

Landowner Consultation

HumeLink



Our community needs affordable, safe and reliable electricity

That's why new transmission needs to be built in regional NSW to carry electricity to customers from new generation sources, including the expanded Snowy Hydro scheme.

We are refining route options for HumeLink, a new 500kV transmission line linking Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle.

This information is for landowners, who may have property within the study corridor.

Delivering affordable, safe and reliable electricity to our community

The information in this booklet is for landowners, who may have property within the study corridor for HumeLink

About HumeLink

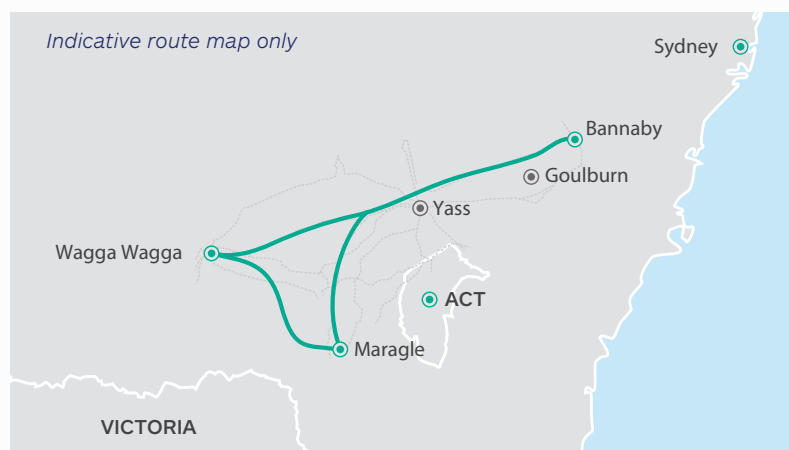
HumeLink is a new 500kV transmission line which will connect Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle.

It will increase the amount of electricity that can be delivered to customers in NSW, the ACT and across the National Electricity Market.

HumeLink is a priority project for the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the Federal and NSW Governments.

Selecting a route for transmission

When selecting a route, we are committed to discussing route options with landowners. Where possible, we will plan new transmission lines on public land or adjacent to existing easements.



Why we need your input

In locations where we may need to build new lines on private land, we will consult with landowners.

Landowners hold important information that is often not publicly available.

Feedback on the study corridor helps us identify environmental impacts, integrate local knowledge about land uses into our planning, and improve design.

To share your local knowledge, you can put your comments on the interactive project map at www.humelink.mycommunityengine.com

HumeLink project timeline



Factors affecting route selection

In the interests of electricity customers and as a regulated business, TransGrid is focused on planning, designing and delivering new infrastructure and services at the lowest possible cost. When selecting a route, we consider a range of factors including:

- topography (features of the land, such as hills and creeks)
- environment and conservation areas
- significant cultural heritage sites
- intensive agriculture
- licensed airstrips
- engineering (where it can be built)
- available, suitable public land
- alignment to existing infrastructure including power lines and roads
- hazards such as bushfire and extreme weather.

Refining the route

Once we have mapped constraints and opportunities, we will gather more detailed information to continue refining route options by:

- consulting with landowners, community members and Traditional Owner groups to gather local knowledge
- conducting surveys and studies to collect environmental, geotechnical, cultural and heritage information.

How we will consult

We will follow a 10-step process to consult with landowners

Planning approval milestones



SCOPING REPORT PUBLISHED

TransGrid integrates landowner feedback, survey findings and technical analysis into a Scoping Report for the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PUBLISHED

TransGrid integrates landowner feedback, survey findings and technical analysis into an EIS for DPIE. Landowners can make formal submissions to DPIE.



PLANNING APPROVAL GRANTED

The NSW Minister for Planning approves the project with conditions.



START

1

FIRST CONTACT

Landowners within an initial study corridor receive a letter with information about the project and which seeks to confirm contact details.

2

LANDOWNER CONSULTATION STARTS

Landowners can comment and provide information on issues relevant to their property and the project.

Landowner consultation will continue throughout the project.

3

MEETINGS WITH LANDOWNERS

We will seek a meeting with landowners to gather property-specific feedback.

We will continue to gather and respond to landowner feedback throughout the project.

4

SEEK ACCESS FOR FIELD SURVEYS

Landowners will be asked for consent to access their property to conduct surveys eg. flora, fauna and geotechnical.

Surveys will not be required on all properties; some may require multiple visits.

5

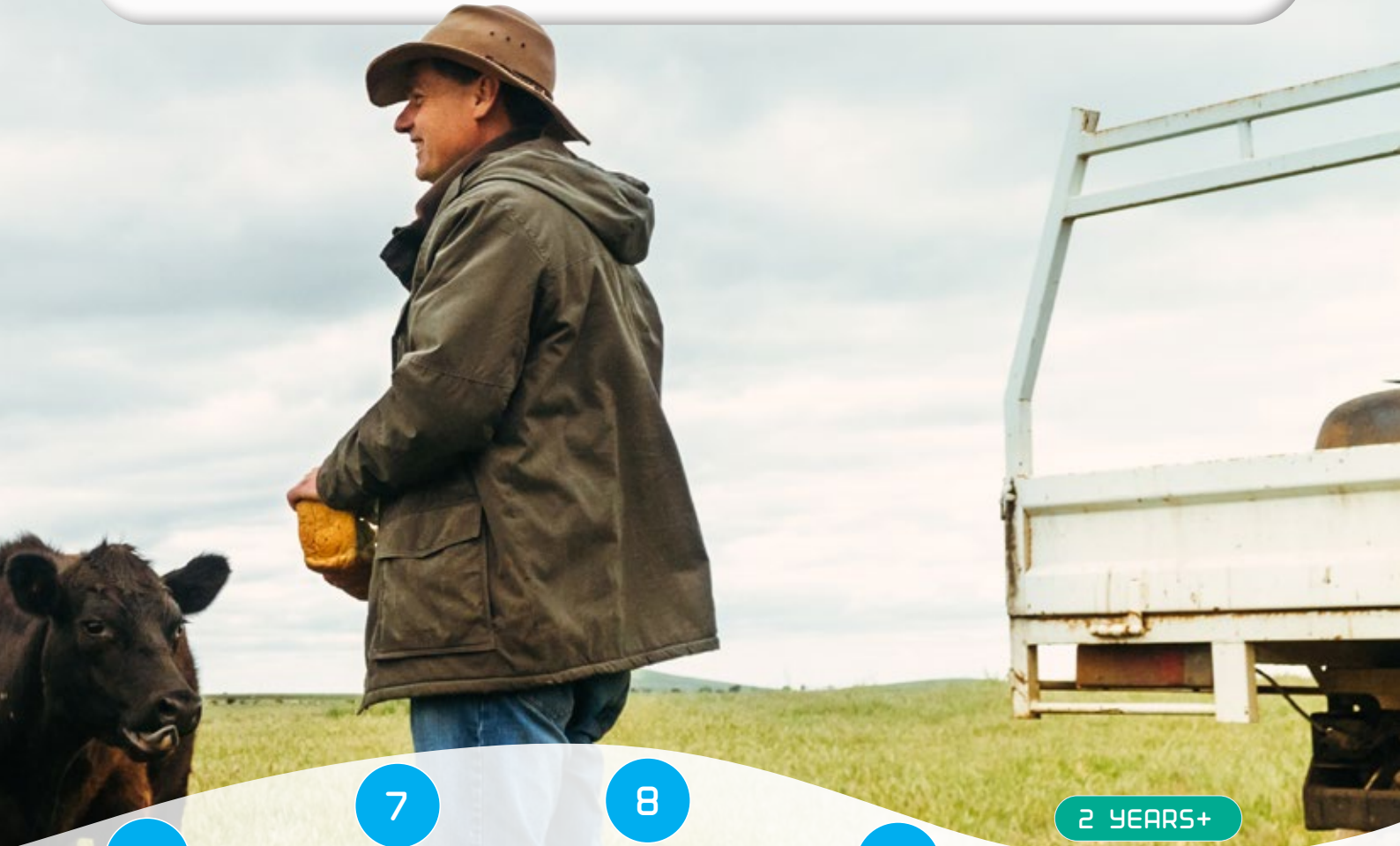
UNDERTAKE FIELD SURVEYS

We will liaise closely with landowners whenever access to their property is needed.

The survey program will continue throughout development of the project.

Keeping the focus on landowners

To improve consultation with landowners, the former Commissioner for NSW Fair Trading, Rod Stowe, has agreed to advise TransGrid on our engagement practices and processes. As an advocate for landowners and communities, within our business, Mr Stowe's advice will ensure we uphold best practice engagement and always treat landowners and communities fairly.



6

ADVISE LANDOWNERS OF PROPOSED ROUTE

TransGrid will advise landowners if an easement is required on their property.

We will also advise landowners if their property is no longer within the proposed route.

7

START EASEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

If an easement is required, we will meet with landowners to negotiate an agreement.

TransGrid must pay compensation under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 and must also pay reasonable costs for landowners to engage a valuer and obtain legal and accounting advice.

8

CONSULT ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

We will continue to be available to meet with landowners to respond to questions and discuss any concerns.

9

NOTIFY LANDOWNERS OF PLANNING APPROVAL

TransGrid will advise landowners of project approval.

2 YEARS+

10

FINALISE EASEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Landowner easement agreements are finalised after detailed design of the final route.

We will continue to consult with affected landowners for the duration of the project.

Accessing your land

Your rights

What happens if access to my land is required?

To help refine the route, we will need to conduct field surveys. These include:

- environmental surveys
- geotechnical investigations
- cultural heritage surveys.

If we need to access to your property, we will seek your permission and ask you to sign a Consent to Enter form. This allows you to set conditions of entry, suitable times and restrictions on surveying.

If approval is given, a Land Access Officer will be your point of contact. They will keep you informed about when surveyors will be accessing your property and what they will be doing.

What happens if the route crosses my land?

By mid-2021 we expect to have identified a preferred route. We will contact all affected landowners to discuss the process for acquiring an easement.

What is an easement?

An easement is a 'right of way,' up to 80 metres wide, on which TransGrid can build and maintain lines and towers on private land.

Will I be compensated if my land is used?

Yes. TransGrid must pay easement compensation under the Just Terms Compensation Act.

- Easement compensation is a one-off payment based on a valuation report by a qualified valuer.
- Under the Act, TransGrid must pay landowners' reasonable costs associated with negotiating an easement (legal, accounting, licensed valuers, mortgagee's consent and NSW Land Registry fees).
- We encourage you, the landowner to seek independent advice and use valuation firms with experience in easement compensation assessment. All reasonable costs associated with easement acquisition must be paid by TransGrid.









Our commitment to you

TransGrid staff and contractors must:

- adhere to conditions of entry
- carry identification
- follow biosecurity requirements
- leave gates as found
- drive slowly and minimise dust
- drive only on access tracks and formed crossings
- tell the landowner if we see a problem, such as injured stock or empty water troughs.
- restore disturbed areas once the survey is complete. (TransGrid will take before and after photos as survey work is undertaken).

Can I still use my land within the easement?

Yes. A range of activities can continue within transmission easements, provided certain conditions are met, to ensure safe clearance from transmission lines. Activities may include:

-  CROPPING 
-  GRAZING 
-  ELECTRIC FENCING (REQUIRED TO BE EARTHED) 

Where can I get more information on easements and compensation?

Visit www.transgrid.com.au/easements for our:

- Easement Guidelines
- Fencing Guidelines
- Landholder Easement and Compensation Guide.

The Just Terms Compensation Act 1991 is available at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au

How to contact us

 **Phone** **1800 317 367**

 **Email** **humelink@transgrid.com.au**

 **Mail** HumeLink Community Engagement Team
PO Box A1000, Sydney South NSW 1235

Concerns or complaints?

If you have concerns or are not satisfied with TransGrid's response or actions, you can:

- 1** Contact the HumeLink Community Engagement Team using the contact details provided above.
- 2** If you are not satisfied with TransGrid's response, you can escalate your concerns to TransGrid's Complaints Resolution Team at **complaints@transgrid.com.au**
- 3** If your complaint cannot be resolved to your satisfaction as a result of TransGrid's internal investigation, you can contact the Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW (EWON) on phone **1800 246 545** or fill in an online complaint form at **www.ewon.com.au**



Energy & Water
Ombudsman NSW

Useful links:

- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment: www.dpie.nsw.gov.au
- Australian Energy Regulator: www.aer.gov.au
- Australian Energy Market Operator's Integrated System Plan: www.aemo.com.au
- NSW Transmission Infrastructure Strategy: www.energy.nsw.gov.au
- Snowy Scheme expansion: www.snowyhydro.com.au/