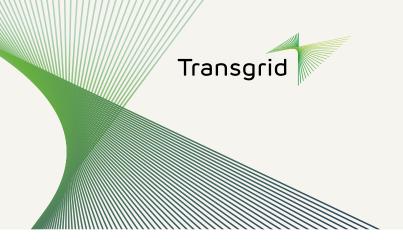
Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project

Environmental Impact Statement Guide

FACT SHEET | AUGUST 2025



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 proposes 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 24 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.

List of Specialist Studies

The Project is informed by 15 specialist studies that identify the potential impacts to the environment and communities and propose measures to avoid or mitigate those impacts. Impacts are considered at construction and operation. The topics covered in the 15 specialist studies are listed below. We have summarised

some of the findings of the studies within seperate EIS fact sheets which are available on the Project webpage.

Full specialist studies are available online via the NSW Planning Portal. Search for the unique ID: SSI-70279722.



Biodiversity





Aquatic ecology



Contamination









Traffic and transport





Land use and agriculture



Aboriginal heritage





Hazard and risk



Water resources



Social impacts



Visual amenity



Public exhibition of the EIS

The EIS exhibition period provides the community an opportunity to read the EIS document, seek clarification and provide feedback directly to the DPHI. The EIS exhibition process is run by the DPHI and submissions are made directly to the DPHI during the public exhibition period. DPHI determines the time period that the EIS must be placed on public exhibition. During the EIS exhibition period you will be able to provide feedback on the EIS directly to the DPHI. The collective sentiment of the submissions received are used to guide the final determination, as well as any approval conditions for the Project.

View the EIS and specialist studies online via the NSW Planning Portal. Search for the unique ID: SSI-70279722. You can also ask for a copy at Wallerawang Library during the public exhibition period.

Information on how to make a submission is available on the last page of this fact sheet.

Project determination (approval)

At the conclusion of the exhibition period, all submissions will be posted on the NSW Planning Portal. A summary report with responses will be developed by Transgrid and posted on the

Planning Portal for public viewing. Following this, a final assessment of the EIS including feedback will be undertaken by the DPHI and a determination made. If approval is granted, a report outlining Conditions of Approval for the next stage of the Project will be given by the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.



Next steps

Once the Minister has made a decision, the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) reviews the determination and makes 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.

What we've heard from stakeholders and the community

Throughout engagement in the past few years, stakeholders and the community have provided valuable feedback on those issues which should be fully considered in the EIS assessment.

- Environmental impacts including vegetation clearing and environmental disturbance in the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area
- Protecting the **biodiversity** of the area including local flora and
- Economic impacts including reducing business impacts, impacts on private property and coal mining operations where possible
- Social impacts including impacts to local community facilities and housing
- Visual impacts at private properties and the impacts on the overall appeal of the region
- Aboriginal heritage undertaking appropriate heritage surveys and seeking out local indigenous knowledge.



Image: Project team at Lithgow Showground Community Information Session in March 2024.



Image: Part of the EIS study area at Wallerawang.



How to make a submission

Local community members, councils, stakeholders, community groups and organisations are encouraged to view the EIS during the public exhibition period and to have their say by making a submission. Once you have reviewed the EIS materials you will be able to provide feedback on the EIS directly to the NSW Government. Submissions can be made individually or as a group. There are a range of ways you can have your say, including options

to provide submissions both online or hard copy. However, it is important to note the EIS exhibition process is run by the DPHI and submissions must be sent directly to them during the exhibition period. Submissions can be made online via the NSW Major Projects Planning Portal or provided directly via Australia Post.

All submissions must be received before the exhibition closing date on 24 September 2025.

Post

In your submission, you must include:

- **1.** Your name and address (provide this information in a separate cover letter if you want your personal details to be withheld from publication)
- 2. The application name: Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission
- 3. The application number: SSI-70279722
- **4.** A brief statement on whether you support or object the proposal
- 5. The reasons why you support or object the proposal
- **6.** A declaration of any reportable political donations made in the previous two years (further information about political donations visit the Donations and gift disclosure page).

To post your submission:

For the submission to be received, both the submission and mailing envelope must be addressed to the nominated contact person or team listed on the project page. For Mount Piper to Wallerawang, this is:

Erin Matarazzo

Application number: SSI-70279722

Locked Bag 5022 Parramatta NSW 2124

Online

1. Visit the NSW DPHI Major Projects Planning Portal: <u>www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects</u>



Scan the QR code to visit the DPHI website

- 2. Click 'Login and manage applications etc...', which is under the main banner. You will need to create an account to make a submission if you do not already have one.
- 3. Once logged in, click 'Make a Submission'
- **4.** Find Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission in the list of projects
 - **a.** Select whether you will be making a personal submission or on behalf of an organisation
 - **b.** Disclose any reportable political donations
 - **c.** Decide whether to include your personal information in your submission
 - **d.** Make a brief statement on whether you support or object the proposal
 - **e.** Fill in the online submission form. Your submission can be either typed or uploaded as a pdf.
 - **f.** Agree to the terms and conditions and submit.

For additional support, visit; https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/help/frequently-asked-questions

Connect with us

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



1800 222 537 (free call) network.solutions@transgrid.com.au

Find out more at: transgrid.com.au/wallerawang

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.