

Transmission Line 51 and Wagga 330 kV substation

Upgrades to connect into the future network

July 2026

Amendment Report

Introduction

Planning finalised to support project assessment

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share feedback, ask questions and participate in the VNI West (NSW) consultation process so far. We have finalised planning activity for the project to support the environmental assessment. This fact sheet provides an overview of proposed amendments to the project following community and stakeholder consultation and more detailed design considerations.

VNI West is a proposed new 500 kV double-circuit overhead transmission line that will connect the electricity networks in New South Wales and Victoria.

Where planning has progressed to

Since the public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in August 2025, Transgrid has further refined the project based on community and stakeholder feedback, as well as ongoing design and technical requirements.

These proposed amendments and refinements have been assessed in an Amendment Report submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) alongside a Submissions Report responding to issues raised during the EIS exhibition period.

These updates form part of the final stage of the planning approval process.

Why upgrade to a double-circuit line?

Transmission Line 51 is currently a single-circuit 330 kV transmission line, connecting Wagga 330 kV substation with Tumut.

Upgrading the Gregadoo section of this line to a double-circuit 330 kV transmission line allows more electricity to be carried along the same route, without needing a new corridor. It is also required to integrate Transgrid's VNI West, EnergyConnect and HumeLink projects, delivering both a 500 kV transmission connection between the future Dinawan and Gugaa 500 kV substations, while maintaining a 330 kV supply between Wagga 330 kV substation and Tumut via Gugaa substation.

What's proposed in the Transmission Line 51 upgrade?

The Transmission Line 51 upgrade (referred to in the EIS as "network augmentation works") involves replacing a nine-kilometre section of transmission line at Gregadoo, located between the existing Wagga 330 kV substation at Gregadoo and the future Gugaa 500 kV substation.

The upgrade proposes removing the towers and lines for the existing single-circuit 330 kV transmission line, and then installing new towers and lines to host a double-circuit 330 kV line.

Transgrid will use the same 60-metre-wide easement; however, the new transmission line structures will be up to 56 metres tall - around 15-20 metres taller than the existing towers.

The network map on the next page outlines the configuration between the three Transgrid projects, VNI West (NSW), HumeLink (under construction) and EnergyConnect (completed):

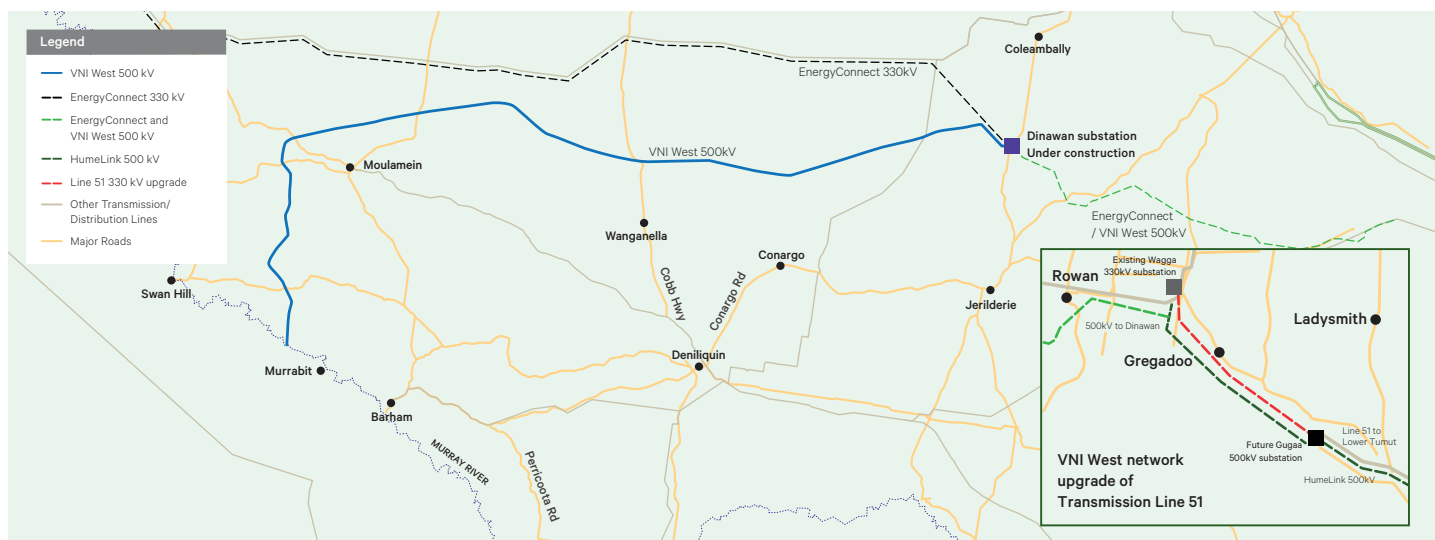


Figure 1: Map of VNI West (NSW) alignment including network upgrade of Line 51.

What's changed since exhibition

Additional electrical equipment at existing Wagga 330 kV substation.

Ongoing network planning has identified the potential need for additional electrical equipment at the existing Wagga 330 kV substation to support network stability. This includes the installation of two new shunt reactors and associated switch bays to support high-voltage operations. The shunt reactors would help stabilise electricity voltage within the network during load changes, particularly during lower electricity demand periods, as they will absorb excess power.

To support these changes, construction would include a new internal access road, an additional entry/exit connection with Ashfords Road, and earthworks within the existing substation. These works will be delivered as part of Stage 2 of the project.

What happens next

The VNI West (NSW) EIS, Amendment Report, and Submissions Report have been submitted to the NSW DPPI for review before a determination is made.

If approved, the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces will issue the Conditions of Approval for construction and operation of VNI West (NSW) Stages 1 and 2 (to the right). The Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water will also review the determination and decide whether to grant approval, including any additional conditions.

How the project will be delivered

VNI West is proposed to be delivered in two stages. This staging reflects the opportunity to connect renewable energy projects in the South West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) as soon as practical, and to also align with a schedule delay announced by VNI West in Victoria.

Stage 1

Developed in conjunction with Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo), as part of EnergyCo's South West Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure Project (or South West RNIP). This stage is expected to start in mid-2027 and take about two years to complete. It includes work at two locations:

- At Gregadoo, a planned upgrade to approximately nine kilometres of Transmission Line 51, between the existing Wagga 330 kV substation and the future Gugaa 500 kV substation. Additionally, Transgrid will undertake reconfiguration work at both Wagga 330 kV and Gugaa 500 kV substations resulting in a 500 kV connection between Gugaa and Dinawan, and continuity of supply along Transmission Line 51 to Lower Tumut.
- At Bundure, Dinawan substation will be expanded to manage the 500 kV network, and additional infrastructure installed to facilitate connections from the South West REZ.

Stage 2

The project is expected to start in mid-2028 and be complete in late 2030, and includes activity at two regions:

- It will involve construction of a new 500 kV transmission line between Dinawan substation and the Victorian border.
- At the existing Wagga 330 kV substation (Ashfords Road, Gregadoo), we are planning to install new electrical equipment (shunt reactors, which manage voltage changes in the network), and undertake civil work and earthwork within the substation site to support this installation.



Figure 2: Example of a free-standing 330 kV transmission line structure.



Get in touch

If you have questions or would like more information, please get in touch.

We're committed to keeping you informed and are available if you have questions.

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Want to stay updated?

To learn more about upcoming consultations and explore more information on VNI West in NSW, please visit transgrid.com.au/vniw or scan the QR code.

