

Meeting Minutes

HumeLink East Construction Reference Group

Meeting title:	HumeLink East Construction Reference Group	Date:	23 June 2026
Location:	Crookwell Services Club	Time:	4:00 PM – 5:15 PM
Chairperson:	Chris O'Brien (COB, Community & Stakeholder Lead, HumeLink East)		
Attendees:		Apologies:	
Gill Elphinston, Regional Development Australia – Southern NSW & ACT (online) Ian McGrath, Community member (online) Katrina Nixon, Community member Anne-Maree Clarke, Community member Margot Shannon, Yass Valley Business Chamber (online) Terry Cooper, Yass Valley Council Robert Johnson, Upper Lachlan Shire Council (In lieu of Kazi) Emma Hassett, HumeLink East Nea Pilgrim, HumeLink East Wayne Poulsen, HumeLink East Isobel Manchec, Transgrid		Marcayla Stopp, Onerwal LALC Belle Green, NSW Ambulance Alec Brown, Transgrid Insp. David Cowell, Hume Police District, NSW Police Insp. Krystaal Hinds, RFS Southern Tablelands Suzie Presswell, HumeLink East Kazi Mahmud, Upper Lachlan Shire Council	

Agenda items

Agenda item	Notes	Decisions / actions
Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country	The Chair, Chris O'Brien, opened the meeting, welcomed attendees and delivered an Acknowledgement of Country.	
Confirmation of previous minutes and review of action items	The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and outstanding action items noted. - Katrina Nixon proposed a restriction on heavy-vehicle movements on Woodhouselee Road during school bus hours (addressed under Item 5). - Gill Elphinston advised she had not received the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) report and quarterly employment figures by email. Emma Hassett confirmed the report is published online and undertook to forward the link. Gill will review the action list to confirm prior distribution of materials as cited in the actions table.	Emma Hassett to email Gill Elphinston the link to the SIMP and quarterly employment figures.
Project update	Wayne Poulsen presented the HumeLink East construction update. Progress achieved to date: Tower pads completed: 335	-

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	• Access tracks completed: 210 km • Foundations completed: 183 • Towers under construction: 12 • Towers erected (cumulative): 74 • Towers dressed and ready for stringing: 36 • Reactors delivered to Bannaby: 2 • Helicopter stringing commenced at Adjungbilly. Wayne noted that construction progress along the alignment is now clearly visible.	
Construction look ahead	Wayne Poulsen detailed the planned activities for the next three months across the Yass Valley and Upper Lachlan Shire: • Construction of approximately 82 km of access track and 40 access points within the Yass Valley local government area. • Assembly of towers on the ground in readiness for erection. • Continued steel deliveries near Jerrawa, Broadway and Dalton. • Conductor stringing by helicopter continues in the south. • Continued tower erection, with more than 20 towers now erected in the Central region. • Delivery and erection of hurdles to protect local infrastructure during stringing. Discussion • Chris O'Brien queried what this means for heavy vehicle movements. Wayne advised that heavy-vehicle movements relate predominantly to steel deliveries. Civil works are nearing completion, with approximately one month of tower-pad and access-track construction remaining before activity reduces significantly. Steel deliveries will continue at current rates until year-end, after which heavy-vehicle movements will primarily involve conductor delivery. • Ian McGrath queried the number of pads remaining near Yass. Wayne advised that 62 of 200 pads in the Central region remain outstanding, with approximately 40 expected to remain by the end of July, subject to access and handover.	-

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	• Katrina Nixon queried progress in the Upper Lachlan area. Wayne advised that 72 of a planned 125 pads are complete, with approximately 90% expected to proceed without difficulty and environmental constraints affecting the remainder. In the South, approximately 65% of pads are complete with around 90 remaining; 24 pads are constrained by environmental issues and are expected to be resolved this year. All civil works are forecast for completion by year-end. • Margot Shannon asked whether the project had reached resource capacity. Wayne advised that each scope peaks independently: civil works have passed peak and are reducing, foundations are at peak, and tower construction is approaching peak (currently approximately 70%), with additional crews to be engaged during the quarter. • In response to a question from Chris O'Brien's about current camp capacity, Emma Hassett advised that the Adjungbilly camp is fully occupied and the Yass camp is approximately 75% occupied.	
Road safety and maintenance	Road maintenance • Road maintenance agreements are in place with Snowy Valleys Council and Upper Lachlan Shire Council. Discussions are continuing with Yass Valley Council. Independent road condition surveys were completed prior to construction and shared with councils; the same process will be undertaken at completion. • Nea Pilgrim requested feedback regarding the standing maintenance agreement with Upper Lachlan Shire Council. Robert Johnson (Upper Lachlan Shire Council) advised that limited feedback had been received to date, and that some roads may require review at project completion. • Anne-Maree Clarke raised heavy-vehicle wear on the Goulburn–Taralga road, particularly the left lane from Taralga toward Tarlo bridge, which has deteriorated noticeably since construction commenced. It was noted that the current arrangement funds routine maintenance only, with larger rehabilitation works to be	• Margot Shannon to email road details to Chris O'Brien for investigation. • Robert Johnson to inspect heavy-vehicle wear on the Goulburn–Taralga road. • Wayne Poulsen and Nea Pilgrim to implement measures limiting oversize-vehicle movements on Woodhouselee Road during school bus hours, and reinforce through toolbox talks. • Nea Pilgrim to investigate the undelivered SMS notification. • Reem Nasr to circulate the 1800 number and project email to CRG members with Minutes.

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	considered separately. Robert Johnson undertook to inspect the location. - Wayne advised that a Section 138 permit (a council permit to undertake works) had been obtained, on application dated 21 May, for a road raised through community complaints, with works expected to have commenced or been completed. Ian McGrath reported that a subsequent grading had markedly improved the road's condition. - Margot Shannon reported she had received a message from a community member that a further road required grading as it was damaging their car. Margot undertook to email details to Chris O'Brien for investigation. Road safety - Katrina Nixon raised safety concerns regarding the bridge over Pejar Creek, where a school bus was required to reverse on meeting a truck, and reported heavy vehicles travelling on Woodhouselee Road during school bus hours and contractor vehicles exceeding the speed limit/not driving to conditions. School bus services typically operate between 7:30 am and 9:30 am. Robert Johnson advised that Council route conditions are limited to prohibiting travel through school zones and on unsealed roads above 60 km/h. Nea Pilgrim and Wayne Poulsen advised that the project will reinforce expectations through toolbox talks and will seek to avoid oversize-vehicle movements on Woodhouselee Road during school bus hours. - Anne-Maree Clarke suggested that the school at Taralga be advised directly of movements so they might be able to watch any future deliveries. She also said there might be STEM opportunities through the project for the school children. - Margot reported that a heavy-vehicle movement had taken place impacting a road near her, and she had not received a notification. Anne-Maree Clarke noted this was likely due to Telstra maintenance works. Nea Pilgrim undertook to investigate.	

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	• Anne-Maree Clarke noted that Telstra outages may have prevented delivery of SMS notifications. • All project vehicles display a HumeLink East identifier. The community was encouraged to report any concerns through the project's channels. • Margot Shannon commended the conduct of project drivers pulling over to let vehicles pass them on Childowla Road. • Ian McGrath noted community uncertainty regarding responsibility for road maintenance. Wayne clarified that the project may maintain certain roads under agreement with councils and, where works are immediately required, may coordinate directly with councils, particularly in response to complaints. The project is pursuing a formal roads maintenance agreement with Yass Valley Council. Ian McGrath undertook to refer future community complaints to HumeLink.	
Community investment update	Nea Pilgrim provided the Community Investment Benefits Program (CIBP) update for HumeLink East. Eighteen projects along the HumeLink East alignment have been awarded funding, several of which are now underway or nearing completion. Case studies were presented on: • Bookham RFS – upgrades to water access and firefighting capability, including a 45,000-litre steel water tank, a fast-flow pump and standpipe hydrant, and a completed 12 m × 10 m concrete truck stand; the next stage is underway. • Upper Lachlan Wood Guild – tool and equipment upgrades, expanded workshop capacity, and four purpose-built woodworking benches nearing completion. Chris O'Brien provided the following Transgrid Community Investment and Benefit Program updates: • Landscape rehydration (Mulloon Institute): the first two field days were held at Bookham (32 attendees) and Tooloes Creek (22 attendees), with the next	• Nea Pilgrim to promote the 11 September Crookwell/Taralga field day through HumeLink East channels. • Chris O'Brien to confirm the telecommunications coverage assessment of the Woodhouselee and Bookham areas.

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	session scheduled for Crookwell/Taralga on 11 September. Ian McGrath, who attended at Bookham, commended the program. • Mental health and resilience (Grand Pacific Health): an update was provided on confirmed Mental Health First Aid training dates and upcoming community wellbeing activities. • Telecommunications: the first repeaters are now operational at Myrtilville and Chatsbury (Upper Lachlan Shire). Telstra was selected on the basis of network coverage and infrastructure, and signal enhancement benefits Telstra customers only. Katrina Nixon and Margot Shannon queried whether the Woodhouselee and Bookham areas had been assessed; Chris O'Brien took this on notice.	
Comms plan overview	Nea Pilgrim provided the communications update. • Communities continue to be notified as works progress along the alignment. Following feedback from Gill Elphinston, the project has presented to the Yass Valley Business Chamber (with a further session scheduled), engaged progress associations, and will attend an industry breakfast in Tumut. • The project will attend the Murrumbateman Field Day and will prioritise attendance at shows and community events where information sessions in halls are less practical. • Suggestions for further engagement were noted, including the Bookham Community Association (meeting 10 July) and the Goulburn Careers Expo. Emma Hassett will follow up the latter and encouraged Anne Maree Clarke to reach out to Helen Cosgrove – whose contact Anne has. Reem Nasr holds relevant Bookham contacts.	• Nea Pilgrim and Emma Hassett to follow up the Bookham Community Association. • Anne Maree Clarke to reach out to Helen re Goulburn Careers Expo.
Community enquiries and complaints	• Nea Pilgrim presented the enquiries and complaints summary for the period 21 March – 19 June: 76 contacts, comprising 29 enquiries and 46 complaints. The principal themes were driver behaviour and road conditions; access and property matters (including gates left open, biosecurity, and incorrect entry into properties); and brake-and-winch	Nea Pilgrim to verify and reconcile the enquiry and complaint figures.

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	locations and construction progress. Complaint numbers were lower than the previous reporting period despite construction ramping up. Positive feedback was received regarding the project's commitment to seal Gadara Lane, its responsiveness to enquiries, and the minimised impact of helicopter stringing. - At Chris O'Briens request, Wayne explained what brake-and-winch pads are and how they are used. The relocation of these sites had generated enquiries in the relevant areas. - It was highlighted that there was a discrepancy in the complaint/enquiry numbers (29 + 46 does not equal 76) and Nea Pilgrim advised that it would be verified and reconciled. - Chris O'Brien reaffirmed the project's commitment to minimising community impact and noted that all enquiries and complaints are treated seriously.	

Action items

Agenda item	Description	Person responsible	Date
Previous minutes	Email Gill Elphinston the link to the SIMP / quarterly employment numbers report.	Emma Hassett	Complete
Road safety	Action heavy-vehicle / school-bus-hours measures on Woodhouselee Road (avoid oversize-vehicle movements during bus hours, approx. 7:30–9:30am) and reinforce driving to conditions/speed limit via toolbox talks.	Nea Pilgrim / Wayne Poulsen	Before next meeting
Road maintenance	Inspect heavy-vehicle wear on the Goulburn–Taralga road (Taralga toward Tarlo bridge).	Robert Johnson (ULSC) / HumeLink East	Before next meeting
Road maintenance	Email details of the road requiring grading to Chris O'Brien for HumeLink East to investigate.	Margot Shannon	After meeting
Road safety	Share the 1800 hotline number and project email with CRG members.	Nea Pilgrim	After meeting
Communications	Investigate why the SMS heavy-vehicle / delivery notification was not received (possible Telstra outage).	Nea Pilgrim	Before next meeting
Communications	Follow up Bookham Community Association (meeting 10 June) and explore the Goulburn Careers Expo (Anne-Maree Clarke to contact Helen).	Nea Pilgrim / Emma Hassett / Anne-Maree Clarke	Before next meeting
Community investment	Take on notice the telecommunications coverage assessment around Woodhouselee and Bookham.	Chris O'Brien	Before next meeting

Agenda item	Description	Person responsible	Date
Community investment	Promote the 11 September Crookwell/Taralga Landscape Rehydration Field Day through HumeLink East channels.	Nea Pilgrim	Well in advance of 11 Sep 2026
Other business	Verify and reconcile the enquiry and complaint figures for the reporting period.	Nea Pilgrim	Before next meeting

Next meeting

Date:	TBC	Time:	TBC
Location:	Online (Microsoft Teams)	Chairperson:	TBC