



# HumeLink

Appendix D Engagement Outcomes Report



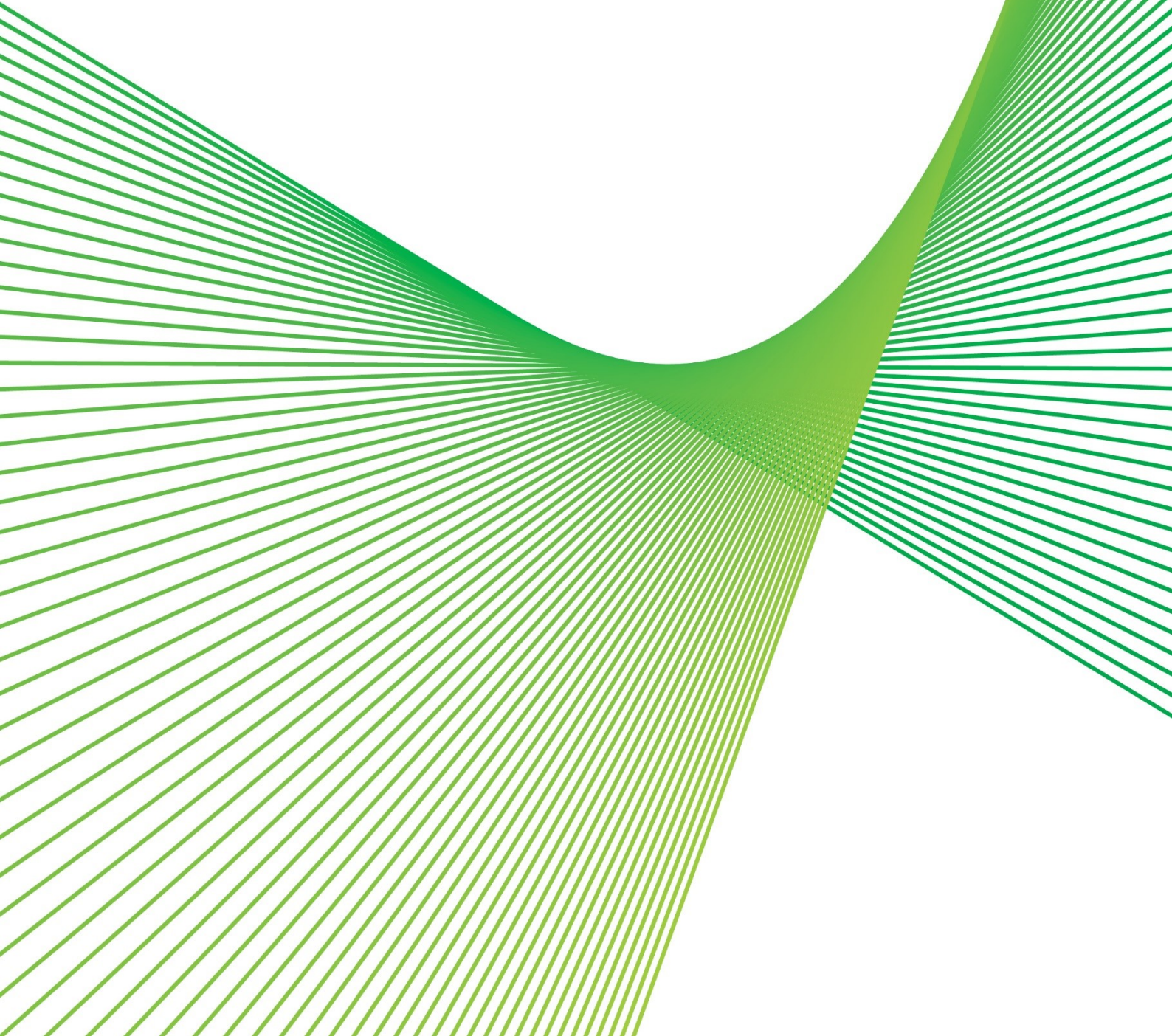


People. Power. Possibilities.

# HumeLink

Engagement Outcomes Report

May 2024



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# 1. Background

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The Australian energy landscape is transitioning to a greater mix of low-emission renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar. To support this transition, meet our future energy demands and to connect Australian communities and businesses to these lower-cost energy sources, the national electricity grid needs to evolve.

Transgrid proposes to increase the energy network capacity in southern New South Wales (NSW) through the development of about 365 kilometres of new 500 kilovolt (kV) double-circuit high-voltage transmission lines and associated infrastructure between Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle. This project is collectively referred to as HumeLink.

HumeLink would involve construction of a new substation east of Wagga Wagga, the Gugaa 500 kV substation, as well as connection to existing substations at Wagga Wagga and Bannaby and a future substation at Maragle in the Snowy Mountains (referred to as the future Maragle 500 kV substation). The future Maragle 500 kV substation is subject to a separate major project assessment and approval (reference SSI-9717, EPBC 2018/836).

HumeLink would deliver cheaper and more reliable power for consumers by increasing the amount of renewable energy that can be delivered across the national electricity grid, helping to transition Australia to a low carbon future. The project has been identified as a priority by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the Federal and NSW Governments.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared to support Transgrid's application for approval of the project and placed on public exhibition by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) (formerly the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)) for 42 days, starting 30 August 2023 and concluding 10 October 2023.

Transgrid has proposed amendments and refinements to the project as described in the EIS. The proposed amendments and refinements were made in consideration of submissions received during the public exhibition of the EIS and ongoing design and construction methodology development following the selection of the construction contractors. Further details are provided in Section 2 of this report.

The purpose of engagement outcomes report is to provide supporting documentation for Chapter 5 of the HumeLink Amendment Report. The report maps key themes and topics raised during the engagement with stakeholders, landowners and the community on the amendments and refinements identified in the project's Amendment Report. This report outlines engagement activities undertaken between the end of HumeLink EIS public exhibition on 10 October 2023 and 30 April 2024.

## 2. Overview of the proposed amendments and refinements

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Transgrid has identified several proposed amendments and refinements to the project as described in the EIS. These amendments and refinements reflect functional improvements to the design and construction methodology of the project. They consider:

- feedback received from stakeholders prior to and during the exhibition of the EIS
- comments made in formal submissions on the EIS
- ongoing design and construction methodology development by the preferred construction contractors.

Amendments to the project are defined as changes following the exhibition of the EIS in what the proponent is seeking approval for. Project amendments require changes to the project description in the EIS and amendments to the associated infrastructure application.

The proposed amendments to the project include:

- changes to the transmission line corridor including the realignment of the route through Green Hills State Forest to the west of Batlow
- change to the number and location of construction ancillary facilities including worker accommodation and construction compounds
- nomination of access tracks to support the construction and operation of the project
- additional telecommunications connections to existing substations.

Refinements to the project are defined as aspects of the project that fit within the limits set by the project description and do not change what is being sought for approval or require an amendment to the infrastructure application for the project.

The proposed refinements to the project include:

- transmission line and substation design refinements at Gregadoo
- identification of areas where controlled blasting may be required
- use of approved water sources
- use of helicopters and drones.

The amended project traverses six Local Government Areas (LGAs) including Wagga Wagga City, Snowy Valleys, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional, Upper Lachlan Shire, Goulburn Mulwaree and Yass Valley. We have engaged with each of those councils as well as Hilltops Council due to its proximity to the project footprint. Figure 1 shows the location of the amended project.



Figure 1 Overview of the amended project location

### 3. Engagement overview and objectives

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Transgrid has continued to engage with communities and stakeholders meaningfully and effectively to deliver a project the community values, sees the benefits of, and feels it can be involved in. Engagement for the Amendment Report has included consultation with relevant local, State and Commonwealth Government authorities, service providers, community groups, directly impacted landowners and near neighbours, Native Title holders and mineral title holders to ensure a strategic, comprehensive feedback strategy and comply with Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) requirements. Local communities and landowners who were previously not identified as impacted in the EIS but have now been identified as impacted as part of the amended project footprint in the Amendment Report, were consulted about the proposed amendments and had an opportunity to provide feedback.

All engagement activities undertaken have been considered in line with the interests, needs, accessibility and availability of stakeholders and the community. This includes undertaking engagement activities in locations recommended by the Community Consultative Groups (CCGs).

Transgrid also developed the *HumeLink Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy* in 2022 based on the *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPE, 2022) and the International Association of Public Participation's (IAP2) public participation spectrum.

The development and ongoing refinement of the strategy has considered and responded to feedback from landowners, communities and stakeholders, the Landowners Advocate, CCGs and other people with an interest in the project.

The engagement approach for the Amendment Report is based on the principles of the abovementioned strategy, including early and proactive engagement to communicate proposed project amendments and refinements, outline the likely impacts and proposed mitigation measures, and seek community feedback to be considered throughout the development of the Amendment Report.

The Amendment Report's extensive engagement program has targeted multiple stakeholder groups over a large geographical area and delivered diverse activities to communicate, discuss and seek feedback on the proposed amendments and refinements.

Transgrid's community and stakeholder engagement approach for HumeLink has been developed in line with [Transgrid's broader Community Engagement Policy: Engagement - Nurture Trust and Transition | Transgrid](#).



## 4. Amendment Report engagement approach and tools

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### 4.1. HumeLink Amendment Report Engagement Plan

A detailed *HumeLink Amendment Report Engagement Plan* supports the *HumeLink Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy*. The plan follows a targeted and proactive engagement approach with stakeholders, landowners and the community on the amendments and refinements identified in the project's Amendment Report. It was developed to:

- outline how community and stakeholder feedback has been sought and considered as part of the proposed amendments and refinements to the project
- ensure the community and stakeholders are provided with opportunities to engage and discuss the proposed amendments and refinements prior to the Amendment Report being lodged with DPHI
- ensure the project planning, design and project approval processes are transparent, and share how community and stakeholder feedback is considered in these processes
- align the engagement and communications process with regulatory requirements for the project's assessment and approval, and ensure the community and stakeholders are provided with opportunities to participate meaningfully in this process
- honour commitments to the community, landowners and stakeholders.

The staged engagement approach is outlined below:

#### **Stage 1:** late October 2023 – December 2023

Stage 1 engagement activities included providing details on the planning and approvals process post-EIS public exhibition, including reviewing the public submissions made by community and stakeholders, and how these were considered for each of the proposed amendments and refinements.

This stage also included targeted engagement with interested and impacted landowners, community members and stakeholders, and focused on sharing information on the proposed design amendments and refinements following public exhibition of the EIS.

#### **Stage 2:** late January 2024 – April 2024

Stage 2 engagement activities were targeted engagement and communications, which included Community Information Sessions (CIS), webinars, CCG meetings, street meetings and further government and Council briefings to discuss the development of the Amendment Report as well as the outcomes of the assessment of the identified design amendments and refinements. This included updates on the assessment of new impacts and how those impacts would be managed and mitigated.

Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the *Amendment Report Engagement Plan* were underpinned by engagement activities to ensure impacted landowners, near neighbours, local communities, government agencies, local councils and other key stakeholders were adequately engaged on the proposed refinements and amendments and associated assessment outcomes.

The *Amendment Report Engagement Plan* considered direct face-to-face and online engagement activities, communications collateral and materials, as well as additional communication channels such as informative

material on the project website. Figure 2 outlines the engagement approach of the proposed amendments and refinements based on the scale – individual, neighbourhood, regional or project-wide.

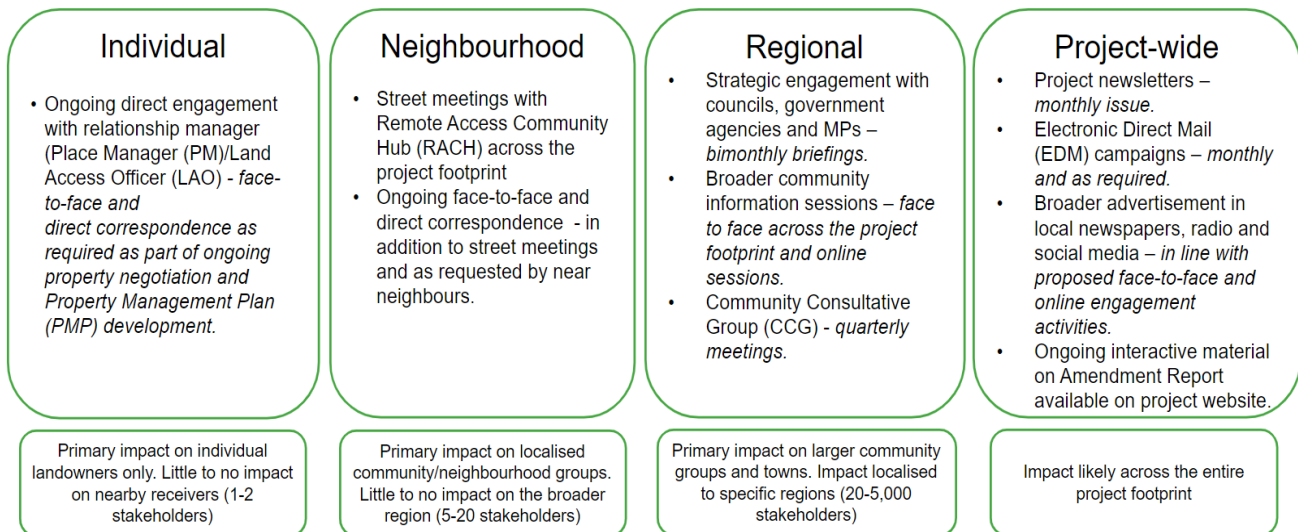


Figure 2 Amendment report - Engagement approach

Engagement tools and activities have been designed to:

- raise awareness of the project
- explain key information and processes, in particular the proposed refinements and amendments
- build trust
- listen and respond to questions and enquiries
- understand community sentiment and concerns
- incorporate local insights.

Figure 3 outlines collateral and materials, communication channels and direct engagement and consultation activities undertaken to support the development of the Amendment Report.

Collateral and materials	Communication channels	Direct engagement and consultation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly project newsletters</li> <li>• Guides and fact sheets</li> <li>• ‘What we heard’ reports</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Postcards and posters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project 1800 number</li> <li>• Project email</li> <li>• Project website</li> <li>• HumeLink interactive map</li> <li>• Social media</li> <li>• Local print and digital publications</li> <li>• Electronic Direct Mail (EDM)</li> <li>• Letterbox drops</li> <li>• Media and advertising</li> <li>• Local Information distributors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key stakeholder briefings</li> <li>• Council and Government agency meetings</li> <li>• Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC) and Aboriginal Stakeholders meetings</li> <li>• Community Information Sessions</li> <li>• Community information webinars</li> <li>• CCG meetings</li> <li>• Near neighbour street meetings via the Remote Access Community Hub (RACH)</li> <li>• One-on-one landowner meetings with Place Managers and Land Access Officers</li> </ul>

Figure 3 Engagement tools and activities used for HumeLink

Consultation will continue during the project’s construction stage as required in line with a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Management Plan (CSEMP). The plan will be prepared by the construction contractors and finalised before construction begins.

Transgrid will evaluate and endorse the CSEMP in consideration of any relevant Minister’s conditions of approval.

## 4.2. Communications materials

Transgrid developed a suite of communications materials to support Amendment Report engagement activities. The materials focused on providing information on the proposed refinements and amendments outlined in the Amendment Report. In most cases, communications materials were updated as more information became available through the development of the Amendment Report (including information on assessment outcomes).

Examples of communications materials are provided in Section 6.3.

The information provided in the sections below is accurate as of 30 April 2024.

#### 4.2.1. Project newsletters

The HumeLink project newsletters provide landowners, stakeholders and community members with regular detailed project updates, milestones and information in a timely manner and digestible format.

The monthly newsletters distributed between October 2023 and April 2024 included dedicated articles relating to the Amendment Report and prioritised topics including relevant information on proposed project refinements and amendments.

All editions of the monthly project newsletter were made available on the HumeLink website and distributed via email. In addition, an extended quarterly issue of the newsletter was printed and distributed to stakeholders located within a five kilometre radius of the amended project footprint plus the surrounding townships of Batlow, Yass, Tumbarumba, Adelong, Tarcutta and Tumut.

#### 4.2.2. Fact sheets

Three fact sheets were created to provide landowners, the community and other stakeholders with key information on project refinements and amendments outlined in the Amendment Report. They were developed in plain English to ensure technical information was digestible but facilitated a sound understanding of key information that would be available in the Amendment Report.

The fact sheets were shared across the primary communication channels to engage audiences, including emails to landowners, via the HumeLink project webpage and printed copies made available at in-person consultation activities.

Fact sheets were made available for the following topics:

- Gugaa substation
- Green Hills route refinement
- construction.

#### 4.2.3. What We Heard reports

The What We Heard reports provided an important opportunity to demonstrate transparency with stakeholders and the community. These reports were developed after each community engagement activity round\* and included details on the key

### **6 editions of the** *project newsletter*

*One distributed hard-copy via letterbox drop and 5 distributed via email.*

*All newsletters were made available on the website throughout the development of the Amendment Report.*

*Print issues delivered directly to **more than 37,300** landowners and communities across the amended project footprint and surrounding areas of Batlow, Yass, Tumbarumba, Adelong, Tarcutta and Tumut.*

***More than 5,300** electronic versions of the project newsletters delivered via email to the project email subscribers list.*

**3** *Amendment Report fact sheets were made available online on the project website and at community events.*

*What We Heard reports outlining community information sessions, webinars and street meetings are available on the project website.*

themes and topics discussed at the community sessions, webinars and street meetings.

The reports form a key part of Transgrid’s public-facing accountability and transparency regarding the HumeLink project. The What We Heard reports documenting engagement activities have been published on the HumeLink website.

\*An engagement activity round is a series of Community Information Sessions and webinars held within a timeframe i.e. across 1, 2 or 3 weeks, or on a particular topic.

### 4.3. Communication channels

A major infrastructure project of HumeLink’s scale, size and geographical span requires a variety of communication channels to reach the audience via their preferred communication method. The suite of communication channels used as part of the HumeLink Amendment Report engagement was chosen specifically to deliver on Transgrid’s effort to engage in two-way communication with all stakeholders.

HumeLink traverses a range of regional and rural communities with unique communications needs.

These varied communications needs have shaped the communication channels used on HumeLink. The communication and engagement approach was prepared with the primary view that there was no one-size-fits-all approach. It has remained flexible throughout our engagement with stakeholders and has been refined as planning has progressed.

**28** landowner and community calls received via the 1800 hotline.

**114\*** emails received via the project email address.

**134** outgoing emails sent via the project responding to community enquiries.

\*Email numbers include multiple inbound emails that may have been received under the same subject line

#### 4.3.1. Project communication channels (project 1800 number and project email)

Dedicated lines of communication to the project team are available via email and phone five days a week 9am – 5pm for stakeholders and the community to actively seek project information, make enquiries or provide feedback.

A toll-free number (1800 317 367), a project email address ([humelink@transgrid.com.au](mailto:humelink@transgrid.com.au)) and mailing address (PO Box A1000, Sydney South, NSW, 1235) have continued to be available following the public exhibition of the EIS and throughout the development of the Amendment Report.

The project 1800 number and project email address have been included in all advertisements, email communications, printed materials and available on the project website.

#### 4.3.2. Project website

The project website ([transgrid.com.au/Humelink](https://transgrid.com.au/Humelink)) provides all interested stakeholders with a central location to access up-to-date project information and documents. HumeLink project milestones, project updates, communications collateral as well as presentations from webinars and minutes from community meetings are available for review on the

**25,548** page views and **13,860** unique visitors to the HumeLink website between October 2023 and April 2024\*.

website. This ensures community members can easily access and digest information at a pace convenient to them.

Informative material on the Amendment Report was made available on the project website to provide interested community members and stakeholders additional information about the proposed amendments and refinements.

\*Statistics provided for the HumeLink website are between 10 October 2023 and 30 April 2024.

### 4.3.3. Place Managers and Land Access Officers

HumeLink's Place Managers and Land Access Officers actively engage with directly impacted landowners within the project footprint to communicate and provide relevant updates on the proposed amendments and refinements.

Each easement-affected landowner has been assigned a dedicated Place Manager and Land Access Officer who engage via email, phone, letter, SMS or in-person. Place Managers and Land Access Officers frequent the project area regularly and bring invaluable local knowledge and perspective while engaging with the directly impacted landowners.

**9** *Place Managers and Land Access Officers operating in the project footprint for two-way communication with landowners.*

**More than 5,500** *interactions with impacted landowners (including emails, text messages and phone calls) between October 2023 and April 2024.*

More than 4,000 interactions with impacted landowners took place via one-on-one meetings, phone calls, SMS and email from October 2023 until April 2024. These interactions and meetings related to general project progress and updates, property compensation and acquisition, and project amendments and refinements. In some instances, where appropriate, technical experts and the project's senior leadership team attended face-to-face meetings to discuss technical or project-related matters.

The property team delivered engagement, route refinement and easement negotiations in line with the preferred approach discussed with the landowners. This included when members of the community proposed an alternative alignment for the transmission line corridor through the Green Hills State Forest. Following engagement with Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW), this potential alternative route west of Batlow was further considered.

Following additional consultation with affected landowners and further technical analysis and investigations, the alternate transmission line corridor option west of Batlow and through Green Hills State Forest (referred to as the Green Hills corridor amendment) was identified as the preferred option for the transmission line corridor between Wondalga and the future Maragle 500 kV substation.

The Green Hills corridor amendment would:

- support an alternative proposed by the local community
- align with the principles announced by NSW Government on placing transmission infrastructure on public land where feasible
- avoid private property impacts on landowners to the east of Batlow
- reduce landscape character and visual amenity impacts

- reduces the extent of impacts to native vegetation
- increase the distance away from the heritage listed Kosciuszko National Park for this section of the transmission line corridor
- provide opportunities to utilise established previously disturbed forestry tracks for construction and operation purposes resulting in greatly reduced earthworks and more efficient access.

Since the decision on Green Hills was announced in August 2023, Transgrid has continued to engage with landowners previously impacted by the original EIS route via their nominated Place Managers and Land Access Officers and through general project communications.

Place Managers and Land Access Officers have also discussed the other project amendments and refinements with landowners where appropriate to their location. These ongoing conversations include the nomination of access tracks, accommodation facilities and construction compounds, telecommunications cable connections, the potential for controlled blasting in localised areas, the use of helicopters and drones, water supply points, and transmission and substation design refinements at Gregadoo.

#### 4.3.4. Social media

Facebook and Instagram have been the primary social media channels used to communicate details of upcoming community information sessions and webinars. Both channels enable geotargeting townships across the project area and an ‘always on’ approach to advertisements spanning a consecutive period of time. Community feedback has demonstrated these are effective social media channels to reach stakeholders and community members unable to access other project channels (website, emails, letterbox drops, phone calls). Using social media to promote upcoming events and engagement activities also ensures the project team reaches stakeholders who may not live or work in the local area but frequent the region for work or recreation.

**More than 647,000** impressions and **5,421** clicks on paid Facebook advertisements promoting engagement activities between October 2023 and April 2024.

#### 4.3.5. Electronic direct mail (EDMs)

EDMs have been sent to project email subscribers to communicate and raise awareness about the proposed amendments and refinements included in the project’s Amendment Report. These EDMs also provided information on upcoming engagement activities, project updates, publication of newsletters, and general information about HumeLink.

**944** subscribers to the HumeLink project email list.

**11** EDM campaigns sent from between October 2023 and April 2024.

#### 4.3.6. Advertisements in local media

Print and digital advertising in local media has been used to reach the broader community across the project area, raise awareness of the HumeLink project and promote Amendment Report engagement activities.

**17** print and digital advertisements featured across **8** local newspapers between October 2023 and April 2024.

Advertisements featuring key project information and upcoming engagement activities were placed across a variety of local media channels and publications. This included newspapers and public displays such as posters on community noticeboards.

#### 4.3.7. Information distributors' group

An information distributors' group was established during early planning to establish a list of local community groups and individuals with influence and local networks who may be willing to share project information on their channels and to their network.

This group was engaged via EDMs to share information about project updates, upcoming engagement activities, Amendment Report engagement channels and activities. Sharing project information with the information distributors' group has allowed for additional ways to extend our reach to existing and new audiences that might be interested in knowing more about the project.

**Over 132** members of the HumeLink information distributors' group.



## 5. Amendment Report engagement activities and feedback

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Communication and engagement activities were undertaken with a range of stakeholder groups, including local members of Parliament, Commonwealth and State Government departments and agencies, local governments, Aboriginal stakeholders, CCGs, mineral and exploration licence holders, landowners and local communities. As a result of the proposed amendments and refinements and in consideration of the amended project footprint, several additional stakeholders were identified as potentially impacted by the project. The targeted engagement strategy and activities included:

- searches of the Native Title Register and Register of Native Title Claims, which did not identify any Crown land areas within the amended project footprint as being the subject of a claim of determination under the *Native Title Act 1993*
- searches of the Register of Aboriginal Land Claims, with Transgrid engaging with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council for any undetermined land claims
- ongoing consultation with exploration licence and mineral title holders across the amended project footprint
- ongoing briefings and information sharing with local, State and Commonwealth Government authorities, with the identification of Goulburn Mulwaree LGA as part of the amended project footprint, in addition to the five previously identified LGAs (Wagga Wagga City, Snowy Valleys, Yass Valley, Cootamundra-Gundagai and Upper Lachlan Shire)
- engagement with easement affected landowners and near neighbours on the proposed amendments and refinements
- street meetings, as well as more formal face-to-face and online information sessions.

Information provided and feedback received is captured in this section of the report and defined as comments, suggestions, questions, clarifications, enquiries and discussions.

Feedback and topics of conversation can be broadly categorised under themes in line with the proposed amendments and refinements identified in the Amendment Report. These include:

- changes to the transmission line corridor including the realignment of the route through Green Hills State Forest
- nomination of access tracks
- changes to accommodation facilities and construction compounds
- additional telecommunications connections to existing substations
- transmission line and substation refinements at Gregadoo
- additional details on the construction approach and methodology.

### 5.1. Targeted engagement activities

#### 5.1.1. Regulatory stakeholder briefings

Ongoing briefings were offered to key regulatory stakeholders to provide project updates on progress throughout the development of the Amendment Report.

Key stakeholder briefings will continue throughout the planning approval process as well as during detailed design and construction.

### 5.1.2. Council and government agency briefings

Transgrid undertook extensive engagement with a range of government departments and agencies and the six local councils the project traverses. Meetings and briefings focused on:

- acknowledging submissions made on the project's EIS
- outlining proposed amendments and refinements and how they relate to feedback received via previous engagement and submissions to the EIS
- confirming regulatory requirements
- gathering knowledge on key issues and opportunities, and sharing information.

Briefings since the EIS public exhibition discussed key issues with:

- Australian Rail Track Corporation
- former Department of Planning and Environment – Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (now NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – Environment and Heritage (NSW DCCEEW Environment and Heritage))
- former Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands (now DCCEEW Crown Lands)
- former Department of Planning and Environment – Water (now NSW DCCEEW Water)
- Department of Primary Industries – Agriculture
- Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries
- Forestry Corporation of NSW
- Heritage Council of NSW
- former Heritage NSW (now NSW DCCEEW Environment and Heritage)
- Mining, Exploration and Geoscience NSW
- NSW Environmental Protection Authority
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- NSW Telco Authority
- Transport for NSW.

Briefing invitations and acknowledgement of submissions since the EIS public exhibition were sent to:

- Airservices Australia
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority
- Fire and Rescue NSW
- WaterNSW.

Key issues raised and feedback received from government agencies during development of the proposed amendments and refinements are outlined in Section 5.2 below.

Transgrid will continue to engage with government agencies and councils as the project progresses through environmental and regulatory approvals, detailed design and construction.

### 5.1.3. In-person Community Information Sessions (CIS)

Hosted at a range of regional towns along the amended project footprint, the CIS provided an opportunity for the local community to engage with the project team, have face-to-face conversations and learn more about the project, in particular the amendments and refinements.

A full schedule of in-person events can be found in Section 6.2.1.

**15** community information sessions held in person across **12** local areas with

**65** community members, interested stakeholders and landowner attendees.

### 5.1.4. Community information webinars

Three webinars provided information about project planning post-EIS public exhibition as well as the proposed amendments and refinements. These webinars were hosted via Zoom and open to all interested community members and stakeholders. Webinar attendance in the lead up to the EIS

exhibition period demonstrated Zoom webinars were an effective engagement channel for audiences in the project area and those located in metropolitan areas but with interest in the project.

**5** community information webinars with **more than 45** community, interested stakeholders and landowner attendees.

The sessions provided the community an opportunity to learn more about refinements and amendments proposed in the Amendment Report prior to its lodgement with the DPHI. The webinars also gave the community a chance to engage with Transgrid, learn more about the project, ask questions, hear other attendees' questions and provide feedback.

A full schedule of community information webinars can be found in Section 6.2.2.

### 5.1.5. Community Consultative Group (CCG) meetings

Two combined CCG meetings, involving the three initial CCGs (Upper Lachlan/Yass, Wagga and Snowy Valleys), were held following the completion of the HumeLink EIS public exhibition. These meetings allowed for a deep dive into the amendments and refinements included as part of the project's Amendment Report.

See Section 5.2.5 for topics raised in CCG meetings.

Combined CCG established with **35** members.

**2** meetings held between October 2023 and April 2024.

### 5.1.6. Remote Access Community Hub (RACH) street meetings

RACH enables Transgrid to deliver an enriched engagement experience in diverse and, at times, remote locations.

The utilisation of RACH (a custom-built mobile engagement hub equipped with satellite connectivity) allows visitors to access the HumeLink interactive map via large-format touch screen, as well

**15** street meetings held in person across **4** local areas with **37** community and near neighbour attendees.

as access additional project information. RACH has also been present at in-person events to increase session visibility and improve accessibility for a diverse community demographic.

From October 2023 to April 2024, RACH facilitated drop-in style street meetings in communities and on properties within the following LGAs:

- Wagga Wagga City
- Snowy Valleys
- Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional
- Yass Valley
- Upper Lachlan Shire
- Goulburn Mulwaree.

The sessions allowed detailed conversations about the project's proposed refinements and amendments, in particular at locations near proposed worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds. RACH was also available (on request) to discuss topics related to the development of the Amendment Report on private property with landowners and near neighbours.

A full schedule of street meetings can be found in Section 6.2.3.

## 5.2. Stakeholder discussions and feedback

### 5.2.1. Local Members of Parliament

The Government Relations team within Transgrid regularly engages with State and Commonwealth Members of Parliament. These regular engagements enable frequent sharing of project updates, overview of engagement activities and updates to elected representatives.

**Over 60** engagements with Local Members of Parliament, including phone calls, emails, project updates and online and in-person briefings.

Updates regarding project milestones, timelines, approvals and community engagement activities were regularly provided from October 2023 to April 2024. In turn, local Members of Parliament regularly advised Transgrid of current community views, key concerns and insights from their electorates, including feedback on proposed amendments and refinements.

### 5.2.2. Commonwealth and State Government departments and agencies

Transgrid continued to engage with Commonwealth and State Government agencies throughout the development of the project's Amendment Report.

Briefings and meetings acknowledged submissions made on the project's EIS, outlined proposed amendments and refinements, and served as a valuable process of knowledge gathering and information sharing across a diverse range of topics including:

- management of public roads
- proposed worker accommodation facilities and capacity
- management of temporary access tracks and waterway crossings
- bushfire and airspace management

- management and mitigation measures for potential biodiversity impacts, including potential offset strategies based on the amended project footprint
- planning requirements, project applications and ongoing reporting
- engagement on cultural heritage matters
- easement acquisitions
- project development activities.

### 5.2.2.1. Commonwealth Government

The following Commonwealth Government agencies provided comments on the proposed amendments and refinements included in the project’s Amendment Report. Detailed information on the feedback received, themes and topics, and where these are addressed in the Amendment Report is outlined in the table below.

Table 1 Topics raised from engagement with Commonwealth Government departments and agencies

Agency / government department	Meeting date	Amendment Report Item	Feedback and topics raised	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
<b>Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</b>	23 November 2023 29 February 2024 8 March 2024 27 March 2024	Green Hills corridor amendment	Request to vary the proposed action for the Green Hills corridor amendment. Enabling Works Management Plan activities and timing.	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Appendix A (Updated project description) Technical Report 1 – Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report
<b>Department of Defence</b>	14 March 2024	Cumulative impacts	Discussion with representative of the Riverina Redevelopment Joint Venture delivering the Riverina Redevelopment Project on behalf of Department of Defence to discuss potential cumulative impacts	Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) - 6.18 Cumulative impacts
<b>Australian Rail Track Corporation</b>	28 February 2024	Construction approach and methodology	Construction methodology including rail crossings. HumeLink design constraints. Access and construction approvals for construction works. Progressive discussions and negotiations for deeds on access and maintenance of final transmission line infrastructure.	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) - 6.5. Land use and property - 6.14. Traffic, transport and access Appendix A (Updated project description) Technical Report 16 – Revised Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment
<b>Airservices Australia</b>	27 November 2023		Acknowledgement of EIS submissions sent.	

### 5.2.2.2. NSW Government

The following NSW Government agencies provided comments on the proposed amendments and refinements included in the project's Amendment Report. Detailed information on the feedback received, themes and topics, and where these are addressed in the Amendment Report is outlined in the table below.

Table 2 Topics raised from engagement with NSW Government departments and agencies

Agency / government department	Meeting Date	Amendment Report Item	Feedback and topics raised	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
<b>DPHI - Crown Lands</b>	February 2024	Construction approach and methodology	Waterway crossings. Management of public roads and crown roads. Native title check undertaken by Crown Lands to facilitate long-term tenure. Access for construction on Crown Lands.	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) - 6.5. Land use and property - 6.11. Surface water and groundwater quality Appendix A (Updated project description) Technical Report 5 – Land Use and Property Impact Assessment Addendum
<b>NSW DCCEEW - Heritage</b>	16 April 2024	Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds Nomination of access tracks Changes to the transmission line corridor	Outcomes of the revised Aboriginal Culture Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) Update on implementation of the Cultural Values Assessment recommendations	Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) - 6.3. Aboriginal heritage - 6.4. Non-Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 2 – Revised Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Technical Report 3 – Historic Heritage Impact Assessment Addendum
<b>NSW DCCEEW – Water</b>	Email sent on 11 and 12 March 2024	Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds Construction approach and methodology	Project is low risk in relation to water resources. Would like to communicate via email. Provided an update on water supply, licensing and groundwater impacts included as part of the Amendment Report proposed amendments and refinements. DCCEEW – Water acknowledged information provided.	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) - 6.11. Surface water and groundwater quality Technical Report 12 – Surface Water and Groundwater Impact Assessment Addendum
<b>Heritage Council of NSW</b>	21 November 2023	Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds	Update on the revised Aboriginal Culture Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and timeline on the revised non-Aboriginal heritage assessment. Ongoing updates as additional assessments progress.	Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) - 6.3. Aboriginal heritage - 6.4. Non-Aboriginal heritage

Agency / government department	Meeting Date	Amendment Report Item	Feedback and topics raised	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
		Nomination of access tracks Changes to the transmission line corridor		Technical Report 2 – Revised Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Technical Report 3 – Historic Heritage Impact Assessment Addendum
<b>NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) – Agriculture</b>	22 November 2023 19 April 2024	Accommodation facilities and construction compounds Nomination of access tracks Construction approach and methodology Changes to the transmission line corridor	Information on the proposed accommodation facility and capacity. Management of potential biosecurity impacts and risks and associated Transgrid biosecurity protocols and contractor compliance. Green Hills route alignment and corridor amendment, including private landowners impacted.	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) - 6.5. Land use and property - 6.8 Landscape character and visual amenity Appendix A (Updated project description) Technical Report 4 – Agricultural Impact Assessment Addendum
<b>NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) – Fisheries</b>	20 November 2023 15 April 2024	Green Hills realignment Nomination of access tracks Construction approach and methodology (including controlled blasting)	Management of temporary access tracks and potential impacts to riparian zones, including the rehabilitation stage. Discovery of a new threatened species. Flagged the sensitivity and importance of Oolong Creek, due to the creek being the habitat for a threatened fish species. Recommendation of Oolong Creek to be considered a major key fish habitat. Construction of waterway crossing including method and timing. Waterway crossings associated with the Green Hills route change. Provide further information on blasting once identified.	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) - 6.9. Noise and vibration - 6.11. Surface water and groundwater quality - 6.14. Traffic, transport and access Appendix A (Updated project description) Technical Report 1 –Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report
<b>Mining, Exploration &amp; Geoscience NSW</b>	17 November 2023		Provided Transgrid with contact details of exploration licence and mineral title holders to engage in the Amendment Report engagement phase. Engagement with exploration licence and mineral title holders is outlined in Section 5.2.6	Chapter 5 (Engagement) Appendix D (Engagement Outcomes Report)



Agency / government department	Meeting Date	Amendment Report Item	Feedback and topics raised	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
<b>Transport for NSW (TfNSW)</b>	28 November 2023  17 January 2024	Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds Nomination of access tracks Transmission line design Construction approach and methodology (use of approved extractive material locations, use of helicopters and drones)	Transmission line stringing methodology, in particular potential impacts to traffic movement and traffic safety. Proposed worker accommodation facilities and traffic management around the proposed locations. Emergency access points to the classified road network. Hume Highway crossing requirements, presentation with stringing pad locations. Temporary traffic mitigation measures and traffic management plan. Oversize Overmass movement (ie for transformers). Traffic movement and potential impacts associated with the use of quarries. Gugaa 500 kV substation layout and footprint. Transmission line structure location in relation to the classified road reserve.	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) - 6.5. Land use and property - 6.8. Landscape character and visual amenity - 6.14. Traffic, transport and access Appendix A (Updated project description) Technical Report 16 – Revised Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment
<b>Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW)</b>	25 January 2024  6 March 2024  12 April 2024	Nomination of access tracks Controlled blasting Use of helicopters and drones Access to water sources	Minister's Conditions of Approval and how the easement acquisition process fits within the enviro approvals process. Process with options deeds. Australian Energy Regulator (AER) approvals process. Easement acquisition process for FCNSW easements – needs to be approved by the Minister for Agriculture (FCNSW provides advice and recommendation based on conversations and agreement with Transgrid. Proposed management plans (including CEMP management plans and Property Management Plans). Use of roads within Forestry land – agreement between FCNSW and the Delivery Partner. Native forests and management of impacts (particularly related to access tracks in areas of native forest). Potential impacts on waterways.	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) - 6.5. Land use and property - 6.8. Landscape character and visual amenity - 6.9. Noise and vibration - 6.11. Surface water and groundwater - 6.12. Hydrology and flooding - 6.14. Traffic, transport and access Appendix A (Updated project description) Technical Report 5 - Land Use and Property Impact Assessment Addendum

Agency / government department	Meeting Date	Amendment Report Item	Feedback and topics raised	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
			<p>Blasting locations (noise and vibration, biodiversity and social impacts) and associated management plan – requested to be shared with FCNSW for comments before finalising.</p> <p>Offsets – particularly related to impacts to native forests.</p> <p>Potential impacts from use of helicopters and drones during construction.</p>	
<b>NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)</b>	20 February 2024	<p>Changes to the transmission line corridor</p> <p>Worker accommodation facilities and compounds</p> <p>Nomination of access tracks</p> <p>Underground fibre cables</p> <p>Controlled blasting</p> <p>Extractive materials to support construction</p>	<p>Amendments outlined, including changes to the transmission line corridor, worker accommodation facilities and compounds, access tracks and underground fibre cables.</p> <p>EPA noted Yass information to be dealt with Queanbeyan team.</p> <p>Reasons for controlled blasting.</p> <p>Use of extractive materials.</p> <p>Where the Maragle substation fits (Snowy 2.0).</p>	<p>Chapter 3 (Description of amended project)</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.8. Landscape character and visual amenity</li> <li>- 6.9. Noise and vibration</li> </ul> <p>Appendix A (Updated project description)</p>
<b>NSW Telco Authority</b>	Scheduled monthly meetings from mid 2023	<p>Changes to the transmission line corridor</p> <p>Nomination of access tracks</p> <p>Underground fibre cables</p>	<p>Detailed design and tower locations and design constraints.</p> <p>Telecommunications constraints.</p> <p>Access and construction approvals for construction works.</p> <p>Progressive discussions and negotiations for deeds on access and maintenance of final transmission line infrastructure.</p>	<p>Chapter 3 (Description of amended project)</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.8. Landscape character and visual amenity</li> <li>- 6.14. Traffic, transport and access</li> </ul> <p>Appendix A (Updated project description)</p>
<b>NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS)</b>	4 December 2023	<p>Nomination of access tracks</p> <p>Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds</p>	<p>Transgrid to provide feedback to RFS on the <i>Planning for Bush Fire Protection (2019) guideline</i>.</p> <p>Access tracks and specifications, particularly to the proposed worker accommodation facilities.</p> <p>Development Control Plans for the construction stage of the amended project.</p>	<p>Chapter 3 (Description of amended project)</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.8. Landscape character and visual amenity</li> <li>- 6.10. Soils, geology and contamination</li> </ul>

Agency / government department	Meeting Date	Amendment Report Item	Feedback and topics raised	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
			Identification of fire trails within the amended project footprint. Application of asset protection zones for linear infrastructure. Vegetation management plans.	- 6.14. Traffic, transport and access Technical Report 13 – Bushfire Risk Assessment Report Addendum
<b>Fire and Rescue NSW</b>	27 November 2023		Acknowledgement of EIS submissions sent.	
<b>Water NSW</b>	27 November 2023		Acknowledgement of EIS submissions sent.	

### 5.2.3. Local government

HumeLink traverses six LGAs – Wagga Wagga City, Snowy Valleys, Yass Valley, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional, Goulburn Mulwaree and Upper Lachlan Shire.

Transgrid has engaged with local councils throughout the planning and regulatory approvals stage of the project, including on amendment and refinements as part of the Amendment Report. Transgrid routinely engaged with representatives of these local governments including elected Council representatives, senior management and operational staff. As a neighbouring LGA to the project footprint, Hilltops Council was also engaged.

Engagement with local governments included:

- project overview and updates, key announcements, regulatory approvals, community engagement activities such as community information sessions and Community Partnership Program timeframes
- acknowledgement and discussion of the submissions made to the project EIS
- consultation on the proposed refinements and amendments included as part of the project’s Amendment Report, with particular focus on workforce accommodation facilities, access tracks and potential traffic and transport impacts on Council managed assets
- technical aspects seeking specialist input from local councils to inform project planning. This included requests for specialist traffic and transport data and socio-economic data.

The following LGAs provided comments on the proposed amendments and refinements included in the project’s Amendment Report. Detailed information on the feedback received, themes and topics, and where these are addressed in the Amendment Report is outlined in the table below.

Table 3 Topics raised from consultation with councils

Local Council	Meeting Date	Amendment Report Item	Feedback and topics raised	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
<b>Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council</b>	23 November 2023 29 January 2024 9 April 2024	Accommodation facilities and construction compounds Nomination of access tracks	Amended Honeysuckle Road compound (C07) – legacy surveying issues and boundaries on general mapping system do not reflect actual boundaries. Water and sewerage access points and connections for proposed Adjungbilly accommodation facility and compound (AC04). Standpipe/potable water. Accommodation facility and compound locations. Snowy Valleys Highway – length of closure. Access routes and bridge/culvert/cattle grid load limits. Process for dealing with private locks on council-owned roads. Request for Road Safety Officer to be included in further discussions about traffic and transport impacts.	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) - 6.5. Land use and property - 6.11. Surface water and groundwater - 6.12. Hydrology and flooding - 6.14. Traffic, transport and access Appendix A (Updated project description) Submissions Report
<b>Goulburn Mulwaree Council</b>	20 November 2023 3 April 2024	Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds Construction approach and methodology	Proposed Crookwell accommodation facility located very close to Goulburn and on the edge between Upper Lachlan Shire Council and Goulburn Mulwaree Council. Existing wind farm infrastructure on the proposed Crookwell worker accommodation facility. Update on the undergrounding inquiry. Council pushing for expansion of courses at Goulburn TAFE.	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) - 6.5. Land use and property - 6.6 Economy Appendix A (Updated project description) Submissions Report
<b>Snowy Valleys Council</b>	21 November 2023 31 January 2024 8 February 2024 10 April 2024	Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds Nomination of access tracks Transmission line and substation design refinements Access to water sources	Proposed engagement around the Amendment Report and council consultation. Access points – S138 process and design requirements (Council specifications). Water access point locations. Potential impacts to local roads and Transgrid's engagement with Council regarding the roads. Roads pre- and post-dilapidation surveys/reports and bridge assessment timing.	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) - 6.5. Land use and property - 6.6. Economy - 6.10. Soils, geology and contamination - 6.11. Surface water and groundwater - 6.12. Hydrology and flooding

Local Council	Meeting Date	Amendment Report Item	Feedback and topics raised	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
		Extractive materials to support construction	<p>Traffic control/LGA traffic volume.</p> <p>Quarrying activities.</p> <p>Access tracks – how they are included in Property Management Plans (PMPs).</p> <p>Biosecurity risks and weed management.</p> <p>Changes in compound and accommodation locations since EIS</p> <p>Community Enhancement Fund – financial support to communities impacted by HumeLink.</p> <p>Stringing methodology.</p>	<p>- 6.14. Traffic, transport and access</p> <p>Appendix A (Updated project description)</p> <p>Submissions Report</p>
<b>Upper Lachlan Shire Council</b>	<p>1 February 2024</p> <p>3 April 2024</p> <p>10 April 2024</p>	<p>Changes to the transmission line corridor</p> <p>Transmission line design</p>	<p>Potential cumulative impacts of the project in consideration of the existing infrastructure in the LGA (includes existing transmission line network as well as existing and proposed wind farms).</p> <p>Potential visual impacts from the project.</p> <p>Potential impacts to the local road network, particularly road safety from increased heavy vehicle movement during construction.</p> <p>Potential opportunities for community investment and legacy projects in this area.</p> <p>Upper Lachlan residents should receive discounted renewable energy.</p> <p>Council is experiencing financial stress and selling off assets to unlock equity.</p>	<p>Chapter 3 (Description of amended project)</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.6. Economy</li> <li>- 6.8. Landscape character and visual amenity               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.11. Surface water and groundwater</li> <li>- 6.12. Hydrology and flooding</li> <li>- 6.14. Traffic, transport and access</li> <li>- 6.16. Climate change</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Appendix A (Updated project description)</p> <p>Submissions Report</p>

Local Council	Meeting Date	Amendment Report Item	Feedback and topics raised	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
<b>Wagga Wagga City Council</b>	17 January 2024 (Airport requirements)	Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds Changes to the transmission line corridor	<p>Substation easements and approvals. Tarcutta and Lockhart accommodation facilities. Local employment opportunities. Airport requirements: Restriction on construction activities. Understanding impact activities to flight paths. Security and safety issues. Permit requirements. Signage/lighting requirements on cranes etc. Application and approval processes. EIS approval update. Stringing/staging plan. Road crossings and maintenance. Traffic controls and night works. Access points (road augmentation works). Roads pre- and post-dilapidation surveys/reports. Water utilities, potential take-off points. Solare wind farm projects. Recreational facilities.</p>	<p>Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.6. Economy</li> <li>- 6.8. Landscape character and visual amenity</li> <li>- 6.11. Surface water and groundwater</li> <li>- 6.12. Hydrology and flooding</li> <li>- 6.14. Traffic, transport and access</li> <li>- 6.15. Air quality</li> </ul> <p>Appendix A (Updated project description) Submissions Report</p>
	21 February 2024			
	2 April 2024			
<b>Yass Valley Council</b>	16 November 2023	Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds Nomination of access tracks Construction approach and methodology (use of helicopters and drones)	<p>Engagement planned for Amendment Report. Provision of temporary accommodation facilities to reduce impact on short-term accommodation availability and housing affordability in the Yass Valley area. Process to determine locations for the accommodation facilities. Service and utility connections for worker accommodation facilities (sewer plant option, mains, waste location etc). Potential flooding risk around the Yass accommodation facility location. Local road upgrades prior to construction start.</p>	
	31 January 2024			
	9 April 2024			

Local Council	Meeting Date	Amendment Report Item	Feedback and topics raised	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
			Bridge/road limits and road crossings. Traffic management plan for the proposed accommodation facilities. Access points – S138 process and design requirements. Potential impacts from helicopter take-offs and landings – movements, including social impacts and noise impacts for residents in the Yass region. Undergrounding update. Water access points – potable/non-potable	
Hilltops Council	3 April 2024	Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds Changes to the transmission line corridor Construction approach and methodology	Appreciation for keeping council in the loop. No community feedback about HumeLink yet received by Hilltops Council. Community investment funding. Business Buzz opportunities. Careers Expo in Hilltops LGA later in 2024.	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) - 6.6. Economy

#### 5.2.4. Aboriginal stakeholders

Engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders has focused on sharing project information and facilitating field work, including participation in cultural heritage surveys, geotechnical surveys and test pit excavations to support the development of the Revised Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for HumeLink.

**Over 90** engagements including briefings, project updates, correspondence, and subject matter-specific engagement.

Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) and Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) were actively engaged during the development of the Amendment Report and provided feedback on the proposed amendments and refinements.

The following LALCs provided comments on the proposed amendments and refinements included in the project's Amendment Report. Detailed information on the feedback received, themes and topics, and where these are addressed in the Amendment Report is outlined in the table below:

Table 4 Topics raised from consultation with LALCs and RAPs

LALC or RAP	Amendment Report Item	Feedback and topics raised	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
Brungle Tumut LALC	<p>Construction approach and methodology</p> <p>Nomination of access tracks</p> <p>Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds</p> <p>Transmission line and substation design refinements</p>	<p>Cultural sensitivity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protection of sacred sites: Stakeholders expressed concerns about potential impacts on culturally significant sites, artefacts, or landscapes.</li> <li>- Demonstrating respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by observing cultural protocols, customs and significant artefacts.</li> <li>- Traditional land use and access of areas of hunting, gathering, ceremonies, or other cultural practices.</li> <li>- Effective and inclusive consultation process and the extent to which their feedback is considered in project planning.</li> <li>- Engagement has improved.</li> <li>- Cultural awareness and increased value and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and knowledge.</li> </ul> <p>Environmental impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Land and habitat disruption to ecosystems along the project footprint and environmental mitigation measures such as habitat restoration, wildlife corridors and sustainable land management practices.</li> <li>- Water resources: quality impacts.</li> </ul> <p>Project effectiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Route refinement and inclusion of alternative route options feedback to minimise Aboriginal heritage impacts.</li> <li>- Long-term project impacts and sustainability in project planning and decision making.</li> </ul> <p>Community opportunities and challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic opportunities through project-related employment, training, and business opportunities for Indigenous stakeholders.</li> <li>- Social impacts of predicted influx of construction workers and transient populations in local areas, impacting local resources and infrastructure, and potentially disrupting community dynamics and increasing social tensions.</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 3 (Description of amended project)</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.3. Aboriginal</li> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.6. Economic</li> <li>- 6.7. Social</li> <li>- 6.10. Soils, geology and contamination</li> <li>- 6.11. Surface water and groundwater</li> </ul> <p>Appendix A (Updated project description)</p> <p>Technical Report 2 – Revised Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report</p>



LALC or RAP	Amendment Report Item	Feedback and topics raised	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
Pejar LALC	<p>Construction approach and methodology</p> <p>Nomination of access tracks</p> <p>Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds</p> <p>Transmission line and substation design refinements</p>	<p>Cultural sensitivity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrating respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by observing cultural protocols, customs and significant artefacts.</li> <li>- Effective and inclusive consultation process and the extent to which their feedback is considered in project planning.</li> <li>- Engagement has improved.</li> <li>- Cultural awareness and increased value and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and knowledge.</li> </ul> <p>Project effectiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Long-term project impacts and sustainability in project planning and decision making.</li> </ul> <p>Community opportunities and challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic opportunities through project-related employment, training, and business opportunities for Indigenous stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 3 (Description of amended project)</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.3. Aboriginal</li> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.6. Economic</li> <li>- 6.7. Social</li> </ul> <p>Appendix A (Updated project description)</p> <p>Technical Report 2 – Revised Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report</p>
Wagga LALC	<p>Construction approach and methodology</p> <p>Nomination of access tracks</p> <p>Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds</p> <p>Transmission line and substation design refinements</p>	<p>Community opportunities and challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic opportunities through project-related employment, training, and business opportunities for Indigenous stakeholders.</li> <li>- Social impacts of predicted influx of construction workers and transient populations in local areas, impacting local resources and infrastructure, and potentially disrupting community dynamics and increasing social tensions.</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 3 (Description of amended project)</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.3. Aboriginal</li> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.6. Economic</li> <li>- 6.7. Social</li> </ul> <p>Appendix A (Updated project description)</p> <p>Technical Report 2 – Revised Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report</p>

From a cultural perspective, LALCs advised that Transgrid should implement culturally appropriate ceremonies of recognition aligned with project activities and milestones. This includes acknowledgment when visiting cultural places on private land to explore shared values and enhance cultural heritage.

Searches of the National Native Title Register and Register of Native Title Claims, administered by the National Native Title Tribunal, did not identify any Crown land areas within the amended project footprint as being the subject of a claim or determination under the Native Title Act 1993. However, there is an overlap with land that is subject of the Tumut Brungle Area Agreement and Gundungurra Area Agreement.

Searches of the Register of Aboriginal Land Claims were undertaken to identify any Crown land areas within the amended project footprint subject to an Aboriginal Land Claim. Transgrid will continue to engage with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council as well as relevant LALCs for any undetermined land claim.

#### **5.2.5. Community Consultative Group (CCG)**

Following consultation with the three HumeLink CCGs – Upper Lachlan and Yass Valley CCG, Snowy Valleys CCG, and Cootamundra-Gundagai and Wagga Wagga CCG – meetings have been held under one combined CCG from March 2023. The combined CCG format was developed as requested by the three separate CCGs. Membership has remained as per the initial three groups, including representatives from local government authorities, impacted landowners, and interested community members.

Below is a summary of key themes and topics discussed at CCG meetings between October 2023 and April 2024. Detailed CCG meeting minutes are available on the [HumeLink webpage](#).

Table 5 Topics raised from CCG meetings

CCG Meeting Date	Amendment Report Item	Feedback and topics raised	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
<p>October 2023</p> <p>March 2024</p>	<p>Nomination of access tracks</p> <p>Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds</p> <p>Transmission line and substation design refinements (tower height)</p>	<p>Land negotiations and land acquisition progress for the Gugaa 500 kV substation.</p> <p>Further details on tower locations and access tracks to be shared with CCG members.</p> <p>Information on upgrading works completed on compounds on the Snowy Mountains Highway.</p> <p>Access track locations along the project footprint, use of access tracks and acquisition process.</p> <p>Worker accommodation facilities including responsibility for upkeep and repurposing.</p> <p>Transmission line refinement with changes to tower height.</p> <p>Green Hills route refinement and decision on the preferred route.</p> <p>Corona noise including expected noise and vibration levels during operation.</p> <p>Cost benefit analysis to consider impact of Snowy 2.0 delays.</p> <p>Route refinement and paralleling lines in the east section of the project alignment.</p> <p>Biodiversity offsets opportunities and process.</p> <p>Width and depth of trenches including estimates of undergrounding.</p> <p>EIS submissions process and next steps.</p> <p>Social licence and failure to adequately compensate community members for their land.</p> <p>Insufficient information on visual amenity for the community.</p> <p>Need for two-way consultation.</p> <p>Overhead lines restricting access for bushfire fighting.</p> <p>Undergrounding studies.</p> <p>Introduction of delivery partners.</p> <p>Action meeting with forestry industry member about managing competitive employment pressures within a local workforce.</p> <p>Planning approvals.</p> <p>Bushfire management.</p> <p>Community investment and benefits program.</p>	<p>Chapter 3 (Description of amended project)</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.2 Biodiversity</li> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.6. Economy</li> <li>- 6.7 Social</li> <li>- 6.8 Landscape character and visual amenity</li> <li>- 6.9. Noise and vibration</li> <li>- 6.10. Soils, geology and contamination</li> <li>- 6.11. Surface water and groundwater</li> <li>- 6.12. Hydrology and flooding</li> <li>- 6.14. Traffic, transport and access</li> </ul> <p>Appendix A (Updated project description)</p> <p>Technical Report 5 – Land Use and Property Impact Assessment Addendum</p> <p>Technical Report 9 – Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment</p> <p>Technical Report 6 – Economic Impact Assessment Addendum</p> <p>Technical Report 1 – Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report</p>

### 5.2.6. Exploration licence and mineral title holders and quarry operators

Engagement with exploration licence and mineral title holders across the HumeLink project footprint has continued via direct communication with each of the title holders. Each exploration licence and mineral title holder identified within the amended project footprint was engaged through a postal letter and email containing a project update and information on the Amendment Report, along with an invitation to arrange a meeting with the project team.

Transgrid continued to engage with exploration licence and mineral title holders by responding to queries and allowing them ongoing opportunity to provide feedback. Queries received related to how will the proposed electricity transmission infrastructure as well as ancillary facilities such as access tracks, co-exist and interact with mineral and exploration activities.

There are no active quarries within the amended project footprint. However, construction contractors began engagement with local and regional quarry operators to source and secure earthwork materials to meet the anticipated project needs for new and upgraded access tracks, and to meet the anticipated deficit in project cut to fill balance. This engagement will continue during further detailed design and construction planning.

Transgrid will continue to engage with Mining, Exploration & Geoscience NSW, identified mineral and exploration licence holders through the planning and construction phases of the project.

### 5.2.7. Landowners, near neighbours and community members

The tables below outline engagement activities and the respective feedback received from landowners, near neighbours and the broader community throughout the development of the Amendment Report. Amendment Report items of particular interest to these stakeholders were:

- the changes to the transmission line corridor including the Green Hills corridor amendment (outlined in Place Managers and Land Access Officers of this document)
- updates to worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds as stakeholders recognised additional facilities would take pressure off short-term accommodation and businesses recognised the economic potential of an increased workforce in their region
- nomination of access tracks, particularly among directly impacted landowners and near neighbours.

#### 5.2.7.1. In-person Community Information Sessions

Table 6 Topics raised at CIS

Amendment Report item	Relevant topic of feedback	Engagement activity where feedback was received	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
<b>Construction methodology</b>	Potential construction impacts related to noise and vibration, traffic and transport including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- road use</li> <li>- heavy vehicle movement</li> <li>- traffic management plans</li> <li>- road safety</li> <li>- proposed work hours</li> <li>- expected dust</li> <li>- environmental impacts.</li> </ul>	12 February 2024 – Gunning 20 February 2024 – Tarcutta 21 February 2024 – Tumut 21 February 2024 – Tumberumba 22 February 2024 – Batlow 23 February 2024 – Adelong	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.6. Economy</li> <li>- 6.7. Social</li> <li>- 6.8. Landscape character and visual amenity</li> <li>- 6.9. Noise and vibration</li> <li>- 6.10. Soils, geology and contamination</li> <li>- 6.14. Traffic, transport and access</li> <li>- 6.15. Air quality</li> </ul>

Amendment Report item	Relevant topic of feedback	Engagement activity where feedback was received	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
			<p>Appendix A (Updated project description)</p> <p>Technical Report 16 – Revised Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment</p> <p>Technical Report 9 – Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment</p>
<b>Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds</b>	<p>Proposed worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- workforce development and opportunities</li> <li>- opportunities for reusing/repurposing facilities post construction</li> <li>- worker capacity at the accommodation facilities</li> <li>- traffic and transport impacts.</li> </ul>	<p>12 February 2024 – Gunning</p> <p>13 February 2024 – Yass</p> <p>16 February 2024 – Goulburn</p> <p>19 February 2024 – Wagga Wagga</p> <p>20 February 2024 – Tarcutta</p> <p>21 February 2024 – Tumut</p> <p>21 February 2024 – Tumbarumba</p> <p>23 February 2024 – Adelong</p>	<p>Chapter 3 (Description of amended project)</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.6. Economy</li> <li>- 6.7. Social</li> <li>- 6.8. Landscape character and visual amenity</li> <li>- 6.14. Traffic, transport and access</li> </ul> <p>Appendix A (Updated project description)</p> <p>Technical Report 6 – Economic Impact Assessment Addendum</p> <p>Technical Report 16 – Revised Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment</p>
<b>Green Hills route refinement</b>	<p>Green Hills route refinement including the route refinement and decisions process and potential bushfire risk across Forestry land</p>	<p>12 February 2024 – Gunning</p> <p>13 February 2024 – Yass</p> <p>14 February 2024 – Gundagai</p> <p>22 February 2024 – Batlow</p> <p>23 February 2024 – Adelong</p>	<p>Chapter 3 (Description of amended project)</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.2 Biodiversity</li> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.8. Landscape character and visual amenity</li> <li>- 6.9. Noise and vibration</li> <li>- 6.10. Soils, geology and contamination</li> <li>- 6.11. Surface water and groundwater</li> <li>- 6.12. Hydrology and flooding</li> <li>- 6.14. Traffic, transport and access</li> <li>- 6.15. Air quality</li> <li>- 6.16. Climate change</li> </ul> <p>Appendix A (Updated project description)</p> <p>Technical Report 5 – Land Use and Property Impact Assessment Addendum</p> <p>Technical Report 13 – Bushfire Risk Assessment Report Addendum</p>
<b>Nomination of access tracks</b>	<p>Proposed access tracks, compensation process, inclusion in Property Management Plans (PMPs) and use of access tracks as fire trails during bushfires.</p>	<p>21 February 2024 – Tumut</p> <p>21 February 2024 – Tumbarumba</p> <p>22 February 2024 – Batlow</p>	<p>Chapter 3 (Description of amended project)</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.2 Biodiversity</li> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.8. Landscape character and visual amenity</li> <li>- 6.9. Noise and vibration</li> <li>- 6.10. Soils, geology and contamination</li> </ul>

Amendment Report item	Relevant topic of feedback	Engagement activity where feedback was received	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.11. Surface water and groundwater</li> <li>- 6.12. Hydrology and flooding</li> <li>- 6.14. Traffic, transport and access</li> <li>- 6.15. Air quality</li> <li>- 6.16. Climate change</li> </ul> <p>Appendix A (Updated project description)</p> <p>Technical Report 5 – Land Use and Property Impact Assessment Addendum</p> <p>Technical Report 13 – Bushfire Risk Assessment Report Addendum</p>

### 5.2.7.2. Online webinars

Table 7 Topics raised at online CIS

Amendment Report item	Relevant topic of feedback	Engagement activity where feedback was received	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
<b>Construction methodology</b>	<p>Local business and procurement work opportunities during the construction stage of the project including construction compounds and accommodation facilities.</p> <p>Road condition report and details on roads used during construction.</p> <p>Noise and vibration management plans as part of the enabling works management plans.</p>	<p>27 February 2024 – Webinar 1</p> <p>29 February 2024 – Webinar 2</p> <p>11 April 2024 – Webinar 1</p>	<p>Chapter 3 (Description of amended project)</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.6. Economy</li> <li>- 6.7. Social</li> <li>- 6.14. Traffic, transport and access</li> </ul> <p>Appendix A (Updated project description)</p> <p>Technical Report 16 – Revised Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment</p>
<b>Nomination of access tracks</b>	<p>New and existing access tracks and expected vehicle movements.</p> <p>Access track refinement process and Property Management Plans.</p>	<p>27 February 2024 – Webinar 1</p> <p>29 February 2024 – Webinar 2</p>	<p>Chapter 3 (Description of amended project)</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.2 Biodiversity</li> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.8. Landscape character and visual amenity</li> <li>- 6.9. Noise and vibration</li> <li>- 6.10. Soils, geology and contamination</li> <li>- 6.11. Surface water and groundwater</li> <li>- 6.12. Hydrology and flooding</li> <li>- 6.14. Traffic, transport and access</li> <li>- 6.15. Air quality</li> <li>- 6.16. Climate change</li> </ul> <p>Appendix A (Updated project description)</p> <p>Technical Report 5 – Land Use and Property Impact Assessment Addendum</p>

Amendment Report item	Relevant topic of feedback	Engagement activity where feedback was received	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
			Technical Report 16 – Revised Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment
<b>Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds</b>	Locations of proposed worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds. Features of proposed accommodation facilities and construction compounds including maximum capacity of workers at facilities. Building and management of the worker accommodation facilities including social impacts of the proposed facilities on local communities.	27 February 2024 – Webinar 1 29 February 2024 – Webinar 2 11 April 2024 – Webinar 1	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.6. Economy</li> <li>- 6.7. Social</li> <li>- 6.8. Landscape character and visual amenity</li> <li>- 6.14. Traffic, transport and access</li> </ul> Appendix A (Updated project description)
<b>Transmission line and substation design refinements</b>	Additional works, upgrades, and new construction at nominated substations. Locations of proposed new substations including Gugaa 500 kV substation.	27 February 2024 – Webinar 1	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.13. Hazards and risks</li> </ul> Appendix A (Updated project description)

### 5.2.7.3. Street meetings

Table 8 Topics raised at street meetings

Amendment Report item	Relevant topic of feedback	Engagement activity where feedback was received	Where addressed in the Amendment Report
<b>Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds</b>	Increase of construction workers due to proposed construction compounds and worker accommodation facilities and social impacts on communities and services.	27 November 2023 – Tarcutta 20 February 2024 – Tarcutta 16 April 2024 – Wagga Wagga	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.5. Land use and property</li> <li>- 6.6. Economy</li> <li>- 6.7. Social</li> <li>- 6.8. Landscape character and visual amenity</li> <li>- 6.14. Traffic, transport and access</li> </ul> Appendix A (Updated project description) Technical Report 7 – Social Impact Assessment Addendum
<b>Construction methodology</b>	Traffic control and road safety including traffic and safety management plans and quality of local roads. Construction and design of transmission lines.	27 November 2023 – Tarcutta 20 February 2024 – Tarcutta 22 February 2024 – Batlow	Chapter 3 (Description of amended project) Chapter 6 (Assessment of impacts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.8. Landscape character and visual amenity</li> <li>- 6.13. Hazards and risks</li> <li>- 6.14. Traffic, transport and access</li> </ul> Appendix A (Updated project description) Technical Report 16 – Revised Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment

#### **5.2.7.4. Direct engagement with impacted landowners**

Ongoing engagement with easement affected landowners as well as near neighbours for the proposed ancillary facilities continued during the development of the Amendment Report. Engagement with easement affected landowners continued to be undertaken as part of the property negotiations process led by Transgrid's Place Managers and Land Access Officers.

Topics discussed included proposed access tracks, accommodation facilities and construction compounds, the Green Hills route realignment as well as the other minor route refinements, which were discussed and agreed with each landowner. Amendment Report topics discussed also included proposed construction methodology refinement including indicative locations for controlled blasting, helicopter use and water sources.



## 6. Referenced information

### 6.1. Key stakeholders

Table 9 Key stakeholders

Stakeholder group	Stakeholders
Government – Political representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commonwealth Minister for Climate Change and Energy – Hon. Chris Bowen MP</li> <li>• Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water – Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP</li> <li>• Commonwealth Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy – Ted O'Brien MP</li> <li>• NSW Minister for Environment and Minister for Heritage – Penny Sharpe MLC</li> <li>• NSW Minister for Planning – Paul Scully MP</li> <li>• Former NSW Minister for Energy and Environment – Matthew Kean MP</li> <li>• Former NSW Minister for Planning – Anthony Roberts MP</li> </ul>
Energy Regulator / Operator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Energy Market Operator</li> <li>• Australian Energy Regulator</li> <li>• Australian Energy Market Commission</li> <li>• Energy Security Board</li> </ul>
NSW Members of Parliament (and others where appropriate)	<p><i>Commonwealth</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angus Taylor, Hume</li> <li>• Kristy McBain, Eden-Monaro and Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories</li> <li>• Michael McCormack, Riverina</li> </ul> <p><i>State Members</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joe McGirr, Wagga Wagga</li> <li>• Wendy Tuckerman, Goulburn</li> <li>• Stephanie Cooke, Cootamundra</li> <li>• Justin Clancy, Albury</li> </ul>
Local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wagga Wagga City Council</li> <li>• Snowy Valleys Council</li> <li>• Upper Lachlan Shire Council</li> <li>• Cootamundra–Gundagai Regional Council</li> <li>• Yass Valley Council</li> <li>• Goulburn–Mulwaree Council</li> <li>• Hilltops Council</li> </ul>
Government agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airservices Australia</li> <li>• Australian Rail Track Corporation</li> <li>• Civil Aviation Safety Authority</li> <li>• former Department of Planning and Environment – Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (now NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – Environment and Heritage (NSW DCCEEW Environment and Heritage))</li> <li>• former Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands (now DPHI Crown Lands)</li> <li>• former Department of Planning and Environment – Water (now NSW DCCEEW Water)</li> <li>• Department of Primary Industries – Agriculture</li> <li>• Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries</li> <li>• Fire and Rescue NSW</li> <li>• Forestry Corporation of NSW</li> <li>• Heritage Council of NSW</li> <li>• former Heritage NSW (now NSW DCCEEW Environment and Heritage)</li> <li>• Mining, Exploration and Geoscience NSW</li> <li>• NSW Environment Protection Authority</li> <li>• NSW Rural Fire Service</li> <li>• NSW Telco Authority</li> </ul>

Stakeholder group	Stakeholders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport for NSW</li> <li>• WaterNSW</li> </ul>
Easement affected landowners	Landowners who will have a Transgrid easement on their property for the purposes of the HumeLink project
Directly impacted landowners	Landowners who will be impacted by project infrastructure (temporary or permanent).
Indirectly impacted landowners or “near neighbours” (non-easement affected)	Landowners who are not easement affected and outside of the project footprint who might experience construction or operation impacts as a result of the project.
Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal groups	<p>LALCs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brungle Tumut LALC</li> <li>• Wagga Wagga LALC</li> <li>• Onerwal LALC (Yass)</li> <li>• Pejar LALC (Goulburn)</li> <li>• Wagonga LALC (Narooma)</li> </ul> <p>RAPs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thunderstone Aboriginal Cultural Services Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Buru Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation</li> <li>• Bidya Marra Consultancy</li> <li>• Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage</li> <li>• Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation</li> <li>• Muragadi Heritage Indigenous Corporation</li> <li>• PD Ngunawal Consultancy</li> <li>• Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services</li> <li>• Yurwang Gundana Cultural Heritage Services</li> <li>• Ngurambang</li> <li>• Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge</li> <li>• Ngunnawal Elders Corporation</li> <li>• Gulgunya Ngunawal Heritage Aboriginal Consultancy (GNHAC)</li> <li>• Ngunawal Heritage Aboriginal Corporation</li> <li>• Bangerang Aboriginal Corporation</li> <li>• Didge Ngunawal clan</li> <li>• Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation</li> <li>• 19 individual RAPs</li> </ul>
Community Consultative Group (CCG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined CCG with members from previous CCGs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yass and Upper Lachlan</li> <li>○ Snowy Valleys</li> <li>○ Wagga Wagga and Cootamundra-Gundagai</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Community / special interest groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special interest groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HumeLink Action Group (HAG)</li> <li>○ Bannaby Residents Action Group (BRAG)</li> <li>○ HumeLink Alliance</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Progress associations</li> <li>• Service groups</li> <li>• Local business chambers</li> </ul>
Local community	<p>Communities within local government areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wagga Wagga City Council</li> <li>• Snowy Valleys Council</li> <li>• Upper Lachlan Shire Council</li> <li>• Cootamundra–Gundagai Regional Council</li> <li>• Yass Valley Council</li> <li>• Goulburn–Mulwaree Council</li> </ul>
Local suppliers	Suppliers within project footprint and local government areas listed above

Stakeholder group	Stakeholders
Other suppliers	Greater-NSW and Australian suppliers
Industry groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Networks Australia</li> <li>• Infrastructure Partnerships Australia</li> <li>• Clean Energy Council</li> <li>• Business Council of Australia</li> </ul>
Unions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrical Trade Union</li> <li>• Construction, Forestry Maritime, Mining and Energy Union</li> </ul>
Service providers / utilities	Existing utility and service providers in the region including Telstra, WaterNSW, local water utilities and other communications providers
Exploration licence holders Quarry operators Mineral title holders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New South Resources Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Cullarin Metals Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Godolphin Tenements Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Legacy Minerals Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Rox 1 Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Carbozorb Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Aurum Metals Pty Ltd</li> <li>• TRK Resources Pty Ltd</li> <li>• New Base Metals Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Right Resources Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Wildcat Gold Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Right Resources Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Gilmore Metals Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Tarago Exploration Pty Ltd</li> <li>• ABX2 Pty Ltd</li> </ul>
Media	Local, state and national print, radio and television
General public	Members of the public outside the project footprint who may take an interest in the project
Energy customer groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)</li> <li>• Energy Users' Association of Australia (EUAA)</li> <li>• Energy Consumers Australia (ECA)</li> <li>• St Vincent de Paul</li> <li>• Tesla</li> <li>• Ai Group</li> <li>• Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC)</li> <li>• Transgrid Advisory Council (TAC)</li> <li>• Landowner Advocate</li> </ul>
Education and training providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charles Sturt University</li> <li>• TAFE NSW</li> </ul>

## 6.2. Community information session timeline

### 6.2.1. In-person events

Table 10 In-person events schedule

Date & Time	Location	Attendees
12 February 2024, 4pm – 6pm	Gunning Council Chambers	5
13 February 2024, 11am – 1pm	Swagger's Motor Inn, Yass	1
13 February 2024, 4pm – 6pm		3
14 February 2024, 11am – 1pm	Gundagai District Services Club	3
15 February 2024, 11am – 1pm	Crookwell Memorial Hall	2
15 February 2024, 4pm – 6pm	Taralga War Memorial Hall	2
16 February 2024, 11am – 1pm	Goulburn Worker's Club	4
19 February 2024, 4pm – 6pm	Mercure Hotel, Wagga Wagga	6
20 February 2024, 11am – 1pm	Tarcutta Memorial Hall	6
20 February 2024, 4pm – 6pm		8
21 February 2024, 11am – 1pm	Valmar Support Services, Tumut	3
21 February 2024, 4pm – 6pm	Tumbarumba Motel	5
22 February 2024, 11am – 1pm	Batlow Literary Institute	3
22 February 2024, 4pm – 6pm		4
23 February 2024, 11am – 1pm	Adelong Services, Citizens and Bowling Club	10
		Total attendees: 65

### 6.2.2. Online webinar events

Table 11 Online events schedule

Date & Time	Topic	Attendees
27 February 2024, 5.30pm – 7pm	Project update and briefing on proposed amendments and refinements	5
29 February 2024, 12pm – 1.30pm		12
4 March 2024, 12pm – 1.30pm		8
11 April 2024, 12pm – 1.30pm	Amendment Report update and Amendment Report assessment outcomes	15
16 April 2024, 5.30pm – 7pm		8
		Total attendees: 48

### 6.2.3. Street meetings

Table 12 Street meeting events schedule

Date & Time	Location	Attendees
27 November 2023, 2pm – 5pm	Across from Coffee @ Joe's, Tarcutta	3
28 November 2023, 11am – 2pm	Batlow Literary Institute	0
4 December 2023, 2pm – 5pm	92 Meehan St, Yass	0
5 December 2023, 11am – 2pm	44 Spring St, Crookwell	0
14 February 2024, 8am – 10am	Meehan St, Yass	0

Date & Time	Location	Attendees
15 February 2024, 8am – 10am	Robertson Lane & Spring St, Crookwell	0
20 February 2024, 8am – 10am	Across from Coffee @ Joe's, Tarcutta	5
20 February 2024, 11am – 1pm		
20 February 2024, 4pm – 6pm		
22 February 2024, 8am – 10am	Batlow Literary Institute	1
16 April 2024, 10am – 3pm	Transgrid Discovery Hub, Wagga Wagga	20
17 April 2024, from 9am	Across from Coffee @ Joe's, Tarcutta	3
17 April 2024, from 3pm	Batlow Literary Institute	1
18 April 2024, from 9am	Robertson Lane & Spring St, Crookwell	3
18 April 2024, from 3pm	Meehan St, Yass	1
		Total attendees: 37

### 6.3. Communication and engagement materials

#### 6.3.1. Samples of advertising and promotional materials

**D.1** Advertisement for November 2023. street meetings were distributed via letterbox to near neighbours in close proximity to the proposed worker accommodation facilities at Tarcutta, Green Hills, Yass, Crookwell and Adjungbilly.

Posters advertising street meetings and community information sessions in February 2024 were also distributed across local businesses and community libraries for additional reach of the Amendment Report engagement activities.



## HumeLink Project Update

**You may have heard about the HumeLink project to construct a new 500 kV transmission line connecting Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle.**

HumeLink, which is one of the state's largest energy infrastructure projects, is needed to expand the capacity of the electricity network in southern NSW and connect renewable energy to the national electricity grid.

Transgrid is proposing to build about 360 kilometres of new transmission lines and adding new or upgrading infrastructure at four locations. We're also proposing to build temporary accommodation facilities to house our workers during the construction stage of the project, reducing the impacts to local housing and short term accommodation availability.

The Transgrid project team would like to invite you to learn more about the project progress and recent design and construction methodology refinements, including the proposed accommodation facilities and construction compounds.

Please reach out to us on 1800 317 367 or [humelink@transgrid.com.au](mailto:humelink@transgrid.com.au) to arrange a meeting with the project team. Alternatively, we invite you to attend one of our drop-in sessions. Find our Remote Access Community Hub (RACH) in your area:

**44 Spring Street, Crookwell**

5 December, 1:00pm - 2:00pm



**Connect with us for more information**

Scan the QR code to access the HumeLink website or contact us via call or email: **1800 3173 67**  
[humelink@transgrid.com.au](mailto:humelink@transgrid.com.au)





## Join the HumeLink project team at our upcoming events in February and March

HumeLink is one of Australia's largest energy infrastructure projects connecting renewable energy sources to the grid, and consists of 365 kilometres of 500 kV overhead transmission lines connecting Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle, and new or upgraded infrastructure at four substations.

The public exhibition of the HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concluded in October 2023. We are currently developing a Submissions Report, which collates, categorises and responds to the submissions received on the EIS.

A number of proposed project amendments and refinements have also been identified in response to issues raised in submissions received on the EIS, as well as in response to ongoing design refinements. These will be assessed and reported in an Amendment Report. Both the Amendment Report and the Submissions Report will be submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) formerly known as DPE. They will also be publicly available on the NSW Major Projects Planning Portal.

If you are interested in learning more about HumeLink or the Amendment Report, the project team will be hosting several online and in-person community events in February and March. Scan the QR code to RSVP.

### HumeLink West Schedule:

#### In-person events:

Monday, 19 February	4pm - 6pm	Mercure Hotel, Wagga Wagga
Tuesday, 20 February	11am - 1pm, 4pm - 6pm	Tarcutta, venue TBC on the HumeLink webpage
Wednesday, 21 February	11am - 1pm	Tumut Valmar Support Services
Wednesday, 21 February	4pm - 6pm	Tumbarumba Motel
Thursday, 22 February	11am - 1pm, 4pm - 6pm	Batlow Literary Institute
Friday, 23 February	11am - 1pm	Adelong Services, Citizens & Bowling Club

#### Online events:

Tuesday, 27 February	5:30pm - 7:00pm
Thursday, 29 February	12:00pm - 1:30pm
Monday, 4 March	12:00pm - 1:30pm


#### We will also be hosting street meetings with our Remote Access Community Hub (RACH).

Tuesday, 20 February	8am - 10am, 4pm - 6pm	Across from Coffee @ Joe's, Tarcutta
Thursday, 22 February	8am - 10am, 11am - 1pm, 4pm - 6pm	Batlow Literary Institute



Scan the QR to RSVP  
For more information on HumeLink  
visit [www.transgrid.com.au/humelink](http://www.transgrid.com.au/humelink)  
or phone 1800 317 367

**D.2 Paid advertisements for Amendment Report webinars and Community Information Sessions posted on Facebook and Instagram**



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Join the HumeLink team at our in-person or online events between 12 February and 4 March 2024. Come along to learn ...See more

**Transgrid**

**You're invited to the HumeLink community information sessions**

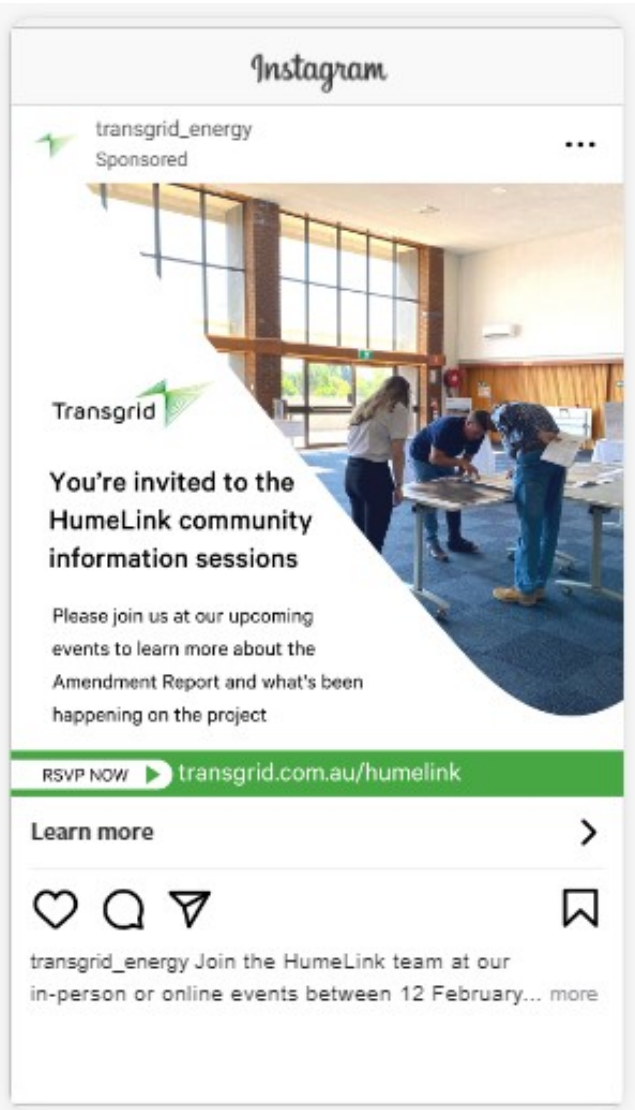
Please join us at our upcoming events to learn more about the Amendment Report and what's been happening on the project

RSVP NOW ▶ [transgrid.com.au/humelink](https://transgrid.com.au/humelink)

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**You're invited to the HumeLink community information sessions**

Please join us at our upcoming events to learn more about the Amendment Report and what's been happening on the project

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D.3 HumeLink monthly project newsletter – December 2023 letterbox drop issue and January 2024 digital issue

# HumeLink Community Newsletter



December 2023

## What is HumeLink?

HumeLink is one of Australia's largest energy infrastructure projects connecting renewable energy sources to the grid, increasing availability and market competition and helping to put downward pressure on energy prices in Australia.

The project consists of 385 kilometres of 500 kV overhead transmission lines connecting Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle, and new or upgraded infrastructure at four substations.

HumeLink is critical to bringing more affordable, reliable and renewable energy to the grid and is a priority project for the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the Commonwealth and NSW Governments. HumeLink is subject to the approval of the Australian Energy Regulator.

To view HumeLink's interactive route map go to [transgrid.com.au/humelink](https://transgrid.com.au/humelink).

## In this issue:

Project footprint total length update

Planning approvals update

Holiday period

## HumeLink preferred route



Figure 1: HumeLink preferred route.

People. Power. Possibilities.

# HumeLink Community Newsletter

January 2024

## What is HumeLink?

HumeLink is one of Australia's largest energy infrastructure projects connecting renewable energy sources to the grid, increasing availability and market competition and helping to put downward pressure on energy prices in Australia.

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HumeLink is critical to bringing more affordable, reliable and renewable energy to the grid and is a priority project for the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the Commonwealth and NSW Governments. HumeLink is subject to the approval of the Australian Energy Regulator.

To view HumeLink's interactive route map go to [transgrid.com.au/humelink](https://transgrid.com.au/humelink).

### In this issue:

Contingent Project Application

Construction partners

Upcoming site investigations and associated activities

Amendment Report and Submissions Report update

In the community

## HumeLink preferred route



Figure 1: HumeLink preferred route.

People. Power. Possibilities.

### 6.3.2. Photographs of consultation activities

#### D.1 Photographs from Community Information Sessions and street meetings



Photo 1: Community Information Session set-up in Gunning on 12 February 2024



Photo 2: Project team representative speaking with an interested community member regarding the Amendment Report map at the Adelong Community Information Session on 23 February 2024



Photo 3: RACH set-up at the Yass street meeting on 14 February 2024



Photo 4: RACH setup at the Yass CIS on 13 February 2024