

Our ref: SSI-36656827-PA-111

Jeremy Roberts  
Major Project Delivery Director  
Transgrid  
Via Email

11 September 2025

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Subject: HumeLink – HumeLink East Final Layout Plans staging request

Dear Mr Roberts

I refer to your submission dated 27 August 2025, requesting the Planning Secretary's approval to stage the HumeLink East Final Layout Plans in accordance with Condition C3 of the approval for the HumeLink project (SSI-36656827). I also acknowledge your response to the Departments request for additional information (together with your submission referred to as the Staging Request).

Approved staging of the HumeLink project (SSI-36656827-PA-5) includes Stage 3A Construction Works HumeLink East (HumeLink East) and Stage 3B Construction Works HumeLink West (HumeLink West). On 22 August 2025, the Planning Secretary approved a request to stage the Final Layout Plans required under Condition C8 for both HumeLink East and HumeLink West, preparing and submitting all Final Layout Plans prior to the commencement of Construction of each stage except those subject to the relevant requirements of Conditions B40, B42 and B43 (SSI-36656827-PA-109).

Your Staging Request proposes to further stage the HumeLink East Final Layout Plans required under Condition C8 to align with HumeLink East's design deliverables, facilitating construction in areas where the design is complete and providing for progressive work to be undertaken as detailed design is completed.

I note the Staging Request:

- states that the HumeLink East alignment has been split into 27 "work packs", each representing a geographic work area, and proposes to prepare separate Final Layout Plans in accordance with Condition C8 for each work pack;
- further proposes to stage the Final Layout Plans based on the availability of partial impact clearing information, initially providing Final Layout Plans with full impact disturbance areas (i.e. Total Clearing Zones (TCZ)) identified and a subsequent submission of Final Layout Plans

that also identify partial impact clearing (i.e. Easement Clearing Zones and Hazard Tree Zones);

- details that the request, if approved would provide for the project to commence clearing in areas of full impact where relevant Final Layout Plans have been submitted in accordance with Condition C8 but would not commence any partial clearing until Final Layout Plans identifying those areas have been submitted;
- states that as clearing is undertaken in full impact clearing areas only, controls and safeguards would be in place to ensure that only those areas would be cleared and no impact to any partial clearing areas would occur until relevant Final Layout Plans have been submitted;
- states that all works will be undertaken in accordance with the HumeLink East Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) (Version 01.7, dated 2 September 2025); and
- provided an updated table detailing the proposed HumeLink East Final Layout Plan stages, along with a description and indicative submission timing for each, noting that based on that indicative submission timing, all Final Layout Plans for HumeLink East would be submitted by November 2025.

The Department has carefully reviewed the Staging Request and is satisfied that it meets the requirements of the relevant conditions. Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary and in accordance with Condition C3(a), I approve the staging of the HumeLink East Final Layout Plans, as detailed in your Staging Request.

In accordance with Condition A3 of the Approval, this staging approval is subject to the following:

1. Construction of a stage must not commence until a Final Layout Plan covering the relevant stage has been prepared and submitted in accordance with Condition C8.
2. Clearing of partial clearing impact areas must not occur until after submission of relevant Final Layout Plans identifying the partial clearing area.
3. Where feasible, Final Layout Plans will be grouped together to reduce the number of submissions.
4. Each submission of the Final Layout Plans must include a schedule / index of all Final Layout Plans, including those to be prepared and submitted at a later timeframe in accordance with the approved staging.

Further, you are reminded of the Planning Secretary's requirement 3 under the 22 August 2025 HumeLink Final Layout Plans staging agreement (SSI-36656827-PA-109), as follows:

A consolidated staging report for the project is submitted to the Planning Secretary within two (2) months of this staging approval. The consolidated staging report must include, consistent with Condition C3(a), a clear description of each stage of the project, the scope of the development to which the staged strategies, plans or programs apply, the relationship to future stages and the trigger for updating the strategies, plans or programs. The consolidated staging report must include all stages approved by the Planning Secretary and must specify how compliance with the conditions of approval will be achieved across the project stages.

You must also ensure that the project is constructed in accordance with the staged Final Layout Plans prepared and submitted in accordance with Condition C8, including details on siting of transmission towers and ancillary infrastructure and / or ancillary facilities; and showing comparison to the approved layout and approved vegetation clearing. Noting that if there are any inconsistencies between the staged Final Layout Plans and the conditions of Approval, the conditions prevail.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Thomas Minchin, Team Leader Transmission Post Approval.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "REbecca Eddington".

Rebecca Eddington  
Director Transmission Post Approval

*As nominee of the Planning Secretary*