

Fact sheet

Use of helicopters to string transmission towers

February 2026

What is HumeLink?

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

Using helicopters for transmission tower stringing

During HumeLink East's construction, we plan to use helicopters to string conductor cable between transmission towers. Transmission tower stringing is expected to begin in **April 2026**.

Helicopter stringing has multiple advantages over traditional ground-based stringing, including being faster to complete, causing less disruption by not requiring bulldozers to pull cable overground and limiting access track use and reducing traffic on local roads.

What stringing involves

To string cables (conductor) between towers insulators, pulley blocks are put in place to enable the conductors to be installed. During the stringing process, the helicopter installs the pilot cable (draw wire) through the pulley blocks from the winch site to the brake site. The draw wire is then used to pull the permanent conductor through the pulley blocks.

During this work, helicopters will be flying close to the top of new transmission towers. Stringing between towers typically takes one to two days in one location. Adverse weather may mean this takes longer.

Benefits of using helicopters

Traditionally, on ground stringing methods would involve using a bulldozer on the ground to pull cables between towers but we plan to use helicopters instead for HumeLink East. This approach will provide significant benefits to landholders, the community and the environment, including:

- shorter time spent on each property
- less ground disturbance to properties and state forests
- fewer project staff and access required on properties
- less impact to ground cover and reduced need for paddock clearing
- significantly less vehicle traffic, meaning less deterioration to local roads.



An example of a similar helicopter stringing set up as will be used on HumeLink East

Managing potential impacts from noise and dust

We understand that noise and vibration from helicopters could temporarily disturb residents and livestock. This is expected to last approximately one to two days per tower, as we pull conductors and install equipment on the new line.

To help reduce any impact on residents, livestock and animals:

- helicopter operations will be limited to daylight hours
- flights will be planned to minimise flight noise near communities
- noisy activities will be scheduled for the middle of the day when impacts are the lowest
- activities will be coordinated so that multiple noisy tasks don't occur at once.

Monitoring

We take noise and vibration management seriously and are committed to reducing its impacts wherever we can. Our detailed Noise and Vibration Management Plan was developed to safeguard community wellbeing and comply with strict environmental standards, including monitoring to minimise impacts:

- real-time noise and vibration will be monitored at key locations, with alerts and action if required
- our community hotline at **1800 317 367** is available 24 hours a day.

Traffic

By using helicopters, there will be reduced light and heavy vehicle traffic on local roads. Traffic plans will be developed for areas where helicopter stringing is located near local, state and federal roads, and near blind corners or difficult areas on local roads.

How will I know if helicopter will fly near my property?

Landowners and neighbours within 500 metres of the project will be notified and consulted well in advance, by phone, for all stringing work, flight paths and planned aerial inspections, and given time to move any livestock.

We will consult with landowners about specific concerns, such as lambing or calving, on an individual basis. We will also share information through face-to-face meetings, regular phone calls and emails, SMS, and briefings to council and other groups.

Contact us

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

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

Connect with us

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



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www.transgrid.com.au/humelink

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