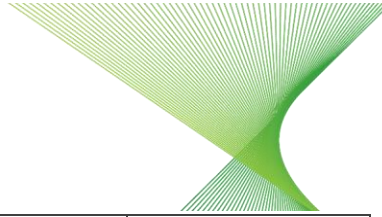


## Meeting Minutes

HumeLink Construction Reference Group – Wagga Wagga



<b>Meeting Title:</b>	HumeLink West Construction Reference Group	<b>Date:</b>	25 March 2026
<b>Location:</b>	Online (Microsoft Teams)	<b>Time:</b>	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Alec Brown (AB), Community and Stakeholder Manager, Transgrid
<b>Attendees:</b>	Alec Brown (AB), Transgrid Reem Nasr (RN), Transgrid Isobel Manchee (IM), Transgrid Katia Salazar Reviakina (KSR), Transgrid Michael Howard (MH), Transgrid Vincent Newton (VN), UGL-CPB Joint Venture Chantelle Garrett (CG), UGL-CPB Joint Venture Maria Simunovic-Winchester (MSW), Grand Pacific Health Rachel Whiting (RW), Regional Development Australia – Riverina David Stratton (DS), Community member
<b>Apologies:</b>	Sally Manning (SM), Wagga Business Chamber Scott Gray (SG), Wagga Wagga City Council Anthony Goode (AG), Goode's Coaches Max Gordon-Hall (MGH), Inspector of Ranges (Ambulance) Superintendent Stewart Alexander (SA), Fire and Rescue

## Agenda items

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
1. Acknowledgement of Country & Welcome and housekeeping	AB chaired the meeting and welcomed attendees. AB delivered Acknowledgment of Country.  AB introduced the key project representatives in attendance: Michael Howard (MH), Project Director for HumeLink West (Transgrid); and Vincent Newton (VN), representing the UGL-CPB Joint Venture.  AB noted that representatives from several councils and emergency services were unable to attend this meeting, and that the project team will work with those organisations to ensure delegates are available for future meetings.	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
<p>2. Confirmation of previous meeting minutes and review of action items</p>	<p>AB reviewed action items from the previous meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All members to review minutes and provide comments or suggested changes via email. Status: Complete.</li> <li>2. Coordinate traffic management plans for stringing phase with Council. Status: Ongoing / future action. CG confirmed that community will be advised of traffic changes once stringing plans are confirmed.</li> <li>3. Publish holiday shutdown and restart dates to stakeholders. Status: Complete.</li> <li>4. Share announcement of successful Community Investment and Benefits Program projects once confirmed. Status: Complete. Update to be provided under the community investment agenda item.</li> <li>5. RW to forward information about the RDA Riverina biosecurity workshop. Status: Complete. RW confirmed the information was sent. AB noted the project is interested in attending future biosecurity workshops or arranging training locally. RW advised the current series (three workshops funded by Energy Co) includes sessions in Wagga, Hunter and Hay (likely early May). MH expressed interest in a locally run biosecurity session. RW to respond to an enquiry from Chris Jones (UGL-CPB) regarding this. AB noted CSU also has a biosecurity course and suggested this as an alternative if an RDA session is not available locally.</li> <li>6. Discuss biosecurity measures with councils/landowners, consider improvements and table updates at next CRG. Status: Complete. Biosecurity included as an agenda item (see below).</li> <li>7. Maintain IVMS/dashcam monitoring and driver coaching. Status: Ongoing. CG confirmed weekly driver risk reports are in place. IVMS data is used to monitor speed, braking, acceleration, idling, and restricted road usage. Dashcam footage can be reviewed in conjunction with community-reported incidents. Remediation actions are taken where unsafe driving is identified.</li> <li>8. Notify councils at least one week before any community information drop-in sessions. Status: Ongoing. KSR confirmed this is standard practice, supported by monthly council meetings at which an engagement look-ahead is provided.</li> </ol>	<p>Action: AB to follow up with UGL-CPB JV to provide the workforce histogram requested by RDA Riverina.</p> <p>Action: RW to respond to enquiry from Chris Jones (UGL-CPB) regarding biosecurity workshop for the project.</p> <p>Action: AB / Transgrid to investigate biosecurity training options (RDA Riverina workshop or CSU course) for the project team, subject to RW's response.</p> <p>Action: CG to advise community of traffic management changes once stringing plans are confirmed.</p>

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	<p>9. Request for workforce histogram. Status: Pending. RW noted the last deadline was August 2025 and the data is overdue. AB apologised and committed to following up with the delivery partner.</p>	
<p>3. Project update</p>	<p>Presenter: Michael Howard (MH), Project Director, HumeLink West (Transgrid).</p> <p>MH provided an overview of HumeLink West scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 140 km of 500 kV overhead transmission lines</li> <li>• Approximately 365 towers</li> <li>• New Gugaa Substation (Gregadoo)</li> <li>• New Maragle Substation (Nurenmeremong, in the Maragle State Forest)</li> <li>• Upgrade of existing Wagga Wagga 330 kV Substation (near the Gregadoo waste facility)</li> <li>• Accommodation facilities at Tarcutta and Kunama</li> <li>• 11 compounds and laydown areas</li> <li>• 71 access points</li> <li>• Approximately 325 km of access tracks</li> </ul> <p>Progress to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accommodation facilities operational and being expanded</li> <li>• All compounds and laydown areas established, now actively in use</li> <li>• 37 towers erected</li> <li>• 202 tower pads completed (approximately two-thirds of total required)</li> <li>• 185 km of access tracks completed (of approximately 325 km required)</li> <li>• 49 access points completed</li> <li>• Foundation works approximately 25% complete (~90 foundations done)</li> <li>• Gugaa and Maragle substations: bulk earthworks and drainage complete; foundations and piling underway; transformer and reactor deliveries scheduled for April</li> <li>• Wagga Wagga substation: stringing of the existing line deviation to start in April (draw wire run-out planned for late April)</li> <li>• Cullinga Park Lane (Tarcutta) compound and concrete batch plant operational</li> <li>• Lower Bago compound and concrete batch plant recently completed and operational</li> <li>• Road upgrades completed: Mates Gully Road (Tarcutta), Ashfords Road (Gregadoo), and Green Hills Access Road (Kunama)</li> </ul>	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	<p>Presenter: Vincent Newton (VN), UGL-CPB Joint Venture.</p> <p>VN provided additional detail and project photos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 tower erection crews operating across the project simultaneously</li> <li>• Approximately 45 towers erected or assembled on the ground ready for erection</li> <li>• Access track focus has shifted to the southern end of the project (Wondalga through to Maragle)</li> <li>• Vegetation clearing continuing, with significant focus on pine and hardwood forest at the southern end</li> <li>• Nesting boxes being installed; designs for glider crossing infrastructure in progress</li> <li>• Foundation work heading south from Gregadoo; piling underway at both Gugaa and Maragle substations</li> <li>• Gugaa laydown has been heavily used; focus now shifting to central and southern laydowns as works progress south</li> </ul>	
<p>4. Construction three-month look ahead</p>	<p>Presenter: Vincent Newton (VN), UGL-CPB Joint Venture.</p> <p>Ongoing activities over the coming months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excavation and piling for tower foundations (approximately 75% of foundations still to be completed)</li> <li>• Deliveries of foundation steel reinforcement, tower steel, and stringing steel</li> <li>• Vegetation clearing, excavation and earthwork</li> <li>• Installing nesting boxes for wildlife and poles for glider mammals</li> <li>• Tower assembly and erection – ongoing across the alignment</li> <li>• Stringing to commence in the next month, starting at the Wagga Wagga substation deviation and progressively heading south</li> <li>• Lower Bago compound and concrete batch plant now operational and servicing the southern end of the project</li> </ul> <p>Recently completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road upgrades at Mates Gully Road (Tarcutta), Ashfords Road (Gregadoo), and Green Hills Access Road (Kunama)</li> <li>• Cullinga Park Lane, Tarcutta and Lower Bago Road compounds and concrete batch plants online</li> </ul>	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
5. Biosecurity management	<p>Presenter: Chantelle Garrett (CG), UGL-CPB Joint Venture.</p> <p>CG outlined the project's biosecurity approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual property management plans developed with each landowner, addressing specific biosecurity requirements. Plans are updated as issues arise.</li> <li>• Pre-entry meetings with landowners are conducted before crews access any property, to reinforce the importance of biosecurity and understand specific property risks.</li> <li>• Compliance with biosecurity requirements is mandatory when travelling between properties.</li> <li>• Washdown and disinfection stations are used at property entry/exit points; usage is recorded via QR code scan or hard-copy forms (installed due to phone reception issues in some areas).</li> <li>• IVMS data cross-referenced with biosecurity records to verify vehicles have completed washdowns at required locations.</li> <li>• Biosecurity kits carried in all vehicles.</li> <li>• Random compliance checks conducted.</li> <li>• In dry conditions, brush-down or air-blowing may be used as an alternative to full washdown.</li> <li>• Large plant and equipment arriving on site can require a full day to wash down before being permitted onto properties.</li> <li>• All personnel, boots and clothing are included in washdown requirements.</li> </ul> <p>Member question (DS): DS noted that cattle have been observed accessing access tracks and interacting with packaging, bunting and flagging used to mark environmental areas and asked whether fencing improvements were being considered.</p> <p>CG confirmed: metal signs are used in place of corflute (which cattle will chew); ropes are used instead of orange bunting/flagging where possible. Other measures include removing star picket caps and similar items after discussion with landowners. CG noted that mitigations are developed on a property-by-property basis in consultation with landowners.</p> <p>VN noted: silt fences can also be trampled or eaten by cattle; pole logs are used to manage this. VN confirmed star picket caps were recently removed on one property following landowner advice.</p> <p>DS suggested mobile electric fencing as a potential improvement to keep cattle away from packaged tower materials on access tracks. VN agreed to consider this.</p>	<p>Action: VN / UGL-CPB JV to consider mobile electric fencing as a mitigation for cattle accessing packaged tower materials on access tracks, and to investigate further with relevant landowners.</p>

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
6. Vehicle management and road safety	<p>Presenter: Vincent Newton (VN) and Chantelle Garrett (CG), UGL-CPB Joint Venture.</p> <p>VN outlined existing vehicle management measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All project vehicles fitted with In-Vehicle Management Systems (IVMS) tracking speed, braking, acceleration, distance, idling time, and route compliance. Weekly driver risk reports are reviewed and used to coach drivers.</li> <li>Vehicle movement plans, integrated with the IVMS, allow specific roads to be tagged so that vehicle alerts are triggered if drivers access restricted roads; historical vehicle movements can be reviewed.</li> <li>UHF call-up signs installed on two road sections in response to community feedback, for heavy vehicle management.</li> <li>Regular driver training, including a recent project-wide toolbox talk on driving behaviour and road safety across the whole workforce.</li> <li>Journey management planning addresses fatigue, weather and road conditions, vehicle condition, and load management.</li> </ul> <p>CG advised that branded project signage is being developed and will be rolled out within approximately one to six weeks. The signage will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Display the project 1800 number to enable community members to report incidents or provide feedback</li> <li>Assist drivers with approved route compliance</li> <li>Identify roads with specific restrictions (e.g. water cart access only)</li> </ul> <p>Member question (DS): DS raised a perception gap on Livingston Gully Road, where local road users are travelling at approximately 100 km/h and project vehicles travelling at around 40 km/h, creating a frustrating differential. DS suggested a target of around 80 km/h would be a reasonable compromise.</p> <p>VN acknowledged the point. VN noted project vehicles travel more slowly partly to avoid creating dust clouds for neighbouring properties, and water carts are used for dust suppression. VN confirmed he would reinforce to crews not to travel unnecessarily slowly, and that driving to conditions is the guiding principle.</p> <p>DS raised the Livingston Gully Road upgrade (resheet and seal of the first 1.5 km). VN confirmed revised plans have been submitted to Council; once approved, the</p>	<p>Action: CG to progress rollout of branded project signage (1800 number and route compliance) across strategic locations within approximately one to six weeks.</p> <p>Action: VN to reinforce to all project drivers not to travel unnecessarily slowly on Livingston Gully Road; to drive to conditions while being mindful of local road users.</p> <p>Action: VN to progress Livingston Gully Road resheet/seal once Council approval is received.</p>

**Commented [RN1]:** @Katia Salazar Reviakina Hey Kat when we travelled down Kajeura road the ivms told us to travel at 80kms. Did it do this for LGR as well? I can't remember?

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	work will proceed as soon as possible. Some gravel has already been laid.	
7. Workforce, accommodation & local capacity	<p>Presenter: Chantelle Garrett (CG), UGL-CPB Joint Venture.</p> <p>Workforce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,000 workers inducted to date; 500 (25%) are local and regional workers</li> <li>• 23 apprentices and trainees directly employed (not including subcontractors), working across substations, tower assembly and erection, site administration, and civil construction</li> <li>• Two pre-employment programs underway; trainees are now on site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 8 trainees for Civil Construction</li> <li>– 8 trainees for Certificate II in Overhead Transmission Lines</li> <li>– 9 locally-based people joined the pre-employment program</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Current recruitment focus: qualified Certificate III OHTL Line workers (as stringing works commence)</li> </ul> <p>Member question (RW): RW asked how the trainees are going - whether they are well supported and satisfied with their roles, and what the demographic profile (age, background) is.</p> <p>CG committed to obtaining a full report from the People &amp; Culture team on trainee wellbeing, progress and demographics, and to share a video profile of one trainee (Taylor) who appears to be enjoying the role. RW noted she is tracking one specific trainee supported through the RDA program. CG invited RW to provide that person's name for a specific follow-up.</p> <p>Accommodation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accommodation facilities at Tarcutta and Kunama are operational; both are being expanded to meet peak demand</li> <li>• Additional 96 beds being added at Tarcutta (delivered as modules, arriving over the coming week)</li> <li>• Additional 72 beds being added at Kunama</li> <li>• Local accommodation is being used to cover the shortfall during the expansion period</li> <li>• Combined capacity will increase from 696 to 864 beds by June 2026, remaining within approved limits</li> <li>• Peak occupancy across both facilities expected by June 2026</li> </ul>	<p>Action: CG to obtain and share a report with RW on trainee wellbeing, progress and demographic profile.</p> <p>Action: AB / KSR to arrange for Humelink West to post jobs and opportunities directly to Jobs Riverina Murray platform.</p>

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workers' health and wellbeing programs: Naomi K Yoga (Borambola) and Off Grid Fitness (Tumut) are providing on-site fitness classes; trivia nights are being sourced from local providers (advertised through community engagement and events)</li> </ul> <p>Contracts and local spend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 156 total contracts; 50 are local (approximately one-third)</li> <li>• Recent local contract awards include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Regional Express Pty Ltd</li> <li>○ Superior Crane Hire Pty Ltd</li> <li>○ Bulpunga Enterprises Pty Ltd</li> <li>○ Holcim Australia Pty Ltd</li> <li>○ Huon Contractors</li> <li>○ Rapley Earthworks Pty Ltd</li> <li>○ Excel Gray Bruni Pty Ltd</li> <li>○ Woodys Earthmoving &amp; Spraying</li> <li>○ Machell Bros Earthmoving</li> <li>○ Garry Gillespie Constructions</li> <li>○ Horizon United Group</li> <li>○ R Con Civil Pty Ltd.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• \$24M spent with local businesses; \$9.95M with Indigenous businesses; 289 local and First Nations businesses engaged</li> <li>• By LGA:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wagga Wagga City Council \$10M</li> <li>○ Snowy Valleys Council \$4.8M</li> <li>○ Greater Hume \$7.5M</li> <li>○ Goulburn \$8.5M</li> <li>○ ACT \$4.8M</li> <li>○ Hilltops \$3.4M</li> <li>○ Cootamundra-Gundagai \$1.1M</li> <li>○ Yass Valley \$197K</li> <li>○ Albury \$2.8M.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Community programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learner Driver Program: 163 student driving lessons delivered</li> <li>• She Can Too Scholarships: 12 female students funded for uniforms, and technology (Year 11 and 12)</li> <li>• Community engagement:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wagga Wagga City Council Tarcutta facility tour</li> <li>○ RFS volunteer training for staff;</li> <li>○ Tumbatrek</li> <li>○ Tumbafest</li> <li>○ Tumut, Adelong and Tumbarumba shows</li> <li>○ Try A Trade Tumut</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Riverina Harvest Festival Children's Art Precinct</li> <li>○ donated safety boots and UHF radios to Tarcutta RFS</li> <li>○ Tarcutta Touch Association referee shirts and grounds assistance</li> <li>○ Batlow Show</li> <li>○ Lisa Coates Memorial Barrel Race</li> <li>○ Community first aid training (remote/isolated site first aid – 14 places offered to community members including RFS, CWA and landowners)</li> <li>○ HumeLink West Tarcutta Campdraft</li> <li>○ Tarcutta and Humula public school facility tours</li> <li>○ school holiday programs at Batlow and Humula.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HumeLink West has a sublease of a shopfront in Batlow as an office, which is also made available to the Snowy Valleys Resilience Hub for community initiatives at no cost.</li> </ul> <p>RW asked how jobs opportunities such as the trivia night presenter role are being advertised. CG confirmed this has been communicated by word of mouth through community events and contacts, as the role is small in scale. RW suggested broader advertising through community channels as the project has local connections. CG noted all more permanent roles are advertised on Seek.</p> <p>Action from chat (RW/AB): RW requested that HumeLink West post directly to Jobs Riverina Murray (online platform). AB/RN confirmed this will be requested. The last known contact was Xylia Fernandez (as of June 2025). KSR to share information with HumeLink West.</p>	
Community Investment and Benefits update	<p>Presenter: Reem Nasr (RN), Community &amp; Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, HumeLink / Transgrid.</p> <p><b>HumeLink West – CIBP funded projects</b></p> <p>118 CIBP initiatives were submitted across the HumeLink alignment; 23 projects were shortlisted across Wagga Wagga and Snowy Valleys Council LGAs. Following community drop-in sessions, a prioritisation survey and council screening, four projects were selected for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tarcutta Recreational Grounds Infrastructure Improvement Plan</li> <li>● Batlow Multi-Purpose Leisure Hub</li> </ul>	<p>Action: All members to help promote the Transgrid Community Partnership Program (opens 30 March 2026).</p> <p>Action: AB / Transgrid to share telecommunication booster site locations with</p>

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adelong Golden Gully Caravan Park Accommodation Upgrade</li> <li>Carcoola Children's Centre at Tumbarumba</li> </ul> <p>HumeLink West is currently working with the four recipient organisations to finalise quotes and project details.</p> <p>Transgrid Community Partnership Program (CPP): The CPP (grants of up to \$5,000) opens Monday 30 March 2026 at <a href="http://www.transgrid.com.au/community/community-partnerships-program">www.transgrid.com.au/community/community-partnerships-program</a>. RN asked members to help promote the program.</p> <p><b>Landscape Rehydration Program (Mulloon Institute)</b> Transgrid is funding a landscape rehydration program delivered by the Mulloon Institute. Three communities of practice will be established across the HumeLink alignment; the first is at Toolles Creek (within the HumeLink West footprint). An EOI for the other two communities of practice will be released. The Mulloon Institute works with landholders on capacity building, demonstration sites and on-ground projects to improve water retention, runoff quality and catchment health. Catchment mapping is currently underway for site selection.</p> <p><b>Telecommunications Program</b> Presenter: Alec Brown (AB), Transgrid. AB provided an overview of the AER-approved telecommunications connectivity program. The program will address black spots across the HumeLink alignment. A booster solution is being deployed on project towers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Picks up a mobile signal from up to 20 km away and rebroadcasts it for up to 2.5–3 km</li> <li>Powered by a 12V lithium iron phosphate battery charged by solar panel</li> <li>First two sites (on HumeLink East alignment) being finalised; information to be shared within approximately two weeks</li> <li>Ongoing black spot analysis being used to identify further sites across the full alignment</li> <li>Sites selected based on: black spot data, emergency services input, road network coverage, and tourist/community locations</li> </ul> <p><b>Transgrid – Mental Health Program (Grand Pacific Health)</b></p>	<p>CRG members within approximately two weeks.</p> <p>Action: MSW to lock in Mental Health First Aid dates by mid-April and communicate to CRG members.</p>

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	<p>Presenter: Maria Simunovic-Winchester (MSW), Community Resilience and Engagement Coordinator, Grand Pacific Health (GPH). MSW delivered an acknowledgement of lived experience of mental health concerns before presenting on GPH's program. GPH overview: provider of mental health services across NSW, Murrumbidgee and ACT. Manages 12 headspace centres, 4 Medicare Mental Health centres, the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP), and employs 450+ staff. Project aim: to strengthen mental health, wellbeing and resilience of communities impacted by the HumeLink project, through outreach services, early intervention, referral pathways and capacity-building initiatives.</p> <p>Upcoming activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accidental Counsellor Training – Tumbarumba (31 March 2026) and Batlow (1 April 2026). A one-day training session equipping community members with skills to support others who disclose mental health difficulties. Open to anyone aged 16+ or professionals/community members who may find themselves in a counselling situation.</li> <li>• Mental Health First Aid – a two-day accredited training course covering depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, and the link between substance use and mental health. Includes immediate first aid responses and follow-up actions. Participants sit a mini exam and receive an official certificate (renewed every three years). Dates to be confirmed; MSW aims to have sessions locked in by mid-April across the HumeLink catchment.</li> <li>• Suggested Community Resilience Expo – proposed for September 2026 at Batlow Showground, following interest from the Snowy Valleys Hub meeting. Will cover health, wellbeing, disaster resilience, rural fire service engagement, and ambulance service community connection.</li> <li>• Wellbeing sessions – meditation, martial arts, sleep hygiene, healthy eating; multiple sessions across impacted communities, locations and dates TBC (April 2026).</li> </ul> <p>Member question (DS): DS asked what Mental Health First Aid is and whether it is available within the worker camps. CG confirmed that Mates in Construction training (including mental health first aid) is conducted at the camps. Accredited staff are present in both camps.</p>	

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	<p>Regular R U OK-style check-in events and BBQs are held. A psychologist is accessible for workers.</p> <p>CG highlighted a complementary arrangement: HumeLink West has sublet a shopfront in Batlow as an office space, which the Snowy Valleys Resilience Hub uses free of charge for community initiatives including the upcoming training sessions.</p> <p>RN noted that HumeLink East is also considering wellbeing initiatives at their camp (e.g. a men's walking group).</p> <p>DS raised that Batlow remains without fuel supply (confirmed by MSW who had passed through that morning), which adds to community isolation and mental health pressures. AB acknowledged the issue and noted the importance of GPH reaching out to communities across the wider alignment.</p>	
Additional items / any other business	<p><b>Spoil management from piling works</b></p> <p>DS asked about the management and disposal of virgin soil spoil generated by piling and excavation works across the 365+ tower foundations and associated access tracks.</p> <p>VN confirmed that wherever possible, spoil is discussed with landowners and retained on-site if they have a use for it (e.g. building pads, levelling). Foundation spoil can be relatively clean, though the material quality varies significantly across the alignment depending on stratum (floodplain to rocky hillside terrain). DS acknowledged that plasticity index will vary widely. VN noted that larger properties each present different circumstances and the approach is determined in consultation with each landowner.</p> <p>DS confirmed he has a note with Helena (HLW JV) seeking an update, which VN acknowledged.</p> <p><b>Aircraft firefighting / tower alignment near Mount Flakney</b></p> <p>DS raised concerns with local RFS and fire command around Gugaa that the HumeLink West tower alignment will affect the flight path previously used by fixed-wing aircraft when fighting fires on Mount Flakney. DS noted new firefighting strategies may be needed and suggested there may be room for a conversation with local RFS and Wagga fire command to develop new processes.</p> <p>DS also noted a development proposal for a solar farm and battery storage adjacent to Gugaa Substation and suggested that open water storage for rotary-wing aircraft (water bombers) could be a useful legacy infrastructure project in the area.</p>	<p>Action: AB / Transgrid to follow up with RFS regarding the impact of the HumeLink West tower alignment on fixed-wing firefighting operations on Mount Flakney, and to liaise with local RFS and Wagga fire command on new firefighting strategies.</p> <p>Action: AB / KSR to request HumeLink West begin posting job opportunities to Jobs Riverina Murray; KSR to connect HumeLink West with Emily and/or the relevant platform contact.</p>

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
	<p>AB committed to following up with RFS regarding Mount Flakney and the implications of the tower alignment for firefighting operations.</p> <p><b>Livingston Gully Road speed / road use</b> Addressed under Item 6 above.</p>	
Next meeting	<p>AB closed the formal agenda and thanked all attendees for their time.</p> <p>The date and format of the next meeting were not confirmed at this meeting. AB noted that actions from the meeting would be circulated to all members.</p>	<p>Action: RN to circulate meeting minutes and action items to all members, and to confirm date of next CRG meeting and notify members.</p>

#### Actions

Agenda item	Description	Responsibility
Action items review	Follow up with UGL-CPB JV to provide the workforce histogram requested by RDA Riverina.	AB / HumeLink West
Action items review	RW to respond to inquiry from Chris Jones (UGL-CPB) regarding biosecurity workshop attendance.	RW
Action items review	Investigate biosecurity training options (RDA Riverina workshop or CSU course) for the project team, subject to RW's response.	AB / MH
Action items review	Advise community of traffic management changes once stringing plans are confirmed.	CG / HumeLink West
Biosecurity management	Consider mobile electric fencing as a mitigation to keep cattle away from packaged tower materials on access tracks; investigate with relevant landowners.	VN / UGL-CPB JV
Vehicle management and road safety	Progress rollout of branded project signage (1800 number and route compliance) across strategic locations within approximately one to six weeks.	CG / HumeLink West
Vehicle management and road safety	Reinforce to all project drivers not to travel unnecessarily slowly on Livingston Gully Road; drive to conditions while being mindful of local road users.	VN / UGL-CPB JV
Vehicle management and road safety	Progress Livingston Gully Road resheet/seal once Council approval of revised plans is received.	VN / UGL-CPB JV

Agenda item	Description	Responsibility
Workforce, accommodation & local capacity	Obtain and share a report with RW on trainee wellbeing, progress and demographic profile (including video profile of Taylor). Follow up individually with the specific trainee referred by RW if name provided.	CG / HumeLink West
Workforce, accommodation & local capacity	Arrange for HumeLink West to post job opportunities to Jobs Riverina Murray platform. KSR to connect HumeLink West with the relevant platform contact (previously Xylia Fernandez).	AB / KSR
Community investment update	All members to help promote the Transgrid Community Partnership Program (CPP), which opens 30 March 2026.	All members
Community investment update	Share telecommunications booster site locations with CRG members within approximately two weeks.	AB / Transgrid
Community investment update	MSW to lock in Mental Health First Aid training dates by mid-April and communicate to CRG members across the HumeLink catchment.	MSW / GPH
Additional items	Follow up with RFS regarding the impact of the HumeLink West tower alignment on fixed-wing firefighting operations on Mount Flakney; liaise with local RFS and Wagga fire command on new firefighting strategies.	AB / Transgrid
Next meeting	Circulate meeting minutes and full action register to all members. Confirm date and format of the next HumeLink West CRG meeting and notify members.	RN

Minutes prepared by: Isobel Manchee, Transgrid

Date prepared:

Minutes approved by: Alec Brown, Chairperson

Date approved: