

HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement

Non-Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment

AUGUST 2023

What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The HumeLink project has been classified by the NSW Government as Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI). All CSSI development applications must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of the EIS is to identify and assess the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of the project to help government agencies, relevant authorities, community and stakeholders make an informed decision or provide an informed submission on the merits of the project.

EIS project footprint

The [HumeLink project](#) extends from the existing Wagga Wagga 330 kV substation to the existing Bannaby 500 kV substation and the future Maragle 500 kV substation.

The EIS footprint is based on an indicative 200 metre corridor and is defined as the area directly affected by the construction and operation of the project. It includes the indicative location of project infrastructure, the area that would be directly disturbed during construction and any easement required during operation.

The final location of all proposed infrastructure will be confirmed during detailed design.

HumeLink planning approvals and EIS

As part of the planning approval process for HumeLink, Transgrid is preparing an EIS in accordance with the [Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements \(SEARs\)](#). The SEARs identify matters which must be addressed in the EIS and essentially form its terms of reference. It includes the requirements from both the NSW and Commonwealth Governments.

A series of technical studies and reports are completed as part of the EIS. This includes the non-Aboriginal heritage topic covered in this fact sheet.

Can I provide feedback?

Once the EIS is finalised, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) will place the EIS on exhibition and call for public submissions. Feedback on the EIS can be provided directly to the DPE during this public display period.

To learn more about the HumeLink EIS, please visit the [EIS Frequently Asked Questions](#) on our website.



Non-Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment (Historical heritage)

HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement Specialist Studies



Aboriginal heritage



Electric and magnetic fields



Social



Agricultural land



Greenhouse gas and climate change risk



Soils, geology and contamination



Air quality



Historic heritage



Surface water and groundwater



Aviation safety



Hydrology and flooding



Sustainability



Biodiversity



Landscape character and visual amenity



Traffic and transport



Bushfire risk



Land use and property



Economic



Noise and vibration



Non-Aboriginal Heritage

As part of the HumeLink EIS, Transgrid completed a Historic Heritage Impact Assessment to evaluate the project's potential impact on non-Aboriginal heritage. The assessment included identifying historic and non-Aboriginal heritage items within the vicinity of the project footprint, assessing the potential impacts on these items during construction and operation of the project, and identifying proposed measures to manage and mitigate these impacts.

Non-Aboriginal heritage refers to heritage associated with Australia's inhabitants and visitors starting with the arrival of the first European settlement, as distinguished from the Aboriginal or Indigenous Australian culture.

Non-Aboriginal heritage is also called historic heritage or environmental heritage. The *NSW Heritage Act 1977* defines "items of environmental heritage" as *places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects, and precincts, of state or local heritage significance.*

What does this study assess?

The Historic Heritage Impact Assessment study area comprises the project footprint and a one-kilometre buffer on either side of the footprint.

The assessment includes:

- reviewing relevant legislation and policy context
- reviewing relevant archaeological and historical data including heritage registers and schedules, local histories and archaeological reports
- searching statutory heritage registers and schedules including:
 - » World Heritage List
 - » National Heritage List
 - » Commonwealth Heritage List
 - » State Heritage Register
 - » Heritage and Conservation Register(s) within the State Heritage Inventory (NSW Heritage)
 - » environmental heritage schedules from the Local Environmental Plans for Yass Valley, Wagga Wagga City, Snowy Valleys, Upper Lachlan Shire and Cootamundra-Gundagai Local Government Areas
- conducting field surveys within the project footprint
- assessing potential direct and indirect impacts to non-Aboriginal heritage
- recommending mitigation and management measures to minimise identified impacts.



Pictured: Stone ruin looking west from Gregadoo East Road, approximately 500 metres east of the project footprint.



Pictured: Iron pit and fireplace in Bango identified during field survey.

Direct impacts

These relate to direct harm or disturbance to potential surface and/or subsurface heritage items within the project footprint as a result of vegetation clearing, construction of transmission line structures, substations and associated temporary or permanent infrastructure including access tracks/roads.

Indirect impacts

These relate to impacts that may result in a loss of heritage value such as impacts on views to and from heritage items.



Potential construction impacts

Construction activities that have the potential to impact upon non-Aboriginal heritage values include activities such as clearing of vegetation, construction or modification of substations, construction of access tracks and tower pads and establishing the workers accommodation and construction compounds.

Three heritage sites locally listed on the *Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010* and two places from the Register of the National Estate were identified to have curtilages located partially within the project footprint. However, the project is unlikely to impact upon the heritage significance of these items.

Curtilage is the area of land around a heritage item that is included in its heritage listing to encompass its heritage significance.

The project has avoided direct impacts to the Snowy Mountain Scheme and the Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves, both listed on the National Heritage List. Some transmission line structures may cause some visual impact due to its proximity however this is expected to have a negligible impact on the heritage significance of these places.

One item on the State Heritage Register, 20 locally listed heritage items and three Register of National Estate listed items were identified within the non-Aboriginal heritage study area but not within the project footprint. Impacts are expected to be negligible.



Pictured: Kiley's Run located two kilometres west of Adjungbilly, at least 200 metres west of the project footprint. (Image supplied by Forestry Corporation of NSW)

Potential operation impacts

Maintenance activities during project operation will not result in disturbance of additional areas compared to those assessed during construction. Mitigation and management measures will be put in place to ensure that potential impacts on identified non-Aboriginal heritage items are minimised. With mitigations in place, impacts are expected to be negligible.

Proposed mitigation measures

Proposed mitigation measures to avoid or minimise the project's impact to non-Aboriginal heritage include:

- an Unexpected Finds Protocol that will outline the process to follow if any items of potential non-Aboriginal historic heritage significance, or human remains are discovered during construction

- additional surveys will be carried out prior to ground disturbing activities in areas that were previously inaccessible and/or where only visual inspection has been undertaken
- protecting identified non-Aboriginal heritage items post-construction through geospatial mapping to avoid these areas during maintenance activities.

As the project progresses through the development of the EIS and detailed design, more information about the identified impacts as well as mitigation measures will become available.

For information on Aboriginal Heritage please read the [Aboriginal Heritage](#) fact sheet.

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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