be active in the local community and support local businesses. No other comments or questions raised from group.	Action: KSR noted that stringing will be placed on the next agenda.

Agenda Item	Description / Action	Responsibility
Confirmation of previous meeting minutes and review of action items	Noted links to HLE and HLE SIMP will be added to the meeting minutes.	LY
Community investment and benefits update	An update on locations being assessed as part of the Telco program will be provided at upcoming CRG meetings.	KSR

Agenda Item	Description / Action	Responsibility
Additional items/any other business	Stringing section will be placed on the next agenda	KSR

Minutes prepared by: Laura Young

Date of distribution:

Minutes approved by: Katia Reviakina

Date approved: