Appendix A

Assessment requirements compliance

A1. Planning Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) checklist

Table A-1 identifies the sections of the EIS where the SEARs for the project have been addressed.

Table A-1 SEARs compliance table

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
General requirements	The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must meet the minimum form and content requirements as prescribed by Part 8 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (the Regulation) and must have regard to the State Significant Infrastructure Guidelines. In particular, the EIS must include:	*Appendix C (Statutory compliance)*
	• a stand-alone executive summary	*Executive summary*
	• a summary of the background to the project, including alternatives that were considered to the project	*Chapter 1 (Introduction)* *Chapter 2 (Strategic context), section 2.1 (Project need)* *Chapter 3 (Alternatives and options)*
	• a full description of the project, accompanied by suitable maps and plans, including the: – disturbance area – physical layout of the project over time, including sections of key components – key uses and activities to be carried out on site – likely timing of the project including any stages, the key phases within each stage (site preparation, construction, commissioning, operation, decommissioning and rehabilitation) and the sequencing of these stages and phases	*Chapter 4 (Project description)*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
	• the relevant strategic context for the project, having regard to: – State legislation, policies and guidelines including current initiatives to improve energy security and reliability in the National Electricity Market – any other existing, approved or proposed projects that could result in cumulative impacts with the project – an analysis of the feasible alternatives to carrying out the project, considering its objectives, including the consequences of not carrying out the infrastructure	*Chapter 2 (Strategic context)* • *section 2.1 (Project need)* • *section 2.2 (Project consistency with key strategic policies and plans)* • *section 2.3.8 (Other relevant projects in the region)* *Chapter 3 (Alternatives and options)* *Chapter 5 (Statutory context)* *Chapter 23 (Cumulative impacts)* *Appendix C (Statutory compliance)*
	• the relevant statutory context for the project, including: – the assessment pathway for the project under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* – the approvals required before the project may be carried out – any relevant matters for consideration	*Chapter 5 (Statutory context)* *Appendix C (Statutory compliance)*
	• a description of the engagement that was carried out during the preparation of the EIS, the key issues raised during this engagement and the proposed engagement strategy for the project if it is approved;	*Chapter 6 (Engagement)* *Appendix D (Community engagement outcomes)*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
	• an assessment of the likely economic, social and environmental impacts of the project having regard to the requirements in any relevant Government legislation, policies and guidelines (see below), including: – the state of the existing environment – community views – the measures that would be implemented to avoid or minimise impacts, including a consolidated summary of the proposed mitigation measures for the project – the predicted impacts of the project, including any cumulative impacts of the project with existing or proposed developments in the region taking into consideration any relevant legislation, environmental planning instruments, guidelines, policies, plans and industry codes of practice including the Cumulative Impact Assessment Guideline (DPIE) – actions proposed to deal with any uncertainties associated with the assessment	*Chapter 6 (Engagement)* *Chapter 7 (Approach to assessment)* Chapters 8-22 (Impact assessment chapters) *Chapter 23 (Cumulative impacts)* *Appendix D (Community engagement outcomes)* *Appendix E (Proposed mitigation measures)*
	• a detailed evaluation of the merits of the project as a whole.	*Chapter 25 (Justification of the project)*
	Estimated development cost and employment • Provide the estimated cost (EDC) of the project prepared in accordance with the relevant planning circular using the Standard Form of EDC Report.	EnergyCo has provided the capital investment value of the project to DPHI
	• Provide an estimate of the retained and new jobs that would be created during the construction and operational phases of the project, including details of the methodology to determine the figures provided.	*Chapter 4 (Project description), section 4.4.1 (Workforce)* *Chapter 14 (Social)* *Chapter 22 (Other matters), section 22.4 (Economics)* *Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment* *Technical Report 19 – Economic impact assessment*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
	In addition, the EIS must also be accompanied by a declaration from a Registered Environmental Practitioner that the EIS includes the information specified in the Department's *Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner Guidelines.*	Declaration is provided before *Chapter 1 (Introduction)*
Key issues	The level of assessment of key matters must be proportionate to the likely significance of the impacts on the matter. In particular, the EIS must address the following specific matters:	
	Biodiversity: • an assessment of the biodiversity impacts of the project, in accordance with the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW), having regard to the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR). The BDAR must: – be prepared using the approved BDAR template	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	– document the application of the avoid, minimise and offset framework including assessing all direct, indirect and prescribed impacts in accordance with the BAM	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity):* • *section 8.4 (Potential impacts – construction)* • *section 8.5 (Potential impacts – operation)* • *section 8.6 (Biodiversity offsets)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	– assess any impacts to nearby conservation areas and nature reserves	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity):* • *section 8.4 (Potential impacts – construction)* • *section 8.5 (Potential impacts – operation)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report* *Chapter 12 (Land use and property)*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
	• an assessment of the likely direct and indirect impacts of the project on listed aquatic threatened species, populations or ecological communities, scheduled under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, and a description of the measures to minimise and rehabilitate impacts	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity),* section 8.4.6 (Aquatic ecology) *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	• if an offset is required, details of the measures proposed to address the offset obligations.	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity), section 8.6 (Biodiversity offsets)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	Heritage • an assessment of the impact to Aboriginal heritage (cultural and archaeological), including test excavation, in accordance with the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH, 2011) and the Code of Practice for the *Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW, 2010)	*Chapter 9 (Aboriginal heritage)* • *section 9.3 (Potential impacts - construction)* • *section 9.4 (Potential impacts – operation)* • *Section 9.5 (Mitigation and management)* *Technical Report 2 – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment*
	• evidence of consultation with Aboriginal parties in determining and assessing impacts, having regard to the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW, 2010)	*Chapter 9 (Aboriginal heritage), section 9.1.4 (Consultation)* *Technical Report 2 – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment*
	• if the test excavations do not conform with the Code of Practice, then the excavations may only be carried out with the written endorsement of Heritage NSW and in consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties	*Chapter 9 (Aboriginal heritage), section 9.1 (Assessment approach)* *Technical Report 2 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment*
	• assess the impact to historic heritage having regard to *Guidelines for preparing a statement of heritage impact* (DPE, 2023).	*Chapter 15 (Historic heritage)* *Technical Report 7 – Heritage impact statement*
	Water and Soils: • an assessment of the impacts of the project on the quantity and quality of the region's surface water resources, including the Hunter River, having regard to NSW Water Quality Objectives	*Chapter 17 (Surface water)* *Technical Report 10 – Surface water impact assessment*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
	• details of water requirements, supply arrangements and wastewater disposal arrangements for construction and operation	*Chapter 4 (Project description)* *Chapter 22 (Other natters), section 22.3 (Waste)*
	• an assessment of the impacts of the project on groundwater aquifers and groundwater dependent ecosystems having regard to the *NSW Aquifer Interference Policy* and relevant Water Sharing Plans	*Chapter 18 (Groundwater)* *Technical Report 11 – Groundwater impact assessment*
	• an assessment of the potential flooding impacts and risks of the project;	*Chapter 19 (Flooding)* *Technical Report 12 – Flooding impact assessment*
	• where the project involves works within 40 metres of the high bank of any river, lake or wetlands (collectively waterfront land), identify likely impacts to the waterfront land, and how the activities are to be designed and implemented in accordance with the DPI *Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land* (2018) and (if necessary) *Why Do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings* (DPI 2003); and *Policy & Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation & Management* (DPI, 2013)	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Chapter 17 (Surface water)* *Chapter 19 (Flooding)* *Technical Report 1 - Biodiversity development assessment report* *Technical Report 10 – Surface water impact assessment* *Technical Report 12 – Flooding impact assessment*
	• a description of the erosion and sediment control measures that would be implemented to mitigate any impacts in accordance with *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils & Construction* (Landcom 2004).	*Chapter 17 (Surface water),* section 17.5.2 (Mitigation measures) *Technical Report 11 – Surface water impact assessment* *Technical Report 9 – Soils and land impact assessment*
	Land: • an assessment of impacts of the project on soils and land capability of the site and surrounds	*Chapter 13 (Agriculture), section 13.2.4 (Agricultural land capability)* *Chapter 20 (Soils and contamination)* *Technical Report 6 – Agriculture impact assessment* *Technical Report 9 – Soils and land impact assessment*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
	• assessment of impact of the project on agricultural land, land reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 including Watagans National Park and Jilliby State Conservation Area, Corrabare South and Corrabare North Flora Reserves, Crown lands including State Forests, travelling stock reserves, mineral resources and exploration licenses, rail reserves and pipeline corridors.	*Chapter 11 (Traffic and transport)* *Chapter 12 (Land use and property)* *Chapter 13 (Agriculture)* *Technical Report 4 Traffic and transport impact assessment* *Technical Report 6 – Agriculture impact assessment* *Technical Report 10 – Soils and land assessment*
	Contamination • An assessment of the risk of soil contamination and disturbance of land, (including associated with natural occurring asbestos, acid sulfate soils and salinity in the vicinity of the site), including: – characterisation of the nature and extent of any contamination on the site and surrounding area	*Chapter 20 (Soils and contamination)* *Technical Report 13 - Contamination preliminary site investigation*
	– identification of any construction activities that could disturb or interact with any contaminated soil, groundwater or surface water, including PFAS	*Chapter 20 (Soils and contamination), section 20.3 (Potential impacts – construction)* *Technical Report 13 – Contamination preliminary site investigation*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
	– details of measures to manage contaminated impacted soils, groundwater or surface water that may be encountered during construction	*Chapter 20 (Soils and contamination), section 20.5 (Mitigation and management measures)* *Chapter 17 (Surface water), section 17.5 (Mitigation and management)* *Chapter 18 (Groundwater), section 18.5 (Mitigation and management)* *Technical Report 10 – Surface water impact assessment* *Technical Report 11 Groundwater impact assessment* *Technical Report 13 - Contamination preliminary site investigation*
	– if required, a contaminated land report prepared by a certified consultant in accordance with guidelines made or approved by the EPA under s105 of the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997, the Regulation, and the State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021, including reference to the PFAS National Environmental Management Plan 2.0 (Heads of EPAs of Australia and New Zealand, 2020) (NEMP).	Not applicable to this project – a contaminated land report not required under the CLM Act *Chapter 20 (Soils and contamination)* *Technical Report 13 - Contamination preliminary site investigation*
	Transport: • an assessment of the transport impacts of the project on the capacity, condition, safety and efficiency of the local and State road network and the rail network	*Chapter 11 (Traffic and transport)* *Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment*
	• a cumulative impact assessment of traffic from nearby developments (including mining operations)	*Chapter 23 (Cumulative impacts), section 23.2.4 (Traffic and transport)* *Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
	• details of measures to mitigate and/or manage potential impacts including a schedule of all required road upgrades (including resulting from high risk heavy vehicles requiring escort traffic haulage routes), and any other traffic control measures, developed in consultation with the relevant road and/or rail authority	*Chapter 11 (Traffic and transport), section 11.5 (Mitigation and management)* *Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment*
	• details of the ongoing maintenance works required to service assets, outlining the measures to maintain the road.	*Chapter 4 (Project description)* *Chapter 11 (Traffic and transport)* *Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment*
	Amenity: • an assessment of the likely visual impacts of the project on surrounding residences, scenic or significant vistas, night lighting, air traffic and road corridors in the public domain	*Chapter 10 (Landscape and visual)* *Technical Report 3 Landscape character and visual assessment*
	• an assessment of the construction, operational and road noise and vibration impacts of the project, including corona noise	*Chapter 16 (Noise and vibration)* *Technical Report 8 – Noise and vibration impact assessment*
	• a description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid / mitigate visual and noise impacts.	*Chapter 10 (Landscape and visual),* section 10.6.2 (Mitigation measures) *Chapter 16 (Noise and vibration), section 16.5 (Mitigation and management)* *Technical Report 3 – Landscape character and visual assessment* *Technical Report 8 – Noise and vibration impact assessment*
	Air Quality: • an assessment of the air quality impacts of the project.	*Chapter 22 (Other matters), section 22.2 (Air quality)* *Technical Report 18 – Air quality and greenhouse gas assessment*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
	Hazards: • a preliminary risk screening completed in accordance with Chapter 3 of Resilience and Hazard SEPP 2021 and Applying SEPP 33 (DoP, 2011)	*Chapter 21 (Hazards and risk), section 21.3.2 Dangerous goods* *Technical Report 15 – Preliminary risk screening*
	• a Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA) prepared in accordance with Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 6 – Guidelines for Hazard Analysis (DoP, 2011) and Multi-Level Risk Assessment (DoP, 2011), should the preliminary risk screening indicate that the project is "potentially hazardous"	*Chapter 21 (Hazards and risk), section 21.3.2 Dangerous goods* *Technical Report 15 – Preliminary risk screening* An assessment in accordance with *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021* and Applying SEPP 33 has demonstrated that the project is not potentially hazardous during operation. Therefore, a PHA is not required for the project.
	• identify possible effects on telecommunications systems, assess impacts and mitigation measures to avoid potential disruptions to radio communication services, which may include the installation and maintenance of alternative sites	*Chapter 21 (Hazards and risk)* • *section 21.3.4 (Telecommunications)* • *section 21.4.4 (Telecommunications)* *Technical Report 17 – Electromagnetic field assessment* *Technical Report 8 Noise and vibration assessment (see Audible noise)*
	• an assessment of potential hazards and risks associated with electric and magnetic fields (EMF) having regard to the latest advice of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA)	*Chapter 21 (Hazards and risk):* • *section 21.3.3 (Electric and magnetic fields)* • *section 21.4.3 (Electric and magnetic fields)* *Technical Report 17 – Electromagnetic field assessment*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
	• an assessment of the risks to public safety, paying particular attention to bushfire risks, emergency egress and evacuation, and potential impacts to high pressure gas pipelines	*Chapter 12 (Land use and property), section 12.3.8 (Infrastructure and utilities)* *Chapter 21 (Hazards and risk):* • *section 21.3.1 (Bushfire)* • *section 21.4.1 (Bushfire)* *Technical Report 14 – Bushfire risk assessment*
	• describe the bushfire protection measures for the project, including the proposed approach to vegetation management in the transmission easement, having regard to the requirements in the Planning for bush fire protection guideline (RFS 2019)	*Chapter 21 (Hazards and risk), section 21.5 (Mitigation and management)* *Technical Report 14 - Bushfire risk assessment*
	• assess potential impacts on aviation safety, including: – defined air traffic routes, aircraft operating heights, approach/departure procedures, radar interference, communication systems, navigation aids, use of emergency helicopter access, aerial baiting and culling in the National Parks, safe and efficient aerial application of agricultural fertilisers and pesticide, and aerial fire control;	*Chapter 21 (Hazards and risk):* • *section 21.3.5 (Aviation)* • *section 21.4.5 (Aviation)* *Technical Report 16 – Aviation impact assessment*
	– identify aviation marking requirements	*Chapter 21 (Hazards and risk):* • *section 21.3.5 (Aviation)* • *section 21.4.5 (Aviation)* *Technical Report 16 – Aviation impact assessment*
	– identify certified aerodromes within 30 kilometres of the transmission line and uncertified aerodromes and landing areas within 10 kilometres of the transmission line, and consider the impact to nearby aerodromes and aircraft landing areas	*Chapter 21 (Hazards and risk),* section 21.2.5 (Aviation) *Technical Report 16 – Aviation impact assessment*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
	– address impacts on obstacle limitation surfaces.	*Chapter 21 (Hazards and risk),* section 21.2.5 (Aviation) *Technical Report 16 – Aviation impact assessment*
	Waste: • identify, quantify and classify the likely waste streams to be generated throughout all stages of the project, and describe the measures to be implemented to reduce waste generation, manage, reuse, recycle and safely dispose of this waste (in consultation with waste facilities, including Council).	*Chapter 22 (Other matters), section 22.3 (Waste)*
	Social Impact: • an assessment of the social impacts in accordance with Social Impact Assessment Guideline (DPIE) and consideration of construction workforce accommodation.	*Chapter 14 (Social)* *Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment*
	Economic: • an assessment of the benefits of the project for the region and the State as a whole, including: – consideration of any increase in demand for community infrastructure and services, and details of how the construction workforce will be managed to minimise local impacts, including a consideration of the construction workforce accommodation	*Chapter 22 (Other matters), section 22.4 (Economic)* *Technical Report 19 – Economic impact assessment*
	– an assessment of the impacts to State Forests	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Chapter 12 (Land use and property)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	• details of any proposed benefit sharing arrangements.	*Chapter 14 (Social)* *Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
Plans and Documents	The EIS must include all relevant plans, architectural drawings, diagrams and relevant documentation required under Part 8 of the EP&A Regulation. Provide these as part of the EIS rather than as separate documents.	Throughout the EIS.
	In addition, the EIS must include high quality files of maps and figures of the subject site and proposal.	Throughout the EIS.
Legislation, Policies & Guidelines	The assessment of the key issues listed above must take into account relevant guidelines, policies, and plans as identified. A list of some of the legislation, policies and guidelines that may be relevant to the assessment of the project can be found at: • https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Planning-reforms/Rapid-Assessment-Framework/Improving-assessment-guidance • https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/assessment/policies-and-guidelines • https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publications#assessments.	*Chapter 5 (Statutory context)* Chapters 8-22 (Impact assessment chapters) *Chapter 23 (Cumulative impacts)* *Appendix C (Statutory compliance)*
Engagement	During the preparation of the EIS, you must consult with the relevant local, State or Commonwealth Government authorities, service providers, community groups, affected landowners, Native Title holders, exploration licence holders, quarry operators and mineral title holders.	*Chapter 6 (Engagement)* *Appendix D (Community engagement outcomes)*
Expiry Date	If you do not lodge an EIS for the infrastructure within 2 years of the issue date of these SEARs, your SEARs will expire. If an extension to these SEARs will be required, please consult with the Planning Secretary 3 months prior to the expiry date.	The EIS has been lodged within 2 years of the SEARs issue date.

A2. Supplementary SEARs

Table A-2 identifies the sections of the EIS where the Supplementary SEARs for the project have been addressed.

Table A-2 Supplementary SEARs compliance table

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
General requirements	<u>Relevant regulations:</u> 5. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must address all matters outlined in Schedule 4 of the EPBC Regulations and all matters outlined below in relation to the controlling provisions.	*Appendix C (Statutory compliance)*
	<u>Project description:</u> 6. The title of the action, background to the action and current status.	*Chapter 1 (Introduction)* *Chapter 2 (Strategic context)* *Chapter 4 (Project description)*
	7. The precise location and description of all works to be undertaken (including associated offsite works and infrastructure), structures to be built or elements of the action that may have impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).	*Chapter 4 (Project Description)* *Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 Biodiversity development assessment report*
	8. How the action relates to any other actions that have been, or are being taken in the region affected by the action.	*Chapter 23 (Cumulative Impacts)* *Technical Report 1 Biodiversity development assessment report*
	9. How the works are to be undertaken and design parameters for those aspects of the structures or elements of the action that may have relevant impacts on MNES.	*Chapter 4 (Project description)* *Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 Biodiversity development assessment report*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
	Impacts: 10. The EIS must include an assessment of the relevant impacts of the action on the matters protected by the controlling provisions, including:	
	i. a description and detailed assessment of the nature and extent of the likely direct, indirect and consequential impacts, including short term and long term relevant impacts;	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report* All technical reports and assessment chapters as relevant for the assessment of impacts on SMA
	ii. a statement whether any relevant impacts are likely to be unknown, unpredictable or irreversible;	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	iii. analysis of the significance of the relevant impacts; and	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report* All technical reports and assessment chapters as relevant for the assessment of impacts on SMA
	iv. any technical data and other information used or needed to make a detailed assessment of the relevant impacts.	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report* All technical reports and assessment chapters as relevant for the assessment of impacts on SMA

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
	<u>Avoidance, mitigation and offsetting:</u> 11. For each of the relevant matters protected that are likely to be significantly impacted by the action, the EIS must provide information on proposed avoidance and mitigation measures to manage the relevant impacts of the action including:	
	i. a description, and an assessment of the expected or predicted effectiveness of the mitigation measures;	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report* All technical reports and assessment chapters as relevant for the assessment of impacts on SMA
	ii. any statutory policy basis for the mitigation measures;	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	iii. the cost of the mitigation measures;	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	iv. an outline of an environmental management plan that sets out the framework for continuing management, mitigation and monitoring programs for the relevant impacts of the action, including any provisions for independent environmental auditing;	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report* All technical reports and assessment chapters as relevant for the assessment of impacts on SMA
	v. the name of the agency responsible for endorsing or approving each mitigation measure or monitoring program	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
	12. Where a significant residual adverse impact to a relevant protected matter is considered likely, the EIS must provide information on the proposed offset strategy, including discussion of the conservation benefit associated with the proposed offset strategy.	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	13. For each of the relevant matters likely to be impacted by the action the EIS must provide reference to, and consideration of, relevant Commonwealth guidelines and policy statements including any:	
	i. conservation advice or recovery plan for the species or community;	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	ii. relevant threat abatement plan for the species or community;	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	iii. wildlife conservation plan for the species; and	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	iv. any strategic assessment.	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	14. In addition to the general requirements described above, specific information is required with respect to each of the determined controlling provisions. These requirements are outlined in paragraphs 15-18	*See items 15 to 18 below*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
Biodiversity (threatened species and communities)	<u>Assessment requirements:</u> 15. The EIS must identify each EPBC Act listed threatened species and community likely to be impacted by the action. For any species and communities that are likely to be impacted, the proponent must provide a description of the nature, quantum and consequences of the impacts. For species and communities potentially located in the project area or in the vicinity that are not likely to be impacted, provide evidence why they are not likely to be impacted.	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	16. For each of the EPBC Act listed threatened species and communities likely to be impacted by the action the EIS must provide a separate:	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	i. description of the habitat (including identification and mapping of suitable breeding habitat, suitable foraging habitat, important populations and habitat critical for survival), with consideration of, and reference to, any relevant Commonwealth guidelines and policy statements including listing advice, conservation advice and recovery plans	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	ii. details of the scope, timing and methodology for studies or surveys used and how they are consistent with (or justification for divergence from) published Australian Government guidelines and policy statements;	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	iii. description of the relevant impacts of the action having regard to the full national extent of the species or community's range;	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	iv. description of the specific proposed avoidance and mitigation measures to deal with relevant impacts of the action;	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
	v. identification of significant residual adverse impacts likely to occur after the proposed activities to avoid and mitigate all impacts are taken into account;	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	vi. a description of any offsets proposed to address residual adverse significant impacts and how these offsets will be established.	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	vii. details of how the current published NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) has been applied in accordance with the objects of the EPBC Act to offset significant residual adverse impacts; and	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	viii. details of the offset package to compensate for significant residual impacts including details of the credit profiles required to offset the action in accordance with the BAM and/or mapping and descriptions of the extent and condition of the relevant habitat and/or threatened communities occurring on proposed offset sites.	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
	17. Any significant residual impacts not addressed by the BAM may need to be addressed in accordance with the EPBC Act 1999 Environmental Offset Policy. http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/epbc-act-environmental-offsets-policy.	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
Other approvals and conditions	18. Information in relation to any other approvals or conditions required must include the information prescribed in Schedule 4 Clause 5 (a) (b) (c) and (d) of the EPBC Regulations.	*Chapter 5 (Statutory context)* Chapters 8 to 22 (Impact assessment chapters) Technical Reports 1 to 19 Appendix C *(Statutory compliance)*

Item	Requirement	Where addressed in the EIS
Environmental Record of person proposing to take the action	19. Information in relation to the environmental record of a person proposing to take the action must include details as prescribed in Schedule 4 Clause 6 of the EPBC Regulations.	*Appendix C (Statutory compliance)*
Information Sources	20. For information given in an EIS, the EIS must state the source of the information, how recent the information is, how the reliability of the information was tested; and what uncertainties (if any) are in the information.	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity), section 8.1 Assessment approach* *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report* Chapters 8 to 22 (Impact assessment chapters) Technical Reports 1 to 19 Reference list

Appendix B

Schedule of utility adjustments and crossings

Table B-1 Schedule of utility adjustments and crossings

Utility owner	Type of utility	Utility description	Location (suburb)	Location description	Impacted by	Proposed treatment (adjustment or crossing)
AGL	Electricity	33kV overhead line	Howick	Around 2000 m south of Howick east bank of Plashell Reservoir	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead Line	Millfield	Wollombi Road/Hayes Road intersection	Intersection	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	66kV overhead line	Mount Thorley	East of Broke Road around 250 m south of Putty Road intersection	Transmission line	Crossing
Ausgrid	Electricity	132kV overhead line	Mount Thorley	East of Broke Road around 230 m south of Putty Road intersection	Transmission line	Crossing
Ausgrid	Electricity	132kV overhead line	Mount Thorley	Southern side of Putty Road, 200 m East of Broke Road	Transmission line	Crossing
Ausgrid	Electricity	66kV overhead line	Gouldsville	Around 200 m North of Long Point Road East, and 200 m east of Dighes Crossing Road	Transmission line / Construction support site Gouldsville Road	Crossing
Ausgrid	Electricity	66kV overhead line	Gouldsville	Around 200 m North of Long Point Road East, and 200 m east of Dighes Crossing Road	Transmission line	Crossing
Ausgrid	Electricity	132kV overhead line	Gouldsville	2 km north of Long Point Road	Transmission line	Crossing

Utility owner	Type of utility	Utility description	Location (suburb)	Location description	Impacted by	Proposed treatment (adjustment or crossing)
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Millfield	1610 Wollombi Road, Millfield	Transmission line / Construction support site Wollombi Road B	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Millfield	1610 Wollombi Road Millfield	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Singleton Military Area	319 Oakley Lane Singleton Military Area	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	66kV overhead line	Mount Thorley	East of Broke Road around 1500 m south of Putty Road intersection	Transmission line	Crossing
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Mount Thorley	East of Broke Road around 1200 m south of Putty Road intersection	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Mount Thorley	Around 800 m north off Putty Road intersection with Broke Road	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Mount Thorley	Around 1000 m north of Putty Road west of Loder Creek and Hunter River junction	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Gouldsville	Around 300 m east of Jerrys Plains Road turn off to Pumping Station	Transmission line	Adjustment

Utility owner	Type of utility	Utility description	Location (suburb)	Location description	Impacted by	Proposed treatment (adjustment or crossing)
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Gouldsville	Around 300 m east of Jerrys Plain Road and Gouldsville Road intersection	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Gouldsville	Around 250 m east of Gouldsville Road and 800 m north of its intersection with Jerrys Plains Road	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Gouldsville	Around 250 m east of Gouldsville Road and 800 m north of its intersection with Jerrys Plains Road	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	66kV overhead line	Warkworth	Around 2.5 km northeast of Archerfield Road	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Gouldsville	Around 1.6 km north of Long Point Road West	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Gouldsville	Around 2 km north of Long Point Road West	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Gouldsville	Around 1 km southeast of Archerfield Road and Comloroi Road intersection	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Warkworth	Around 500 m east of Archerfield Road and Comloroi Road intersection	Transmission line / laydown area	Adjustment

Utility owner	Type of utility	Utility description	Location (suburb)	Location description	Impacted by	Proposed treatment (adjustment or crossing)
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Warkworth	Around 500 m east of Archerfield Road	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Warkworth	Around 150 m east of Archerfield Road	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	66kV overhead line	Lemington	Around 2500 m east of intersection of Golden Hwy and Lemington Road	Transmission line	Crossing
Ausgrid	Electricity	132kV overhead line	Lemington	Around 2500 m east of intersection of Golden Hwy and Lemington Road	Transmission line	Crossing
Ausgrid	Electricity	132kV overhead line	Jerrys Plains	Around 3000 m northeast of Jerrys Plains	Transmission line	Crossing
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Lemington	Around 2500 m east of intersection of Golden Hwy and Lemington Road	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Lemington	Just east of Lemington Road around 1000 m north of intersection with Golden Hwy	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV overhead line	Lemington	Just east of Lemington Road around 1200 m north of intersection with Golden Hwy	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	132kV overhead line	Gouldsville	Around 2 km northwest of Long Point Road West	Transmission line	Crossing

Utility owner	Type of utility	Utility description	Location (suburb)	Location description	Impacted by	Proposed treatment (adjustment or crossing)
Ausgrid	Electricity	66kV overhead line	Warkworth	Around 800 m northeast of Archerfield Road and Comloroi Road intersection	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	66kV overhead line	Warkworth	Around 800 m northeast of Archerfield Road and Comloroi Road intersection	Transmission line	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	LV cable	Gouldsville	Gouldsville	Construction support site, Goulsdville Road	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV Overhead Line	Martinsville	Watagan Road and Martinsville Road intersection	Switching station	Adjustment
Ausgrid	Electricity	11kV Overhead Line	Cooranbong	Martinsville Road and Freemans Drive intersection	Switching station	Adjustment
Cessnock City Council	Stormwater Drainage	Pipe, pits	Millfield	Mount View Road intersection with Wollombi Road	Intersection	Adjustment
Hunter Water Corporation	Sewer	Rising main	Millfield	Along property 22 Wollombi Road and 4-2 Wollombi Road	Intersection	Adjustment
Hunter Water Corporation	Water	Water Pressure Main, Water Valves	Cooranbong	North verge of Martinsville Road, crossing Freemans Drive at intersection, connecting to main running north/south on east verge of Freemans Drive	Intersection	Adjustment

Utility owner	Type of utility	Utility description	Location (suburb)	Location description	Impacted by	Proposed treatment (adjustment or crossing)
Hunter Water Corporation	Water	Water Pressure Main, Water Valves	Millfield	South verge of Wollombi Road connecting to main in east verge of Hayes Road at southeast corner of intersection	Intersection	Adjustment
Hunter Water Corporation	Water	Water Main	Millfield	South side of Wollombi Road	Intersection	Adjustment
Hunter Water Corporation	Water	Water Pressure Main, Water Valves	Millfield	East verge of Mt View Road, turns east into north verge of Wollombi Road, crossing to south verge 40 m east of intersection with Mt View Road	Intersection	Adjustment
Hunter Water Corporation	Water	Water Pressure Main, Water Valves	Millfield	East side of Hayes Road connecting into east / west run in south verge of Wollombi Road at southeast corner of intersection	Laydown area	Adjustment
Hunter Water Corporation	Water	Abandon Water Main	Millfield	Near property 59–75 Wollombi Road to property 4–2 Mount View Road. East verge of Mt View Road, turns east into north verge of Wollombi Road, 20 m east of intersection with Mt View Road and 20 m east of water main W009	Intersection	Adjustment
Hunter Valley Operations (HVO)	Electricity	66kV Overhead Line	Warkworth	1800 m north of HVO JV Southern Facility, west of Archerfield Road	Transmission line	Adjustment

Utility owner	Type of utility	Utility description	Location (suburb)	Location description	Impacted by	Proposed treatment (adjustment or crossing)
HVO	Electricity	66kV Overhead Line	Warkworth	1800 m north of HVO JV Southern Facility, west of Archerfield Road	Transmission line	Adjustment
HVO	Electricity	66kV Overhead Line	Warkworth	2000 m north northwest of HVO JV Southern Facility, just south of Archerfield Road	Transmission line	Adjustment
HVO	Electricity	132kV Overhead Line	Lemington	Around 5000 m west of intersection of Golden Hwy and Lemington Road	Transmission line	Crossing
HVO	Electricity	6.6kV HVO Haul Road Line	Lemington	Around 4500 m east of intersection of Golden Hwy and Lemington Road on east side of haul road	Transmission line	Adjustment
HVO	Electricity	11kV Overhead Line	Warkworth	Archerfield Road	Transmission line	Adjustment
HVO	Electricity	66kV Overhead Line	Lemington	Around 4000 m east of intersection of Golden Hwy and Lemington Road on west bank of Hunter River	Transmission line	Crossing
HVO	Electricity	11kV Overhead Line	Warkworth	Around 1.5 km north of Archerfield Road	Transmission line	Adjustment
HVO	Electricity	11kV Overhead Line	Warkworth	Around 1.5 km north of Archerfield Road	Transmission line	Adjustment
HVO	Electricity	66kV Overhead Line	Lemington	Around 4000 m east of intersection of Golden Hwy and Lemington Road on west bank of Hunter River	Transmission line	Adjustment

Utility owner	Type of utility	Utility description	Location (suburb)	Location description	Impacted by	Proposed treatment (adjustment or crossing)
NBN/ Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit	Millfield	Near 22 Wollombi Road, at the intersection of Mt View Road and Wollombi Road	Intersection	Adjustment
Singleton Council	Stormwater Drainage	Culvert, Headwall at driveways	Mount Thorley	Broke Road, south of Putty Road intersection	Access Tracks	Adjustment
Singleton Council	Stormwater Drainage	Culvert, Headwall	Broke	Oakey Lane west to Cessnock Road intersection	Intersection	Adjustment
Singleton Council	Stormwater Drainage	Culvert, Headwall	Lemington	Lemington Road/Old Lemington Road intersection	Access Tracks	Adjustment
Singleton Council	Stormwater Drainage	Culvert, Headwall	Gouldsville	Within road reserve Gouldsville Road	Construction support site, Gouldsville Road	Adjustment
Singleton Council	Stormwater Drainage	Culvert	Gouldsville	Broke Road/Access track, 2 km away from Glencore Hunter Valley Office	Intersection	Adjustment
Singleton Council	Water	Water Pressure Main, Water Valves	Mount Thorley	Northeast side of Jerrys Plains Road running north into private property	Transmission line	To be determined
Singleton Council	Water	Water Pressure Main, Water Valves	Mount Thorley	North verge of Putty Road, with connection crossing Putty Road to east verge of Broke Road at their intersection	Intersection	Adjustment
Singleton Council	Water	Water Main	Mount Thorley	Broke Road/Access track, 2 km away from Glencore Hunter Valley Office	Intersection	Adjustment

Utility owner	Type of utility	Utility description	Location (suburb)	Location description	Impacted by	Proposed treatment (adjustment or crossing)
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit	Millfield	1611 Wollombi Road	Transmission line / Construction support site, Wollombi Road	Adjustment
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit, Marker Posts	Millfield	1610 Wollombi Road	Transmission line / Construction support site, Wollombi Road	Adjustment
Telstra	Telecommunications	Marker Posts	Millfield	1610 Wollombi Road	Transmission line / Construction support site, Wollombi Road	Adjustment
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit	Millfield	1610 Wollombi Road	Transmission line / Construction support site, Wollombi Road	Adjustment
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit, Marker Posts	Singleton Military Area	North verge of Cessnock Road, 540 m east of Range Road intersection	Intersection /transmission line	Adjustment
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit	Mount Thorley	East verge Broke Road 1100 m south of Putty Road intersection	Intersection	Adjustment

Utility owner	Type of utility	Utility description	Location (suburb)	Location description	Impacted by	Proposed treatment (adjustment or crossing)
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit, Marker Posts	Mount Thorley	Eastern side of Jerry Plains Road (Golden Hwy) private driveway 2800 m north of Putty Road intersection, then runs east along track to house, crossing alignment	Intersection /transmission line	Adjustment
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit, Marker Posts	Mount Thorley	Running along the east verge of Jerry Plains Road (Golden Hwy) or in private land, 2800 m north of Putty Road intersection	Intersection	Adjustment
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit	Cooranbong	6 Martinsville Road, at the Freemans Drive and Martinsville Road intersection	Intersection	Adjustment
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit, Marker Posts	Millfield	At the intersection of Wollombi Road and Hayes Road	Intersection	Adjustment
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit	Pokolbin	At the intersection of Mcdonalds Road and Oakey Creek Road	Intersection	Adjustment
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit, Marker Posts	Millfield	West verge of Hayes Road, near the Crump Street intersection	Laydown	Adjustment
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit	Cooranbong	South verge of Freemans Drive Cooranbong, 200 m northeast of the Freemans Drive/Ballin Close intersection	Construction support site, Freemans Drive	Adjustment
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit	Martinsville	Watagan Road and Martinsville Road Intersection	Intersection	Adjustment

Utility owner	Type of utility	Utility description	Location (suburb)	Location description	Impacted by	Proposed treatment (adjustment or crossing)
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit	Gouldsville	237 Long Point Road West	Transmission line	Adjustment
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit, Marker Posts	Mount Thorley	Northern verge of Golden Highway, 1500 m east of the turn-off from Putty Road	Intersection	Adjustment
Telstra	Telecommunications	Cable, Conduit, Pit	Howick	Pikes Gully Road, 1600 m west of New England Hwy	Construction support site, Howick	Adjustment
Transgrid	Electricity	330kV Overhead Line	Broke	358 Range Road Singleton Military Area	Transmission line	Adjustment
Transgrid	Electricity	330kV Overhead Line	Broke	358 Range Road Singleton Military Area	Transmission line	Adjustment
Transgrid	Electricity	330kV Overhead Line	Broke	358 Range Road Singleton Military Area	Transmission line	Crossing
Transgrid	Electricity	330kV Overhead Line	Lemington	Immediately east of Lemington Road around 2500 m north of intersection with Golden Hwy	Transmission line	Crossin
Transgrid	Electricity	330kV Overhead Line	Howick	Southeast of BWS proposed works	Transmission line	Adjustment
Transgrid	Electricity	330kV Overhead Line	Howick	Southeast of BWS proposed works	Transmission line	Adjustment
Transgrid	Electricity	330kV Overhead Line	Howick	Southeast of BWS proposed works	Transmission line	Adjustment

Utility owner	Type of utility	Utility description	Location (suburb)	Location description	Impacted by	Proposed treatment (adjustment or crossing)
Transgrid	Electricity	330kV Overhead Line	Howick	Southeast of BWS proposed works	Transmission line	Adjustment
Transgrid	Electricity	330kV Overhead Line	Gouldsville	Around 2 km northwest of Long Point Road West	Transmission line	Crossing
Yancoal	Railway	Railway Crossing	Mount Thorley	East side of Broke Road, around 250 m south of Putty Road	Transmission line	Crossing

Appendix C
Statutory compliance

Consideration of the Hunter Transmission Project (HTP, the 'project') against the objects of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessments Act 1979* (EP&A Act) is provided in Table C.1.

Table C.1 Assessment of HTP against EP&A Act objects

Object	Consideration
a. to promote the social and economic welfare of the community and a better environment by the proper management, development and conservation of the State's natural and other resources	The project has considered impacts to the community and social and economic impacts of the project have been assessed (see *Chapter 14 (Social)* and *Chapter 22 (Economic)*). Overall, the operation of the project would deliver a more reliable and more sustainable electricity grid by increasing the amount of renewable energy that can be delivered across the electricity grid, helping Australia transition to a low carbon future. This would provide NSW households with greater access to reliable and affordable electricity. As discussed in *Chapter 2 (Strategic context)* and *Chapter 3 (Alternatives and options)*, the selection of the preferred corridor aimed to best meet the project objectives having regard to avoiding and minimising the impacts on the environment. Mitigation measures (see *Appendix E (Proposed mitigation measures)*) would seek to further avoid and minimise environmental, social and economic impacts of the project where possible.
b. to facilitate ecologically sustainable development by integrating relevant economic, environmental and social considerations in decision-making about environmental planning and assessment	The principles of ecologically sustainable development have been considered in the planning and development of the project. Further details are provided in *Chapter 25 (Justification of the project)*. In addition, sustainability objectives and potential initiatives to be implemented for the construction and operation of the project have been developed, and these are aligned with the Infrastructure Sustainability Council's IS rating scheme. The project will explore the potential of an ISC rating under the rating scheme during design.
c. to promote the orderly and economic use and development of land,	The project would promote the orderly and economic use and development of land by improving the transfer of renewable energy and enhancing the security of energy supply in the National Electricity Market (NEM). Consultation with affected landowners and other key stakeholders has occurred during the project option selection and refinement process, enabling their views, operating practices and use of land to be considered. The project has been developed to minimise impacts on land use where possible. The transmission line easement may restrict certain agricultural activities and/or require different farming methodologies to be adopted. However, the overall impact on existing agricultural activities is expected to be relatively small and would have a minor effect on productivity, particularly as grazing and other agricultural activities would typically be able to continue under transmission lines away from transmission towers. Mitigation measures have been identified that would further minimise impacts to land use along the transmission line easement.
d. to promote the delivery and maintenance of affordable housing	The project would not affect the delivery and maintenance of affordable housing.

Object	Consideration
e. to protect the environment, including the conservation of threatened and other species of native animals and plants, ecological communities and their habitats,	The project option selection process considered a range of constraints to avoid and/or minimise the impacts on the environment (see *Chapter 3 (Alternatives and options)*), with a particular focus on the avoidance or impact minimisation of important biodiversity values and SAII entities. These constraints included a range of ecological factors such as National parks, State conservation areas, watercourses, and threatened ecological communities. The impacts on biodiversity have been assessed in *Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* and *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report* in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM). The assessment found that while the project has been refined to avoid and minimise impacts to biodiversity values where practicable, direct impacts are expected to a number of native plant community types and threatened species and their habitats identified under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). These impacts would primarily be attributed to the removal of vegetation and threatened ecological communities within the project impact area. Measures to minimise impacts to native vegetation and threatened species include the implementation of a Biodiversity Management Plan. The Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) determined the project to be a controlled action under the EPBC Act. The assessment on the relevant matters of national environmental significance (MNES) found that the project has potential to significantly impact on threatened ecological communities (TECs), threatened species (and/or their habitats) and migratory species under the EPBC Act. *Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* and *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report* provide further assessment on potential impacts on MNES and recommends mitigation measures to avoid or minimise these impacts. During finalisation of the project design, opportunities to further avoid or minimise impacts would be investigated. Further mitigation measures have also been identified to manage any such impacts, and an offsets strategy would be implemented to address the residual impacts of the project on biodiversity.

Object	Consideration
f. to promote the sustainable management of built and cultural heritage (including Aboriginal cultural heritage)	The impacts on Aboriginal and historic heritage have been assessed (see *Chapter 9 (Aboriginal heritage)* and *Chapter 15 (Historic heritage)*), and the corresponding *Technical Report 2 – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment* and *Technical Report 7 – Historic heritage impact statement.* The project has been designed to avoid impacts on heritage items where possible. The project has the potential to directly impact up to 29 Aboriginal sites (including a background scatter of artefacts throughout the project impact area). Opportunities to further avoid or minimise these impacts through micro-siting new transmission towers and access tracks would be considered during detailed design, where practicable. Where impacts cannot be avoided, a range of mitigation and management measures would be implemented in consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs). During construction, the project would result in direct impacts to 11 historic heritage items or value sites. One heritage item would be demolished – the Wishing Well due to access track upgrades to Martinsville Hill Road. The Wishing Well will be subject to archaeological excavation and recording to ensure that a record is made prior to its demolition. These works will be undertaken in accordance with an Archaeological Method Statement. A commemorative plaque will be installed in a location as close as possible/practicable to the water source of the Wishing Well, which will be determined through further consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Corporation of NSW and Heritage NSW. None of the other impacts identified are significant enough to diminish cultural significance in the project impact area to a degree where it is no longer recognisable. Once operational, the project would be unlikely to have any direct impacts to historic heritage items.
g. to promote good design and amenity of the built environment,	There would be impacts on the amenity of the built environment as a result of construction and/or operational impacts, including visual amenity, noise, and air (dust). These impacts would be minimised through the mitigation measures summarised in *Appendix E (Proposed mitigation measures)*.
h. to promote the proper construction and maintenance of buildings, including the protection of the health and safety of their occupants,	The design, construction and maintenance of any buildings (including substation work) would be carried out in accordance with applicable standards and the construction contractor's management systems, as applicable. The health and safety of workers would also be managed in accordance with the contractor's management systems, as applicable.

Object	Consideration
i. to promote the sharing of the responsibility for environmental planning and assessment between the different levels of government in the State,	The Energy Corporation of New South Wales (EnergyCo) is seeking approval for the project under Part 5, Division 5.2 of the EP&A Act. The project will be assessed under the bilateral agreement process between the Australian and NSW Governments. Therefore, a single environmental impact statement (EIS) has been prepared to address the requirements set out by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and DCCEEW. Consultation completed to date is outlined in *Chapter 6 (Engagement)*. This has included engagement with relevant Australian, NSW and local government agencies, the Energy Regulator/Operator and relevant Members of Parliament. Ongoing consultation will occur during the construction of the project.
j. to provide increased opportunity for community participation in environmental planning and assessment	Community and stakeholder consultation for the project commenced in early 2023 and is ongoing and will continue throughout construction of the project. Consultation completed to date is outlined in *Chapter 6 (Engagement)* and *Appendix D (Community engagement outcomes)*. The EIS will be placed on public exhibition and during this time stakeholders and the community have the opportunity to review and make comment via submission to DPHI. EnergyCo will prepare a submissions report that responds to comments and feedback on the EIS. This process provides further opportunity for community participation in the planning and assessment process for this project.

A summary of the requirements of section 190 and 192 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (EP&A Regulation) and where they are addressed in this EIS is provided in Table C.2.

Table C.3 identifies other NSW and Commonwealth legislation of potential relevance to the HTP.

Table C.2 Section 190 and 192 requirements of an EIS

Requirement	Where contained in the EIS
Section 190 – Form of EIS	
(1) An environmental impact statement must contain the following information—	
• the name, address and professional qualifications of the person who prepared the statement,	Certification page at the front of this EIS
• the name and address of the responsible person (the applicant),	
• the address of the land: • to which the development application relates, or • on which the activity or infrastructure to which the statement relates will be carried out,	
• a description of the development, activity or infrastructure,	
• an assessment by the person who prepared the statement of the environmental impact of the development, activity or infrastructure, dealing with the matters referred to in this Division.	
(2) The person preparing the statement must have regard to • for State significant development— the State Significant Development Guidelines, or • for State significant infrastructure— the State Significant Infrastructure Guidelines.	This EIS has been prepared having regard to the *State Significant Infrastructure Guidelines – preparing an Environmental Impact Statement* (Appendix B, DPE July 2022) while meeting the requirements of the Planning Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs)
3) An environmental impact statement must also contain a declaration by the person who prepared the statement of the following: the statement has been prepared in accordance with this Division, and • the statement has been prepared in accordance with this Division, and • the statement contains all available information that is relevant to the environmental assessment of the development, activity • or infrastructure, and the information contained in the statement is not false or misleading.	Certification page at the front of this EIS

Requirement	Where contained in the EIS
Section 1–2 - Content of EIS	
(1) An environmental impact statement must contain the following—	
• a summary of the EIS,	Executive summary
• a statement of the objectives of the development, activity or infrastructure	*Chapter 1 (Introduction) and Chapter 2 (Strategic context)*
• an analysis of feasible alternatives to the carrying out the development, activity or infrastructure, having regard to its objectives, including the consequences of not carrying out the development, activity or infrastructure,	*Chapter 3 (Alternatives and options)*
• an analysis of the development, activity or infrastructure, including: – a full description of the development, activity or infrastructure, and – a general description of the environment likely to be affected by the development, activity or infrastructure and a detailed description of the aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly affected, and – the likely impact on the environment of the development, activity or infrastructure, and – a full description of the measures to mitigate adverse effects of the development, activity or infrastructure on the environment, and – a list of the approvals that must be obtained under another Act or law before the development, activity or infrastructure may lawfully be carried out,	*Chapter 1 (Introduction)* *Chapter 2 (Strategic context)* *Chapter 4 (Project description)* *Chapter 5 (Statutory context) and this appendix* *Chapters 8 to 22 (impact assessment chapters)* *Appendix E (Proposed mitigation measures)*
• a compilation, in a single section of the EIS, of the measures referred to in paragraph (d)(iv),	*Appendix E (Proposed mitigation measures*
• the reasons justifying the carrying out of the development, activity or infrastructure, considering biophysical, economic and social factors, including the principles of ecologically sustainable development set out in section 193.	*Chapter 25 (Justification of the project)*

Table C.3 List of statutory considerations

Relevant provision	Relevance/consideration	Where addressed in this EIS
NSW		
Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NSW) 1983 (ALR Act)	The purpose of the ALR Act includes providing land rights for Aboriginal persons and representative Aboriginal Land Councils in the State. The ALR Act applies to Crown lands that are not lawfully needed for an essential public purpose and referred to as claimable Crown land.	*Chapter 12 (Land use and property)*
Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)	The BC Act aims to conserve threatened species, populations and ecological communities through ensuring appropriate assessment, management and regulation of actions that may damage critical or other habitat for a listed threatened species, or may otherwise significantly affect a threatened species, population or ecological community. Under the BC Act, State significant infrastructure (SSI) projects are required to prepare a biodiversity development assessment report (BDAR) to identify and assess biodiversity impacts under the provisions of the BC Act and offset those impacts by retiring biodiversity credits, determined using the BAM.	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 - Biodiversity development assessment report*
Biosecurity Act 2015 (Biosecurity Act)	The Biosecurity Act provides for the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of biosecurity risks in NSW posed by a biosecurity matter, which is defined in section 10 of the Biosecurity Act. Under the Biosecurity Act, weeds are defined as a plant that is a pest and a biosecurity risk exists where invasive weeds, now termed priority weeds under the Biosecurity Act, have the potential to negatively impact on the environment. The Biosecurity Act introduces a responsibility for landowners or land managers to control and prevent the introduction and spread of these priority weeds, also known as a general biosecurity duty.	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 - Biodiversity development assessment report*

Relevant provision	Relevance/consideration	Where addressed in this EIS
Civil Aviation Regulation 1988 (Commonwealth) and Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998	These regulations establish controls and requirements with respect to airspace and aerial operations. The project impact area would be wholly contained within uncontrolled airspace and would be situated outside any special use airspace that is reserved for military flying training operations. An infringement of uncertified obstacle limitation surface is expected at Warkworth aerodrome. EnergyCo will engage in further consultation to ensure proper safeguards and an obstacle limitation surface specific to transmission infrastructure are implemented. The transmission towers would not infringe certified airport obstacle limits. The use of cranes and erection of transmission towers within the project impact area during construction may result in some risks to aerial operations such as uncertified aerodromes, aerial baiting in NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) estate and emergency services operations. This would be appropriately managed through the implementation of the proposed environmental management measures.	*Chapter 21 (Hazards and risks)* *Technical Report 16 - Aviation impact assessment.*
Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 2017 (CMSC Act)	The CMSC Act includes an objective to provide for the assessment and management of risks associated with subsidence resulting from coal mine operations. Part 3 of the CMSC Act sets out provisions for development within mine subsidence districts. Sections of the proposed project which are located within a mine subsidence district will require an approval from the Subsidence Advisory NSW.	*Chapter 12 (Land use and property)*
Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (CLM Act)	The CLM Act outlines the circumstances in which notification of the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is required in relation to historically contaminated land. Potentially contaminated areas directly affected by the project would be investigated and managed in accordance with the requirements of guidance endorsed under section 105 of the CLM Act. This includes further investigations in areas of potential contamination identified in the project impact area. A contamination assessment has been prepared to determine if historic land uses have contaminated land within the project impact area.	*Chapter 20 (Contamination)* *Technical Report 13 - Contamination preliminary site investigation*

Relevant provision	Relevance/consideration	Where addressed in this EIS
Crown Land Management Act 2016	This Act sets out the requirements for the management of Crown land in NSW, including where councils and other organisations can deal with Crown land. The project would pass through a number of areas of Crown Land that would be affected by the project. A licence or easement would be separately sought for the construction and operation of the HTP corridor over Crown land.	*Chapter 12 (Land use and property)*
Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020 (EII Act)	The EII Act incudes as one of its objects the need to co-ordinate investment in new generation, storage, network and related infrastructure. The EII Act prescribes the establishment of the Hunter-Central Coast renewable energy zone (REZ) and provides for the declaration of priority transmission infrastructure projects. The project is a priority transmission infrastructure project (PTIP). Under section 32 and 36 of the EII Act, the Minister for Energy may direct or authorise a network operator to carry out the project as a PTIP.	*Chapter 2 (Strategic context)*
Electricity Supply Act 1995 (ES Act) Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2014 (ES(S&NM) Regulation)	The objectives of the ES Act is to promote the efficient and environmentally responsible production and use of electricity and to deliver a safe and reliable supply of electricity, and to confer on network operators such powers as are necessary to enable them to construct, operate, repair and maintain their electricity works. The distribution systems regulated by the ES Act do not include a transmission system. The network operator must have a detailed safety management system in place to deal with these matters that complies with Australian Standard AS 5577-2013 Electricity Network Safety Management Systems. The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal oversees the implementation of these statutory obligations. Safety has been considered throughout the design development for the project and would be critical throughout the construction and operation of the project. Safety considerations would be incorporated into post-approval management plans, including the construction environmental management plan.	*Chapter 5 (Statutory context)* *Chapter 24 (Environmental management)*

Relevant provision	Relevance/consideration	Where addressed in this EIS
EP&A Act	The EP&A Act, section 5.13, provides for development to be declared critical State significant infrastructure (CSSI). The requirement pursuant to section 5.15(2) is that the application must (a) describe the infrastructure and (b) contain any other matter required by the Planning Secretary. Section 5.16 further required that the assessment must be an EIS in a form prescribed by the regulations.	*Chapter 4 (Project description)*
Forestry Act 2012 (Forestry Act)	The Forestry Act provides for the dedication, management and use of State forests and other Crown-timber land for forestry and other uses. The Forestry Act allows for the constitution of the Forestry Corporation of New South Wales (FCNSW) as a statutory State-owned corporation who is the land manager of State forests. The project impact area would cross 4 areas of land reserved under the Forestry Act being the Pokolbin State Forest, Corrabare State Forest, Olney State Forest and Watagan State Forest. Certain rights to occupy land that is State forest or a flora reserve may not be granted except as provided for in the Forestry Act. FCNSW is empowered to lease State forest or issue a permit authorising the use of the area for the purpose specified in certain cases. Section 34(1) of the Forestry Act also provides that the Minister may, on such terms and conditions as the Minister thinks fit, grant an easement or right of way through or over land within a State forest or flora reserve. This section would empower the Minister administering the Forestry Act to exercise a discretion to grant an easement though these forests. Under the Forestry Regulation 2022 FCNSW can also reserve a forestry area for separate or exclusive use for specific purposes and for specified periods. A licence under the Forestry Act may be required to authorise the taking and/or destruction of timber, forest materials and/or forest products within the State forest land. Extensive engagement has been undertaken with the FCNSW during design development and will continue through detailed design of the project.	*Chapter 12 (Land use and property)* *Chapter 22 (Other matters)*

Relevant provision	Relevance/consideration	Where addressed in this EIS
Heritage Act 1977 (Heritage Act)	The Heritage Council must be notified if a relic is uncovered during construction and if it is reasonable to believe that the Heritage Council is unaware of the location of the relic. The Heritage Council must also be notified if an item listed on a Government Agency's Section 170 Heritage Register is demolished. The Heritage Act specifies that a person must not disturb or excavate land knowing, or suspecting, that the action may result in the discovery, exposure, movement, damage or destruction of a relic, unless the work is undertaken in accordance with an excavation permit. Additionally, the Heritage Act requires that the discovery or location of a relic must be notified to the Heritage Council unless the Heritage Council is aware of the relic's location. Under the SSI provisions for the project, exemptions and permits that would otherwise be required under Part 4 and section 139 of the Heritage Act are not required for approved SSI projects by reason of section 5.23 of the EP&A Act. Heritage impacts associated with the project have still been assessed in accordance with the Heritage Act.	*Chapter 15 (Historic heritage)* *Technical Report 7 – Historic heritage impact statement*
Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 (Land Acquisition Act)	The Land Acquisition Act controls the acquisition of land on just terms by authorities of the State with the objective of simplifying and expediting the compulsory acquisition process while ensuring compensation on just terms for the owners of land that is acquired by an authority of the State when the land is not available for public sale. EnergyCo is an authority of the State for the purposes of the Land Acquisition Act and can acquire land by agreement or compulsory processes for the purposes of the *Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987* or any other act administered by the Minister for Energy.	*Chapter 1 (Project description)* *Chapter 12 (Land use and property)*

Relevant provision	Relevance/consideration	Where addressed in this EIS
National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NP&W Act)	The NP&W Act establishes statutory provisions for the preservation and management of National parks, historic sites and certain other areas, as well as the protection of certain Aboriginal objects. The NP&W Act provides for the conservation of elements of the natural environment, as well as the conservation of objects, places or features of cultural value to Aboriginal people and the people of NSW. Under the provisions of section 86 of the NP&W Act, a person must not harm or desecrate a known Aboriginal object unless authorised by an Aboriginal heritage impact permit issued under section 90 of that Act. The project has been declared to be CSSI. Under section 5.23 of the EP&A Act, a permit that would otherwise be required under section 90 of the NP&W Act is not required for approved SSI projects. Nevertheless, a detailed assessment of potential impacts to Aboriginal heritage associated with the project has been undertaken. The project would traverse land that is part of the Jilliby State Conservation Area (SCA). The Secretary is required to cause a Plan of Management (PoM) to be prepared for each SCA. Once a PoM is adopted by the Minister no operations can be undertaken in relation to the land to which the plan relates unless in accordance with the PoM. The Watagans National Park and Jilliby SCA PoM dated April 2010 applies to the project impact areas. Section 47I of the NP&W Act relevantly provides that 'despite anything in this or any other Act, land within a state conservation area is not to be dealt with except as provided under this Act.'. Importantly, the words 'except as provided in this Act' enlivens section 153, which empowers the Minister administering the NP&W Act to exercise a discretion to grant an easement to the proponent. Part 12 of the NP&W Act also authorises the Minister to grant leases and licences over land within a SCA, in limited circumstances, provided that it is subject to the provisions of the PoM.	*Chapter 6 (Engagement)* *Chapter 9 (Aboriginal heritage)* *Technical Report 2 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment* *Chapter 12 (Land use and property)*

Relevant provision	Relevance/consideration	Where addressed in this EIS
Pipelines Act 1967 (Pipelines Act)	High pressure pipelines are designed, constructed, tested, operated and maintained in accordance with Australian Standard AS 2885 and licenced under the Pipelines Act. The Pipelines Regulation 2013 also ensures that licensed pipeline are designed, constructed, maintained and operated in a safe and reliable manner. In line with section 2.77 of the TI SEPP, EnergyCo has considered the impacts of the potential impacts of the project's development. These considerations have included: • undertaking an initial identification assessment using Dial Before You Dig (DBYD) requirement. Additional, detailed DBYD checks would be undertaken as part of the development of detailed design; and operator consultation – consultation with the relevant pipeline operator has commenced.	*Chapter 12 (Land use and property)*
Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act)	The POEO Act establishes, amongst other things, the procedures for issuing licences for environmental protection on aspects such as waste, air, water and noise pollution control. An environment protection licence (EPL) is required under chapter 3 of the POEO Act to undertake a scheduled activity or scheduled development work. Section 5.24(e) of the EP&A Act identifies approvals or authorisations that cannot be refused if they are necessary for carrying out approved CSSI and are substantially consistent with the approval, including the need for an EPL. Activities requiring an EPL are outlined in schedule 1 of the POEO Act. It is possible that the use of helicopters during construction may result in more than 30 flight movements per week within 1 km of a dwelling (which is listed as a scheduled activity under schedule 1 of the POEO Act). If this is the case, the project will require an EPL.	*Chapter 5 (Statutory context)*

Relevant provision	Relevance/consideration	Where addressed in this EIS
Rail Safety National Law (NSW) No 82a of 2012	The principal object of the *Rail Safety National Law (NSW) No 82a of 2012* of relevance to the project is the regulation of the carrying out of various activities within railway corridors. The project would cross a rail corridor in 3 locations. Activities associated with the project that would occur across rail corridors would primarily involve stringing activities. Consultation with rail authorities (ARTC and Transport for NSW) regarding these activities is provided in *Chapter 6 (Engagement)* and *Appendix D - Outcomes Report* of this EIS. Ongoing consultation with the relevant rail authority where rail crossings are required will continue in detailed design.	*Chapter 11 (Traffic and transport)* *Technical Report 4 - Traffic and transport impact assessment*
Roads Act 1993 (Roads Act)	The principal object of the Roads Act of relevance to the project is the regulation of the carrying out of various activities on public roads. Part 9 of the Roads Act nominates the requirements for undertaking works within a public road, including the requirement to obtain consent under section 138 for carrying out works in, on or over a public road (this includes the erection of structures), and the digging up or disturbance of the surface of a public road. The project would potentially require temporary/partial closure of classified and unclassified roads for the construction of the project and may require works to connect new access points. By reason of section 5 of schedule 2 of the Roads Act, the proponent is not required to obtain consent to carry out work on unclassified roads, unless they are a Crown Road. The proponent will however require consent to undertake work where this occurs on or over classified roads. Further information on consultation to date with relevant road authorities is provided in *Chapter 6 (Engagement)* and *Appendix D – Outcomes Report*.	*Chapter 11 (Traffic and transport)* *Technical Report 4 - Traffic and transport impact assessment*

Relevant provision	Relevance/consideration	Where addressed in this EIS
Rural Fires Act 1997 (RF Act)	The objects of the RF Act are focused on the prevention, mitigation and suppression of bush and other fires in rural fire districts, and the co-ordination of firefighting and prevention across the State. Section 100B applies to bush fire prone land and empowers the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service to issue a bush fire safety authority. The bush fire authority authorises certain types of development, subject to compliance with matters considered by the Commissioner to be necessary to protect persons, property or the environment. Under the SSI provisions for the project, a bush fire safety authority under section 100B is not required for approved SSI projects by reason of section 5.23 of the EP&A Act.	*Chapter 21 (Hazards and risks)* *Technical Report 14 - Bushfire risk assessment*
Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001 (WARR Act)	The WARR Act aims to encourage the most efficient use of resources and to reduce environmental harm in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. The project would consume some natural resources and would produce waste. Waste and resource impacts associated with the project together with re-use and recycling opportunities and sustainability matters have been considered as part of design development. A waste management and resource recovery plan will be prepared and will include appropriate measures to manage waste generation, reuse, recycling and disposal during construction of the HTP.	*Chapter 22 (Other matters)*

Relevant provision	Relevance/consideration	Where addressed in this EIS
Water Management Act 2000 (WM Act)	The overarching objective of the WM Act is to provide for the sustainable and integrated management of the water resources of the State and including the application of the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Water use approvals, which authorise and confer a right on the holder of the approval to use water for a particular purpose at a particular location, are dealt with in section 89 of the WM Act. Section 90 of the WM Act identifies 3 kinds of water management works approvals, being a water supply work approval, a drainage work approval and a flood works approval, with all 3 of these approvals conferring a right on the holder of the approval to construct and use the specified works at a specified location. There are 2 kinds of activity approvals that are dealt with in section 91 being a controlled activity and aquifer interference, both of which confer a right on the holder to carry out the specified activity at the specified location. The requirement for aquifer interference approvals has not been "switched on". The project is CSSI. Under section 5.23 of the EP&A Act, a water use approval pursuant to section 89 of the WM Act, a water management work approval pursuant to section 90 of the WM Act, and an activity approval (other than an aquifer interference approval) pursuant to section 91 of the WM Act are not required and do not apply to approved SSI projects. Water would be sourced from existing regulated sources, purchased from the existing water market or council facilities and accessed via existing licensed water extraction infrastructure only. Additionally, the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy (Department of Primary Industries, 2012) documents the NSW Government's intention to implement the requirement for approval of 'aquifer interference activities' under the WM Act, however, the provisions for aquifer interference approvals have not been enacted. The potential for groundwater interception and water take to occur during construction from activities such as piling and shallow excavations has been assessed in accordance with the minimal impact considerations outlined in the AIP. Potential groundwater impacts have been assessed as being negligible and acceptable level 1 minimal impacts under the AIP.	*Chapter 17 (Surface water)* *Chapter 18 (Groundwater)* *Chapter 19 (Flooding)* *Technical Report 10 – Surface water impact assessment* *Technical Report 11 - Groundwater impact assessment* *Technical Report 12 – Flooding impact assessment.*

Relevant provision	Relevance/consideration	Where addressed in this EIS
Commonwealth		
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)	Proposed actions with the potential to significantly impact protected matters must be referred to the Australian Minister for the Environment and Water to determine whether they require assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. The HTP has been declared a controlled action (EPBC 2024/09874). The relevant controlling provisions are: • threatened species and ecological communities • Commonwealth land. Direct impacts associated with the HTP include disturbance of around 1370 ha of native vegetation which contains threatened ecological communities, threatened flora and habitat for threated fauna. A portion of the project impact area traverses through Singleton Military Area, which is Commonwealth land. The project has been assessed under the NSW bilateral agreement, which enables the project to be assessed by NSW on behalf of the Australian Government.	*Chapter 8 (Biodiversity)* *Technical Report 1 - Biodiversity development assessment report* *Appendix A: Assessment requirements compliance* *(Assessment requirements compliance)*
Native Title Act 1993	The *Native Title Act 1993* provides for native title in relation to land or waters. A search of the National Native Title Tribunal on 11 November 2024 identified no known native title claims or publicly registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements which apply within the project impact area**.** Not all Indigenous Land Use Agreements are made publicly available; however, they only apply to signing parties to the agreement. As EnergyCo has not entered into any Indigenous Land Use Agreements, the provisions of any which may current exist across the HTP project area would not apply to the project.	*Chapter 12 (Land use and property)*

Table C.4 identifies the form and content requirements of the EIS in accordance with Schedule 4 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 as required by the supplementary SEARs and indicates where they have been addressed in the EIS.

Table C.4 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000

Requirement	EIS reference
Schedule 4 Matters to be addressed by draft public environment report and environment impact statement	
5. Other approvals and conditions	
5.01 Information given under paragraph 2.01 (f) must include: a. details of any local or State government planning scheme, or plan or policy under any local or State government planning system that deals with the proposed action, including:	*Chapter 5 (Statutory context)* This appendix
i. what environmental assessment of the proposed action has been, or is being, carried out under the scheme, plan or policy;	*Chapters 8 to 23* *Technical reports 1 to 19*
ii. how the scheme provides for the prevention, minimisation and management of any relevant impacts;	*Chapters 8 to 23* *Chapter 24 (Environmental management)* *Appendix A (Assessment requirements compliance)* *Technical Report 1 - Biodiversity development assessment report*
b. a description of any approval that has been obtained from a State, Territory or Commonwealth agency or authority (other than an approval under the Act), including any conditions that apply to the action;	This appendix
c. a statement identifying any additional approval that is required;	This appendix
d. a description of the monitoring, enforcement and review procedures that apply, or are proposed to apply, to the action.	*Chapter 24 (Environmental management)*
6. Environmental record of person proposing to take the action	
6.01 Details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against: a. the person proposing to take the action; and b. for an action for which a person has applied for a permit, the person making the application.	There are no current or previous proceedings under the Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against the person (EnergyCo) proposing the action

Requirement	EIS reference
6.02 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation – details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework.	EnergyCo is a NSW Government statutory authority established under the *Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987*. The NSW Government has appointed EnergyCo in November 2021 as the Infrastructure Planner responsible for delivering the transmission network in REZs in NSW. EnergyCo operates under the direction of the NSW Minister for Energy. EnergyCo is in the process of finalising its Environmental Policy Statement. EnergyCo is committed to conducting its activities and services in a manner that protects the environment, prevents pollution and meets compliance obligations.

Appendix D

Community engagement outcomes

Commonly used acronyms and terms

ACRONYM/TERM	DESCRIPTION
CEP	Communication and Engagement Plan
CSSI	Critical State Significant Infrastructure
DPHI	NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EII Act	Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)
EP&A Regulation	Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 (NSW)
Ha	Hectares
HTP	Hunter Transmission Project
LGA	Local Government Area
Near neighbours	Landowners outside of the project corridor that are adjacent to directly impacted landowners and/ or within 5km of the project corridor
NSW	New South Wales
NSW DCCEEW	NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Parties
RRG	Regional Reference Group
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
SMA	Singleton Military Area

1 Executive summary

The Hunter Transmission Project (HTP, the project) is a new overhead 500 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission line that will form a vital part of the backbone of NSW's future energy system. The HTP will close a critical gap in the transmission network by linking the Bayswater substation in the Upper Hunter to a new switching station in the Olney State Forest near Eraring, in the Lower Hunter. The project will provide 5 gigawatts (GW) of additional transfer capacity and help transfer energy generated in Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) to consumers as coal-fired power stations retire.

This Engagement Outcomes Report documents how consultation has informed the project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It demonstrates that the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) has delivered a robust, transparent and adaptive EIS engagement program consistent with NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) guidelines, the Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) and the project's Communications and Engagement Plan (CEP).

This report summarises the outcomes of the engagement undertaken for the project. Specifically, this report focuses on engagement undertaken between May 2024 and July 2025 to support the preparation of the EIS.

To support the EIS preparation and lead up to the EIS public exhibition, EnergyCo has engaged with stakeholders through over 2300 interactions. Engagement was undertaken across multiple phases and included drop-in sessions, one-on-one landowner meetings, specialist workshops, targeted briefings, online forums, digital tools and formal submissions. Engagement focused on ensuring that communities, landowners and stakeholders had opportunities to understand the project, provide feedback and help shape outcomes.

Efforts were tailored across proximity zones - with particularly intensive engagement with landowners within 5 kilometres of the corridor - and targeted to key interest groups such as registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs), Native Title holders, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Central Coast councils, Australian government agencies including Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), Department of Defence, Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), NSW government agencies including DPHI, NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water (NSW DCCEEW), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW), Transport for NSW (TfNSW), NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS), NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), Crown Lands, NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), environmental groups including Hunter Wildlife Rescue and Hunter Bird Observers, businesses, exploration licence holders, mineral title holders and regional and State-wide stakeholders including Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Birdlife Australia and Australian Energy Council.

Key themes raised through consultation with community, landowners and other stakeholders included:

- **Land use and property:** Property access, acquisition and compensation processes, impacts on farming operations, desire for greater clarity through tailored maps and design details
- **Environmental impacts:** Biodiversity and habitat protection, bushfire risk, vegetation clearing, cumulative environmental impacts, and interest from environmental groups in contributing to project delivery (e.g. pre-clearance surveys)

- **Visual and landscape impacts:** Visual prominence of infrastructure near valued landscapes and tourism areas (particularly in HTP Central)
- **Cultural heritage:** Protection of culturally significant places, requests for additional assessments, and opportunities for Aboriginal businesses and Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) to be involved
- **Construction impacts:** Traffic management, road safety, noise, dust, and disruption to recreational access
- **Project justification and alternatives:** Requests for information on undergrounding, existing easement use, route selection rationale and project interaction with the Hunter-Central Coast REZ and existing 330 kV infrastructure
- **Community engagement:** Desire for clear and timely communication and recognition that some design information will be confirmed during the detailed design phase.

Community, landowner and stakeholder feedback has played a central role in shaping the HTP's design prior to commencement of planning approval. Key project refinements and commitments have resulted from this feedback including:

- reduction in private property impacts from 78 directly affected properties to about 20 at EIS stage
- relocation of the switching station to Olney State Forest (removing more than 30 private properties from the corridor in HTP South)
- corridor adjustments in HTP North and Central to avoid sensitive properties, cultural heritage sites and areas of high biodiversity value
- visual and landscape mitigation including adjusted tower siting off ridgelines
- biodiversity offsets and mitigation commitments
- strengthened traffic and access management measures
- enhanced cultural heritage protection
- ongoing improvements to engagement materials, mapping and transparency.

The engagement program has supported balanced project development, reducing impacts on landowners and the environment while meeting the state's strategic energy needs. Engagement will continue through and after the EIS public exhibition and into detailed design and construction to ensure communities, landowners and other stakeholders remain informed.

1

Introduction

1 About the HTP

The Hunter Transmission Project (HTP, the project) is a critical infrastructure initiative supporting the NSW Government's transition to a cleaner, more reliable energy system. The HTP was declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) in 2022 under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

Since that time, the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) has undertaken a comprehensive program of engagement with community members, impacted and neighbouring landowners, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Central Coast councils, businesses, and other key stakeholders including community groups, Aboriginal parties, exploration licence holders, quarry operators, mineral title holders and relevant State and Australian Government authorities to inform project development.

The engagement program aligns with the requirements of the EP&A Act, the Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs), the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's (DPHI) Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects (2024) (Guidelines) and International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) engagement spectrum and principles.

This includes early identification of and consultation with affected stakeholders, proximity-based analysis of community concerns, and clear documentation of how feedback has informed project planning and impact mitigation.

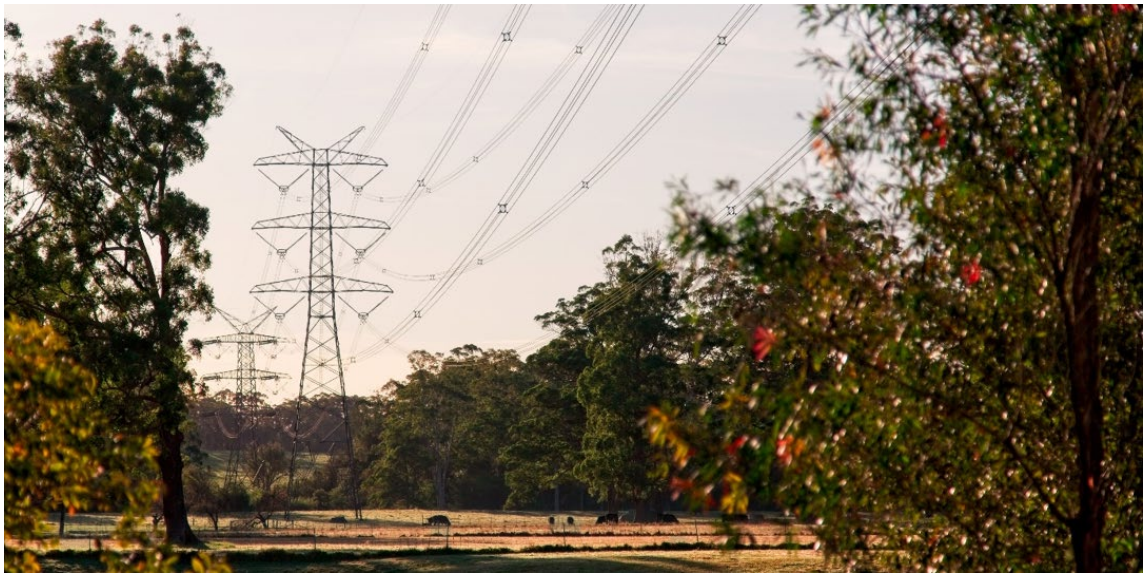


Image 1 Existing transmission line at Martinsville

1.1 1.1 About this document

This report summarises the outcomes of the engagement undertaken for the project. Specifically, this report focuses on engagement undertaken between May 2024 and July 2025 to support the preparation of the EIS.

This report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement that has been carried out to date and details key issues and opportunities raised during EIS engagement. It serves as a supporting document for the HTP EIS and expands on the community and stakeholder engagement summary in Chapter 6 of the EIS.

1.1.1 Report structure

This EIS engagement report includes the following key components:

Table 1 Structure of this EIS engagement report

Section of report	Key components
Section 1	Establishes why we engaged: statutory compliance, risk mitigation and social licence rationale.
Section 2	Explains how the team engaged with directly impacted and neighbouring landowners, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie and Central Coast councils, government agencies including Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), Transport for NSW (TfNSW), NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS), as well as community and environmental groups; engagement channels including drop-ins, workshops, surveys and one-on-ones.
Section 3	Presents what we heard: outlines key themes and issues raised using quantitative data drawn from submissions and interactions; provides a concise summary of how community and stakeholder input has informed the project to date; specific EIS refinements (alignment shifts, mitigation updates); direct links back to stakeholder inputs.
Section 4	Provides a summary and next steps and details ongoing engagement; SEARs checklist.
Section 5	Provides supporting material including a stakeholder list, summary of issues and how they have been addressed, and communication and engagement tools and materials.

1.2 Project overview

The HTP is a new overhead 500 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission line that will form a vital part of the backbone of NSW's future energy system. The HTP will close a critical gap in the transmission network by linking the Bayswater substation in the Upper Hunter to a new switching station in the Olney State Forest near Eraring, in the Lower Hunter. The project will provide 5 gigawatts (GW) of additional transfer capacity and help transfer energy generated in REZs to consumers as coal-fired power stations retire.

The project includes:

- a new overhead 500 kV double circuit transmission line of around 110 kilometres
- 2 new switching stations (Bayswater South and Olney)
- upgrades to the existing Bayswater and Eraring substations
- adjustments and upgrades to existing transmission lines
- property adjustment works to facilitate access to the transmission lines and switching stations
- utility adjustments required for the construction of the transmission network infrastructure
- ancillary works to support construction including road upgrades, establishment of new access tracks, upgrades of existing access tracks, construction support sites (some with and temporary worker accommodation), and other construction facilities such as laydown areas.

The route of the final corridor reflects a careful balance between technical, environmental, cultural and social considerations. Refinements were made to reduce impacts on farming operations, homes, cultural heritage and high-value ecological communities, while maximising the use of existing infrastructure corridors, mining and government-owned land.

Community feedback gathered through drop-in sessions, surveys, written submissions and one-on-one meetings led to refinements that reduced impacts on private properties, environmentally sensitive areas and culturally significant sites.

1.1.1 HTP timeline

EnergyCo commenced planning and early engagement in 2022 following the project's declaration as CSSI. Key project milestones include corridor identification and early engagement (2022-23), engagement and project refinement (2023-24), and environmental assessment (2024-25). The EIS is scheduled for public exhibition in the second half of 2025.

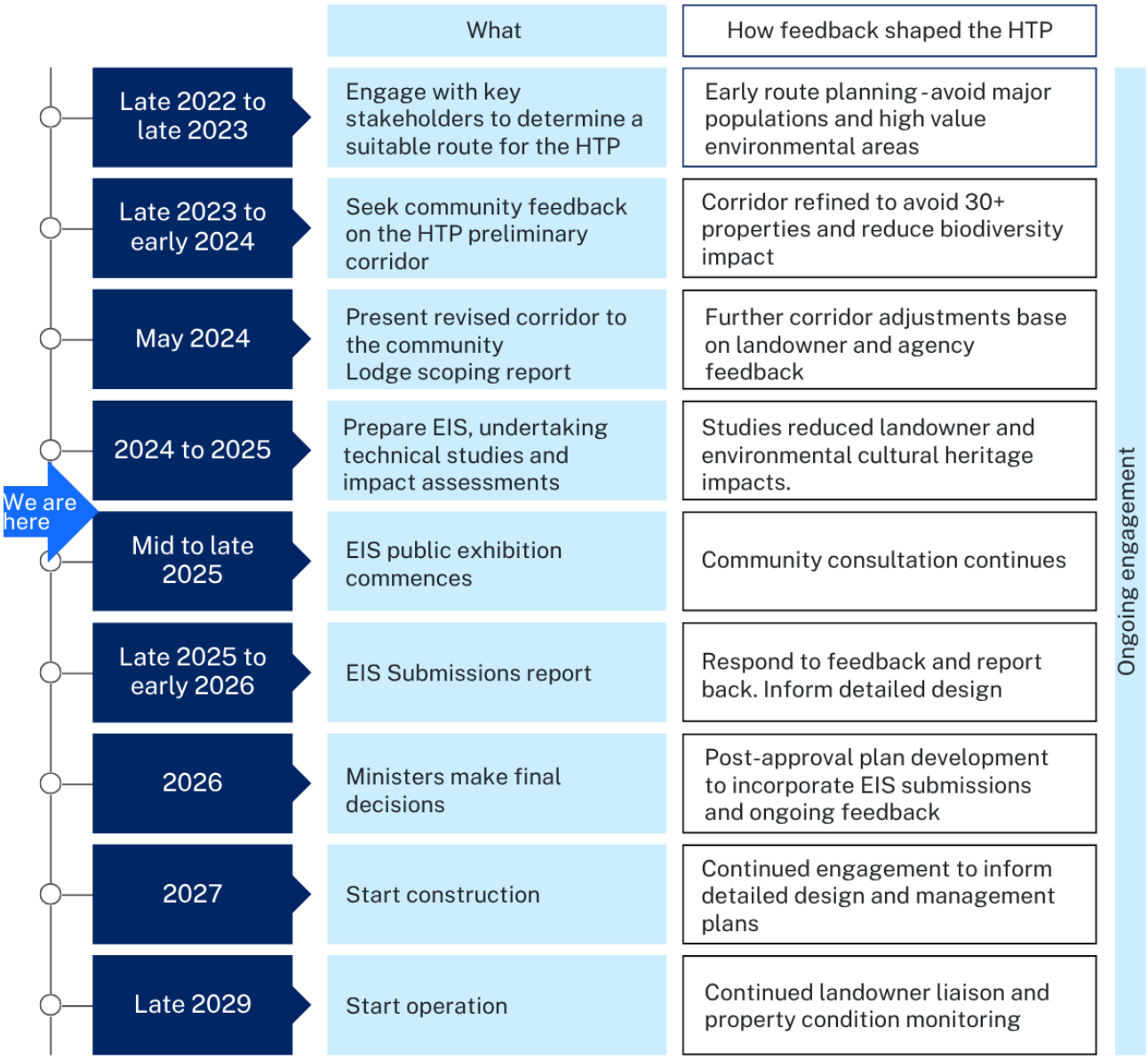


Figure 1 Key HTP milestones

2 How people were engaged

Engagement overview

The Energy Corporation of NSW's (EnergyCo) Hunter Transmission Project (HTP) environmental impact statement (EIS) engagement program was developed to meet the suite of legislative and policy requirements for large-scale transmission projects in NSW:

- **Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs):** Statutory consultation obligations required by DPHI for CSSI.
- **The Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects (DPHI 2024):** Best-practice principles covering timing, methods and reporting of community input.
- ***Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*** **(EP&A Act):** The overarching statutory framework for environmental assessment.
- ***Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020*** **(EII Act):** Explicitly embeds engagement in the Act's goals by requiring proponents to "foster local community support for investment" (s 3(1)(d)) and, for Parts 4-6 projects, to "promote consultation and negotiation with the traditional Aboriginal owners of land" (s 3(2)(b)) - both of which underpin the HTP's stakeholder-engagement activities.
- **NSW Premier's Department Regional Communities Consultation Guide (2025):** Provides clear principles for respectful, inclusive, place-based engagement with regional communities affected by energy infrastructure projects. The HTP program has been aligned with this emerging guidance to further strengthen community outcomes.
- **Sector-wide and regulator-led guidance:** Including stakeholder-engagement approaches published by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) and Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), which were used to benchmark our program against national best practice.

Building on the early engagement work when HTP was launched in 2022 with the HTP's CSSI declaration, the EIS engagement program has evolved with each phase of the project. At each key milestone (corridor refinement, technical studies, draft EIS), tailored communications and feedback loops ensured landowners, Cessnock, Muswellbrook, Lake Macquarie, Singleton and Central Coast councils, registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) and government agencies including the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS), NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water (DCCEEW) and other relevant authorities could meaningfully participate and shape project outcomes.

Throughout the engagement process, the HTP corridor was divided into three geographic zones: North, Central and South. These zones were developed based on local land use, community profile, environmental context, and the nature of potential project impacts.

1.1.2 Regional Reference Group

In addition to tailored engagement and inclusive access, EnergyCo has established a dedicated forum to support ongoing regional collaboration: the Regional Reference Group (RRG).

The RRG was established in 2024 to ensure that local knowledge and community priorities were integrated into the planning and mitigation of the Hunter Transmission Project. It provides a forum for strategic input and two-way dialogue between EnergyCo, local councils, community representatives and regional stakeholders.

The group was formed after consultation with local councils and regional organisations. It initially comprised ten members: An independent Chair, three local Mayors (Singleton, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie), one community representative each from the HTP North, Central and South operational zones, and a regional business, environment and Aboriginal representative.

The RRG has provided input into route refinement, mitigation measures, communication approaches and regional benefit opportunities.

In May 2025, membership was expanded to 12 members to strengthen regional representation, adding the Mayor of Muswellbrook and a community representative from the Newcastle local government area.

The group was recently renamed the Hunter-Central Coast Regional Reference Group (HCCRRG), facilitated by EnergyCo to support coordination and engagement across the portfolio of EnergyCo's projects in the region. The RRG's evolution reflects the region's growing role in NSW's energy transition and the importance of coordinated and transparent engagement across projects.

2.2 Strategic approach

To align the Outcomes Report with the Communications and Engagement Plan (CEP), stakeholders were engaged in three distinct phases. Table 2 summarises the current phase – EIS preparation and assessment, and engagement details of the phase's objective, key activities and timeframes. The engagement program includes three phases:

- **Phase 1 - Early engagement phase (late 2022 - May 2024):** Focused on building awareness, supporting route selection and corridor refinement, and identifying early issues and opportunities. This phase helped establish key engagement themes for the EIS including visual amenity, biodiversity, Aboriginal cultural heritage, land acquisition, traffic and bushfire risks.
- **Phase 2 - EIS engagement phase (May 2024– Dec 2025):** to support and inform the preparation of impact assessments, identify local issues and refine mitigation approaches. This period included an increased focus on targeted engagement and the provision of clear information on issues identified as high impact or high interest to these stakeholders. This phase also supports EIS public exhibition and assessment process. Engagement will continue beyond this period to support detailed design, approvals and construction. Following the EIS phase, engagement will continue through project delivery to support detailed design, manage construction-related engagement, and maintain clear communication with stakeholders.
- **Phase 3 - Project delivery phase (from 2026 onward):** to support detailed design, manage construction-related engagement, and maintain clear communication with stakeholders through project delivery.

The following sections outline the engagement methods used, stakeholder groups engaged, and the outcomes of the specific EIS engagement phase.

Table 2 EIS engagement

Phase	Description	How feedback is informing the project	Outcomes
EIS preparation and assessment **May 2024 – Dec 2025**: EIS engagement	Engagement during the EIS preparation and assessment phase focuses on building community understanding, consulting on issues and impacts, and supporting the EIS public exhibition and assessment process.	Stakeholder feedback helped to identify key concerns, shaped mitigation strategies, and influenced project design refinements. Feedback has been incorporated into the EIS to ensure community and stakeholder perspectives were considered in the assessment and decision-making process. The public exhibition of at least 28 days provides additional opportunity for the community to have their say and submissions report with a description of what has been done to address these issues.	• Inclusion of local knowledge and community values in the technical assessment scope and proposed mitigation. measures • Improved coordination with other major projects, including HCC REZ, NE REZ and Port to REZ, to better understand and manage potential cumulative impacts — with further work to continue during detailed design and construction • Informed by consultation, local benefit and participation measures have been strengthened through the Hunter First policy — creating opportunities for around 700 local jobs for labourers, engineers and electricians during construction

2.1.1 EIS engagement principles

In all its interactions with members of the community, the HTP engagement team is guided, is committed to and is following a set of engagement principles detailed in the table below.

Table 3 Guiding EIS engagement principles

Respectful
We will respect and value community opinions.

Supportive
We will provide support avenues, including where to find project information and details of mental health support services.

Timely
We will respond to enquiries in a timely manner and ensure updates are shared as soon as information becomes available.

Empathetic
We will work to understand the needs of the community and show empathy in our communications and approach.

Genuine
We will actively listen and answer questions as thoroughly as possible.

Inclusive
We will make information accessible and simple to understand for all stakeholders.

2.1.2 EIS engagement objectives

Table 4 EIS engagement objectives

Objective	How we did this
Keep stakeholders informed	Providing accurate, timely and clear information about the HTP.
Create opportunities for engagement	Ensuring affected landowners, community members and other stakeholders can interact with the project team, ask questions, and provide feedback to help refine the HTP.
Make engagement proportionate	Tailoring engagement efforts for directly affected and neighbouring landowners, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie and Central Coast councils, government agencies including DPHI, Heritage NSW and EPA, as well as RAPs and local community, recreation and environmental groups, to reflect the HTP's potential impacts and the level of community interest, ensuring efforts are focused where they matter most.
Ensure engagement is effective and facilitate meaningful participation	Providing clear, accessible information and demonstrating how feedback has influenced project outcomes. Multiple platforms and tools were offered to support participation.
Be clear about influence	Clearly communicating which aspects of the project are open to community input and which are not.

2.3 Stakeholder analysis

Systematic stakeholder analysis was completed to ensure that all parties with an interest in, or potentially affected by, the HTP are identified, categorised, and engaged with in a manner proportionate to their level of impact and influence.

2.1.3 Identification and categorisation

Stakeholders were identified through:

- early engagement records (2022 – Oct 2023) and EnergyCo's stakeholder database
- review of corridor and land-use constraints
- referral from statutory agencies under the SEARs
- local knowledge and via groups such as the RRG.

Stakeholders have been categorised according to their:

- proximity to the HTP corridor (<5 kilometres, 5 – 100 kilometres, > 100 kilometres)
- level of potential impact (High, Medium, Low)
- interest/influence (e.g. regulatory authority vs. broader community).

Image 2 HTP EIS community information session at Millfield NSW in December 2023

2.1.4 HTP stakeholder groups

Figure 2 provides an overview of the stakeholder groups identified through the stakeholder analysis process, which informed the design of the engagement program. These groups reflect those with potential interest in, or influence on, the project, or potential to be impacted. Table 5 provides details of stakeholders for the project, with a focus on those identified in the SEARs.

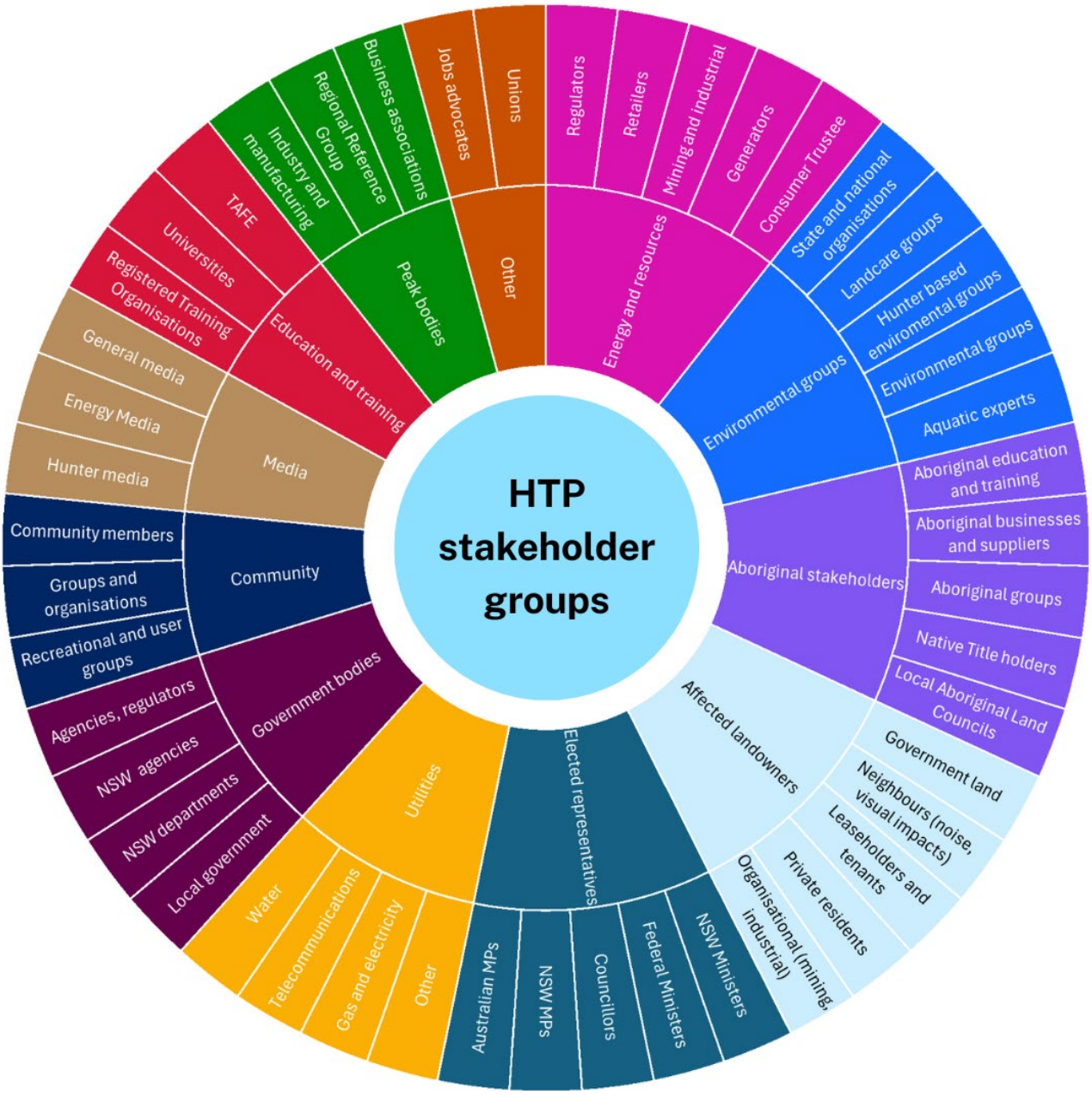


Figure 2 Stakeholder groups identified through stakeholder analysis

Table 5 Stakeholder groups

Stakeholder groups	Proximity	Impact	Issues and interests	EIS engagement approach
Affected landowners (SEARs identified)				
Directly impacted landowners in the HTP corridor	Local <5 km	High	• Easement and land acquisition • Compensation • Land-use impacts • Visual, biodiversity, noise and vibration, traffic/access impacts • Bushfire and hazards • Construction impacts • Community and employment benefits	• Dedicated Place and Property Managers • Landowner letters and notifications • Face-to-face meetings and small group sessions • Fact sheets, FAQs, maps, newsletters • Property access agreements • Website and interactive corridor map
Mining, industrial and government land: Yancoal, Glencore, Centennial; Origin, AGL, ForestryNSW Exploration licence holders, quarry operators and mineral title holders	Local <5 km	High	• Easement and land acquisition • Compensation • Land-use impacts • Impacts to operations	• Dedicated Place and Property Managers • Landowner letters and notifications • Meetings/briefings/ workshops • Property access agreements
Landowners just outside easement (neighbours, access-road residents)	Local <5 km	High	• Visual impacts • Noise and vibration • Traffic and access impacts • Construction impacts • Community and employment benefits	• Near neighbour campaign ongoing (visual, noise) • Information stalls in nearby towns • Direct mailouts, letters and emails • Webinars on EIS topics and management measures • Fact sheets, FAQs, maps, newsletters • Website and interactive map • Briefings as requested
Aboriginal stakeholders (SEARs identified)				
Wanaruah, Mindaribba, Awabakal, Biraban, Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs), Registered parties, Knowledge holders and Elders, Aboriginal stakeholders and organisations, Aboriginal businesses	5–100 km	High	• Cultural-heritage impacts and protocols • Biodiversity stewardship • Employment and business opportunities • Ranger and training programs	• Dedicated Aboriginal Engagement Officer • Cultural-mapping workshops and site walk overs • Aboriginal focus group meetings • Letters, emails, webinars, fact sheets, FAQs, newsletters • Website and interactive map

Stakeholder groups	Proximity	Impact	Issues and interests	EIS engagement approach
Local community (<5 km)				
Residents of Singleton, Mount Thorley, Broke, Cessnock, Millfield, Laguna, Cooranbong, Martinsville, Morisset		Low – Medium	• Visual, biodiversity, noise and vibration impacts • Traffic and access impacts • Bushfire and other hazards • Community and employment benefits	• Information stalls at community events • Monthly e-newsletter • Advertising campaigns • Direct mailouts, letters and emails • Webinars on EIS topics and management measures • Fact sheets, FAQs, maps, newsletters • Website and interactive map • Briefings as requested
Environmental groups (SEARs identified)				
Experts in aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, Water quality and fish habitat conservation experts, Birdlife Australia, Community Environment Network, Congewai Valley Landcare, Hunter Community, Environment Centre, EcoNetwork Port Stephens, Central West Environment Council, Hunter Environment Lobby, Hunter Bird Observers Club, Hunter Wildlife Rescue, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Sydney Basin Koala Network,	5 – 100 km	Medium	• Biodiversity and habitat corridors • Fauna rescue provisions/protocols • Potential impacts to environmental values and recreational use within nature reserves (NPWS) and State Forests	• Targeted webinars • Specialist briefings • Joint field surveys
Broader Hunter region				
Hunter region stakeholders – residents, businesses, community LGAs of Maitland, Port Stephens, Newcastle, Upper Hunter	5–100 km	Low	• Wider construction-stage impacts on people and environment • Community and employment benefits • Accommodation for project construction workforce and impacts to short term housing supply	• Regional event stalls (renewables conferences) • Advertising campaigns • Monthly e-newsletters • Webinars on EIS topics and management measures • Fact sheets, FAQs, maps, newsletters • Website and interactive map

Stakeholder groups	Proximity	Impact	Issues and interests	EIS engagement approach
NSW community				
Citizens beyond Hunter region	>100 km	Low	• Broad environmental and social impacts • NSW energy transition	• Monthly e-newsletters • Webinars on EIS topics and management measures • Fact sheets, FAQs, maps, newsletters • Website and interactive map
Regional Reference Group				
Independent Chair Mayors of Singleton, Cessnock, Muswellbrook and Lake Macquarie; local community representatives from Singleton, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie and Newcastle LGAs, a business, environment and Aboriginal representative	5–100 km	Medium	• Project-wide impacts, regional employment and education benefits, opportunities for Hunter industry and businesses • Co-ordination with other related EnergyCo projects such as HCC REZ, Port to REZ and New England REZ • Construction traffic, support sites and temporary workforce accommodation	• Quarterly in-person/online meetings (secretariat by EnergyCo) • Extraordinary meetings as required (secretariat by EnergyCo) • Presentations by landowners and interest groups • Fact sheets, FAQs, maps, newsletters • Website updates

Stakeholder groups	Proximity	Impact	Issues and interests	EIS engagement approach
Community and interest groups (SEARs identified)				
Peak environment bodies **Recreational user groups (bushwalkers, mountain-bikers, 4WD, horse riders)** **Business and tourism associations** 4WD Clubs - Maitland and District 4WD Club, Port Hunter 4x4 Club, Hunter Region 4WD Council, Australian Climbing Association Newcastle and Central Coast, Broke Residents Community Association, Cooranbong Community Services Centre, Historical societies - Cessnock District Historical & Family History Society, Muswellbrook Shire Local & Family History Society Inc, Singleton Historical Society and Museum Inc, Hunter Valley Gliding Club, Horse riders - Hunter Valley Horse Riders Club, Lake Macquarie Pack and Trail Horse Riders, Morpeth Horse Riders Club, Hunter Mountain Bike Association, Mulbring Community Forum, Pokolbin Mountains Road Residents, Landholders and Users, Rotary Club of Morisset, Walking clubs - Lake Macquarie Bushwalkers, Newcastle Bushwalking Club, Wollombi Progress Association, Wollombi Valley Community Association, Wollombi Valley Tourism.	5–100 km	Medium	• Environmental and land-use impacts • Tourism and recreational amenity • Business and investment opportunities • Job opportunities	• Fact sheets, FAQs, maps, newsletters • Website and interactive map • Targeted workshops and site tours • Presence at industry and community events • Webinars on EIS topics and management measures • Briefings as required

Stakeholder groups	Proximity	Impact	Issues and interests	EIS engagement approach
Community - other				
Unions, jobs advocates, major industry (Port of Newcastle)	Regional 5–100 km Statewide >100 km	Low	• Transparency of project impacts • Worker conditions • Local employment targets • Operational impacts and safety, transport and logistics integration	• Meetings / briefings • Union-advocate roundtables • Private briefings and technical workshops
Elected representatives – corridor				
Federal: Member for Hunter **NSW:** Members for Upper Hunter, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Wyong	5–100 km	Medium - high	• Corridor-specific impacts on constituents and landowners • Environmental and land-use impacts • Project milestones and media opportunities • Social licence and benefit initiatives	• Regular technical briefings and one-on-ones meetings • Regular communication packs • Items raised by elected representatives via their constituents are shared with the project team and where appropriate, discussed through the RRG to ensure alignment and local perspectives are considered.
Elected representatives – outside corridor				
Federal: Members for Paterson, Newcastle, Dobell, Shortland **NSW:** Members for Maitland, Newcastle, Wallsend, Swansea	5–100 km	Low	• Wider community impacts during construction • Regional economic opportunities	• Briefings and meetings as needed • Communications packs at key release points
Local government – elected councillors and officers (SEARs identified)				
Councillors and officers of Muswellbrook, Singleton, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Central Coast	5–100 km	Medium - high	• Impacts on council assets (roads, waste) • Cumulative impacts and community benefits • Local procurement and housing/construction accommodation needs	• Council workshops and field tours corridor/site briefings • Briefings with officers and information sharing sessions on key topics such as traffic and transport, accommodation facilities • Fact sheets, FAQs, maps, newsletters, drop-in sessions

Stakeholder groups	Proximity	Impact	Issues and interests	EIS engagement approach
Local government – outside corridor				
Councillors and officers of Maitland, Newcastle, Port Stephens	5–100 km	Low	• Broader construction-stage impacts • Council funding and participation opportunities	• Proactive briefings with officers • Information sharing sessions
Government agencies – Australian (SEARs identified)				
Department of Climate Change Energy Environment and Water (DCCEEW), Department of Defence, Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC), Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), Airservices Australia	>100 km	Medium	• Regulatory and planning alignment • Environmental and aviation safety impacts	• Leadership-level briefings • Technical workshops and webinars, fact sheets and draft reviews
Government agencies – NSW (SEARs identified)				
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), DCCEEW, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW), Transport for NSW (TfNSW), Environment Protection Authority (EPA), WaterNSW, Rural Fire Service (RFS), Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW), SafeWork NSW, Crown Lands	>100 km	Medium - high	• Planning approvals and land use and property impacts • Biodiversity, bushfire, aviation and heritage impacts • Traffic and emergency management	• Site inspections • Technical workshops and briefings • Fact sheets and newsletters • Items raised by agencies are shared with the project team and taken into account in design refinements and scope of EIS assessment and mitigation measures adopted.

Stakeholder groups	Proximity	Impact	Issues and interests	EIS engagement approach
Energy sector and market bodies				
Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), Australia Energy Regulator (AER), Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC), Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC), Energy Security Board (ESB), Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), Energy Consumers Australia, Clean Energy Council, Generators, Large energy users	>100 km	Medium	• Network capacity and REZ integration • Market regulation and consumer impacts • Transition planning and Long-Term Energy Service Agreements (LTESAs)	• Strategy workshops and technical briefings • Draft report reviews
Utilities (SEARs identified)				
Transgrid, Ausgrid, Essential Energy, Jemena, NBN/Telstra	Regional 5–100 km Statewide >100 km	Low	• Impacts on existing utilities, potential utility changes/relocation and adjustments • Potential network disruptions during construction	• Technical briefings and workshops • Site tours and joint planning
Peak bodies and advocacy groups				
Renewable Energy Council, Industry chambers, Hunter Jobs Alliance, Unions, Chambers of commerce Hunter Valley Wine Tourism Association	5–100 km >100 km	Low	• Industry development and workforce issues, renewable transition opportunities • Land-use impacts; environmental and visual impacts • Access and transport impacts	• Webinars and roundtables • Email bulletins
Education and training providers				
University of Newcastle; TAFEs, registered training organisations	5–100 km >100 km	Low	• Skills gaps and workforce development • Worker safety and access protocols	• Briefings and meetings • Email updates

2.4 EIS engagement activities

Stakeholder mapping informed the way the EIS engagement and communication was delivered.

A variety of EIS engagement activities, including in-person, digital and print-based methods were used to ensure broad and equitable participation across different groups and regions. The choice of methods was informed by:

- the nature of potential impacts (e.g. land access, visual amenity)
- stakeholder location and proximity to the corridor
- communication preferences (e.g. face-to-face, digital).

These tools supported transparency, two-way communication and accurate capture of stakeholder feedback.

Table 6 EIS engagement activities undertaken

EIS engagement activity	Stakeholder group	Description of activity	Reach or outcome
EIS preparation and assessment engagement (May 2024 to Dec 2025)			
Advertising	All stakeholders	Advertising media included local radio (2NM, Power 98.1FM, 2HD, NewFM, 2NURFM, 2CHR 96.5FM, Triple M 102.9 Newcastle, Hit 106.9 Newcastle), local print media (Newcastle Herald, Singleton Argus, Hunter River Times, Maitland Mercury and Coast Community News) and digital channels such as podcasts including multiple placements across major Hunter media outlets.	Advertising reached a potential cumulative audience of more than 8 million. * Estimates reflect total impressions across all media buys, not unique individuals. Spikes in website visitation around this time demonstrated increased interest and awareness in the project.
Briefings	Government agencies, elected representatives, landowners, Aboriginal stakeholders and communities, councils, community, groups, business and industry	Briefings were used to provide an overview of the project and updates on key issues. Generally, there was greater engagement at face to face meetings than online meetings. Engagement with councils, agencies and Aboriginal groups was co-ordinated as part of this activity.	About 200 briefings were held, both online and in person, with a range of stakeholders to update them on key issues.
Bulk mailouts	Within 5 km of project impact area	Two bulk mailouts were distributed to households and businesses.	Tailored updates provided to landowners and key groups. Approximately 14,000 delivered in May 2024 and 32,000 in November 2024.

EIS engagement activity	Stakeholder group	Description of activity	Reach or outcome
Communications packs	Key stakeholders, elected representatives	Two rounds of communication packs for elected representatives.	These were sent in Dec 2024 and March 2025 in order to share updated project information and briefings held as requested.
Door knock	Landowners, community, groups, business and industry	Two rounds of door knocks.	Door knocks were conducted to directly provide advice and information to affected landowners. August 2024 – visual impact inspections completed with 13 stakeholders in Watagan, Maison Dieu, Gouldsville and Broke. April 2025 - update on visual impacts provided to 4 properties in the Broke area.
Email	All stakeholders	Email correspondence was used to inform, liaise with and respond to stakeholders and community members.	1400+ logged enquiries in CRM.
E-newsletter (monthly)	Subscribers to the news update	E-newsletters provided tailored updates to subscribers.	900+ subscribers. 13 eNewsletters sent: For copies, visit - www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/projects/hunter-transmission-project
Feedback form	Participants at events	Feedback forms were used at drop-in sessions and after webinars to capture stakeholder suggestions and event feedback.	30 completed.
Information sessions	Landowners, community, groups, business and industry	Community drop-in sessions provided project information and opportunities for stakeholders to speak directly with project team members.	Community drop-in session held in: • Singleton - March 2025 • Cessnock - March 2025 • Cooranbong - March 2025. Approximately 40 stakeholders including landowners, job hunters, community/environmental groups, councils and broader community attended.
Meetings	Government agencies, elected representatives, landowners, councils, community, groups, business and industry	Meetings provided stakeholders with the opportunity to discuss project issues in a more interactive format.	About 200 meetings with landowners and stakeholders.
Notifications (fieldworks)	Landowners within the project impact area	Outgoing emails, letters and calls regarding fieldwork notification requests on private property.	255 outgoing emails and letters. 138 outgoing calls.

EIS engagement activity	Stakeholder group	Description of activity	Reach or outcome
Online survey and submission form	All stakeholders wanting to provide a detailed submission	Collect structured feedback on early consultation and EIS findings.	Survey open until close of EIS public exhibition. Provides an accessible channel for stakeholders across all zones including those unable to attend events to share in-depth feedback. Supports a transparent record of community and stakeholder issues and enables tracking of how submissions have informed the project.
Phone calls	All stakeholders	Inform, liaise with and respond to stakeholders and community members – either proactively or in response to contact or complaints.	900 phone calls (in/out).
Pop-up stalls	All interested stakeholders within 5km of the project impact area	Pop-up stalls provided project information and opportunities for interested community members to engage with the project team.	12 pop-up stalls Held at regional shows, local shopping centres and markets October 2024 – Singleton, Morisset and Cessnock November 2024 – Singleton, Morisset and Cessnock December 2024 – Jerrys Plains, Singleton, Morisset February 2025 – Cessnock, Muswellbrook May 2025 - Paterson
Regional Reference Group	Impacted councils, business, environment, community, Aboriginal stakeholders	The RRG provided a forum for strategic discussion on the HTP in accordance with the group's terms of reference.	Meetings held bi-monthly May 2024 July 2024 August 2024 October 2024 November 2024 December 2024 (extraordinary meeting) February 2025 Minutes found here https://www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/our-projects/hunter-central-coast-projects/hunter-central-coast-regional-reference-group.
Surveys	Directly impacted landowners, businesses, Aboriginal stakeholders, environment and recreational users	Sentiment survey measured if views on project had changed over time.	About 200 stakeholders contacted by email and telephone.

EIS engagement activity	Stakeholder group	Description of activity	Reach or outcome
Webinars	Landowners, councils, business, environment, community, Aboriginal stakeholders, government agencies	Webinars provided targeted information on topics of high interest or impact and invited feedback from participants.	Six webinars hosted between March and May 2025 with 77 participants/ attendees. Topics included: • Bushfire and hazards (13 participants) • Planning and approvals (9 participants) • Biodiversity (10 participants) • Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (7 participants) • Noise and air quality (5 participants) • Visual amenity (26 participants) • Traffic and transport (7 participants).
Website	All stakeholders	Central source of information about the HTP and the HTP EIS including engagement opportunities.	31,102 visits to the HTP website.

Examples of the communication and engagement materials used throughout the project can be found in Appendix C.

3

What we heard and how it influenced the project

3 What we heard

3.1 What we heard and how it influenced the project

Since May 2024, the project team has recorded more than 2,300 interactions with community members and stakeholders through community events, direct landowner engagement, stakeholder briefings, online feedback and formal submissions. Engagement was delivered in phases aligned with project milestones, as outlined in Section 2.

Stakeholders engaged represent the full range of groups outlined in Section 2.3, including directly affected and neighbouring landowners, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie and Central Coast councils, government agencies including Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), Heritage NSW and NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), as well as registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) and local community groups.

This broad participation ensured the diverse perspectives required under the Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) were captured and have informed corridor refinements, design decisions and proposed mitigation measures.

Between May 2024 and April 2025, the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) also held targeted workshops, technical briefings and site tours with major generators, mining operators, Department of Defence (Defence) authorities, forestry managers and other commercial landowners to address operational, land use, safety and heritage concerns. Through these engagement activities, the project corridor was refined to avoid industrial and training areas, access and traffic management protocols were discussed with forestry and mining operators, and tailored heritage management and bushfire resilience measures were developed.

Stakeholder sentiment evolved over time as project information was released, with higher levels of concern expressed by those closest to the proposed corridor. Broader interest focused on regional opportunities and strategic energy outcomes.

A full list of issues raised, and how they were addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is included in Appendix B.

3.2 Directly affected landowners

EnergyCo engaged with both directly affected private landowners and a diverse range of organisational landowners including major energy generators, mining operators, Defence, Forestry Corporation NSW and other key stakeholders, to understand their specific operational, land-use, safety and heritage concerns.

Key themes raised by private landowners and residents included:

- easement access, acquisition processes and compensation
- engagement processes

- impacts on farming operations and land use
- visual and landscape concerns about tower siting and access tracks
- local traffic safety, dust, noise and general construction impacts.

Key themes raised by organisational landowners included:

- maintaining operational access and site safety during construction
- protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage and historic heritage assets
- minimising biodiversity impacts and coordinating offset opportunities
- traffic and haulage protocols to align with existing industrial operations
- bushfire risk mitigation and emergency access.

This feedback informed the assessment methodologies, identified opportunities for mitigations and management measures and identified requirements for ongoing consultation during detailed design and delivery.

Table 7 Summary of feedback from directly affected landowners

DPHI Theme	Issues and Feedback	How addressed	Where addressed in EIS
Community engagement process	Frustration over inconsistent communication timelines	Implemented new response protocols, including regular project updates via monthly e-newsletters, changes to location and format of drop-in sessions, targeted mail-outs and clearer explanations of what can and cannot be influenced through the EIS process.	Chapter 6 – Engagement Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
	Late awareness of project in rural pockets	Rolled out broader communications campaign – posters placed in shopping centres and on community notice boards, drop-in events, targeted mail-outs and expanded bulk mailout, info sessions to reach less engaged communities.	Chapter 6 - Engagement
Construction impacts	Heavy-vehicle use of Hebden Road	Detailed assessments of traffic and transport and construction undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts. Mitigation measures during construction will be implemented within localised traffic management plans (including time of day restrictions, speed limits and dilapidation surveys).	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport

DPHI Theme	Issues and Feedback	How addressed	Where addressed in EIS
	Concerns about road damage, noise, dust and vibration Road degradation and safety on rural roads	Detailed assessments of construction impacts undertaken. Mitigation measures during construction will be implemented through localised traffic management plans (including dilapidation surveys, road/intersection upgrades, designated heavy vehicle routes, dust suppression measures, vibration-monitoring protocols and noise-mitigation measures).	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Chapter 16 - Construction management
Cultural heritage	Need for greater RAP consultation	Detailed assessment of Aboriginal and heritage impacts undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible. During construction activities and ongoing engagement will be monitored to ensure they are culturally appropriate. Mitigation measures during construction will be outlined within the Aboriginal cultural and heritage management plan.	Chapter 9 - Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 2 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
	Protection of known cultural sites	Detailed assessment of Aboriginal and heritage impacts undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible. During construction activities and ongoing engagement will be monitored to ensure they are culturally appropriate, including micro-siting towers to avoid mapped sites.	Chapter 6 - Engagement Chapter 9 - Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 2 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
Design and route selection	Questions about undergrounding vs overhead lines	Detailed assessment of alternatives, including undergrounding. Alternatives and options incorporated into engagement materials and discussed with community members.	Chapter 3 - Alternatives and options
	Greater use of existing easements	Detailed assessments for transmission line locations undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible. Itigation measures include the use existing easements and minimising impacts on environment.	Chapter 3 - Alternatives and options
Environmental impacts	Effects on biodiversity Bushfire risk concerns Clearing of native vegetation and habitat corridors	Detailed assessment of biodiversity and bushfire undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible. Mitigation measures will be implemented during construction (including micro-siting of the transmission line infrastructure and work sites, pre-clearing surveys, retention of habitat features and establishment of biodiversity exclusion zones).	Chapter 8 - Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report Technical report 14 – Bushfire and risk assessment

DPHI Theme	Issues and Feedback	How addressed	Where addressed in EIS
	Effects on grazing land	Refined corridor to reduce impacts on agricultural land.	Chapter 12 - Land use and property Chapter 13 – Agriculture Technical Report 5 - Agriculture impact assessment
	Siting towers on scenic ridgelines	Adjusted design to increase setbacks from key vantage points and avoid prominent ridges.	Chapter 10 - Landscape and visual amenity Technical Report 3 - Landscape character and visual amenity
	Visual intrusion from new structures	Retained and enhanced vegetation screens; undertook visual impact assessment photomontages with impacted landowners and scheduled return to show photomontages and screening examples.	Chapter 10 - Landscape and visual amenity Technical Report 3 - Landscape character and visual amenity
	Perceived Electro-Magnetic Fields (EMF) risks affecting rural vistas	Included an EMF assessment in the EIS and published plain-language fact sheets explaining safety standards.	Technical Report 17 – EMF impact assessment
Land use and property	Need for clear corridor and easement maps	Held one-on-one briefings with affected landowners supported by property-specific fact sheets and bespoke maps showing the preferred corridor, easement footprints and compensation entitlements.	Chapter 12 - Land use and property
	Impacts on grazing and dairy operations	Explored alternative easement options to minimise loss of productive land; incorporated landowner feedback into the reference design.	Chapter 13 - Agriculture
	Requests for timely acquisition updates	Established a regular update protocol via email and phone, with documented timelines for opening-letter issuance and follow-up meetings.	Chapter 6 - Engagement
Social and economic	Cumulative housing impacts, local housing supply and affordability and need for local housing legacy	Detailed assessment of social impacts including use of temporary worker accommodation. Implementation of mitigation and management measures during construction to manage potential social impacts (such implementation of Accommodation and Employment Strategy).	Currently being investigated by EnergyCo, not addressed specifically in EIS

DPHI Theme	Issues and Feedback	How addressed	Where addressed in EIS
Strategic context	Confusion between HTP and Hunter-Central Coast REZ	Delivered regional briefings and issued clear explanatory materials differentiating the HTP scope from the REZ work. Introduced regional co-ordination meetings across EnergyCo projects with councils.	Chapter 3 - Alternatives and options

3.3 Aboriginal stakeholders

Between November 2023 and March 2025, the HTP team conducted over 1000 direct interactions—comprising approximately 600 days of on-Country activities—with 48 RAPs and other Aboriginal stakeholders including the 5 associated Local Aboriginal Lands Councils for the project. This intensive program, carried out under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), and additional project-specific engagement strategies, ensured transparent two-way dialogue on representation, field methods, site impacts and benefit-sharing.

The following table summarises the key themes, topics raised, how each was addressed and the relevant part of the EIS.

Table 8 Summary of feedback from Aboriginal stakeholders

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs)			
Cultural heritage	Who speaks for Country; identification of representative bodies	• Detailed assessment of Aboriginal and heritage impacts undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible • Representative bodies were identified through face-to-face meetings and anthropologist interviews	Chapter 9 – Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 2 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
	Potential impacts to Dreaming places and sacred sites	• Detailed assessment of Aboriginal and heritage impacts undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible • During construction, activities and ongoing engagement will be monitored to ensure they are culturally appropriate • Mitigation measures will be outlined within the Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan (including micro-siting infrastructure) which will be developed post approval by a heritage specialist and in consultation with the RAPs	Chapter 9 – Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 2 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
	Approach to archaeological test pitting and salvage	• RAP participation in test excavations; archaeological method statement	Chapter 9 – Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 2 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
Community engagement process	Desire for continuous dialogue through approvals	• Iterative workshops; regular briefings; incorporation of feedback into design development • An Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan will be prepared post-approval in consultation with RAPs	Chapter 6 – Engagement Chapter 9 – Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 2 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
Wanaruah, Mindaribba, Biraban, Awabakal, Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Councils			

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Social and economic	Community benefit packages Local enterprise development Inclusion in regional supplier database Visibility of upcoming contract opportunities	• Established online supplier portal • Detailed assessment of Aboriginal and heritage impacts undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible. • Mitigation measures during construction will be outlined within the Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan (including regular updates via e-newsletter and RRG meetings and industry briefing sessions) • EnergyCo is expecting to commence consultation with relevant communities in 2026 to inform the design and delivery of the Community and Employment Benefit Program in the Hunter Central Coast region.	Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment Community Benefits Scheme not addressed specifically within the EIS.
Community engagement process	Desire for continuous dialogue through approvals	• Iterative workshops; regular briefings • Detailed assessment of Aboriginal and heritage impacts undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible • During construction, activities and ongoing engagement will be monitored to ensure they are culturally appropriate • Mitigation measures during construction will be outlined within the Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan	Chapter 6 – Engagement Chapter 9 – Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 2 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
Cultural heritage	On-Country mapping protocols; survey methodology	• Collaborative cultural-mapping workshops; joint field surveys • Mitigation measures during construction will be outlined within the Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan	Chapter 9 – Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 2 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
	Potential impacts to Dreaming places and sacred sites	• Detailed assessment of Aboriginal and heritage impacts undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible • During construction, activities and ongoing engagement will be monitored to ensure they are culturally appropriate • Mitigation measures during construction will be outlined within the Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan (including micro-siting of infrastructure)	Chapter 9 – Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 2 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
First Nations businesses			
Social and economic	Community benefit packages Local enterprise development Inclusion in regional supplier database Visibility of upcoming contract opportunities	• Established online supplier portal • Mitigation measures during construction will be outlined within the Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan (including regular updates via e-newsletter and RRG meetings and industry briefing sessions) • EnergyCo is expecting to commence consultation with relevant communities in 2026 to inform the design and delivery of the Community and Employment Benefit Program in the Hunter Central Coast region	Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment Community Benefits Scheme not addressed specifically within the EIS.
	Local opportunities Achievement of government targets for Aboriginal participation	• EnergyCo is expecting to commence consultation with relevant communities in 2026 to inform the design and delivery of the Community and Employment Benefit Program in the Hunter Central Coast region • Details will be outlined within the Local Business and Employment Strategy and included in the Aboriginal Participation Plan • Preferred Network Operator and contractors will develop during the delivery phase	Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment Community Benefits Scheme not addressed specifically within the EIS.

3.4 Community organisations and recreational groups

Feedback from community members, local groups, and recreational users directly shaped key aspects of the HTP. Input from these stakeholders, particularly those within 5 kilometres of the proposed corridor (see below), led to measurable changes in the project's design and plan for delivery. The corridor was refined to reduce impacts on private properties, avoid prominent ridgelines and protect high-use recreational areas, including 4WD and camping areas. Concerns about visual amenity, land use and construction impacts were addressed through design adjustments, and input into construction access planning. The project team also simplified and expanded public-facing materials in response to requests for clearer information, ensuring the community could easily understand the project and its impacts.

Stakeholders include:

- 4WD Clubs – Maitland and District 4WD Club, Port Hunter 4x4 Club, Hunter Region 4WD Council
- Australian Climbing Association Newcastle and Central Coast
- Broke Residents Community Association
- Cooranbong Community Services Centre
- Historical societies – Cessnock District Historical and Family History Society, Muswellbrook Shire Local and Family History Society Inc, Singleton Historical Society and Museum Inc,
- Hunter Valley Gliding Club
- Horse riders - Hunter Valley Horse Riders Club, Lake Macquarie Pack and Trail Horse Riders, Morpeth Horse Riders Club
- Hunter Mountain Bike Association
- Mulbring Community Forum
- Pokolbin Mountains Road Residents, Landholders & Users
- Rotary Club of Morisset
- Walking clubs – Lake Macquarie Bushwalkers, Newcastle Bushwalking Club
- Wollombi Progress Association
- Wollombi Valley Community Association
- Wollombi Valley Tourism.

Table 9 Summary of feedback from community, local groups and recreational users

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Community engagement	Requests for timely updates, access to project staff, and clear communication	• Delivered community newsletters, drop-in sessions, webinars, and direct emails; community updates summarised feedback and outcomes • Detailed community engagement processes have been completed and are outlined within Chapter 6 • Planned community engagement activities are reflected in the Communications and Engagement Plan	Chapter 6 – Engagement
Construction impacts	Concern about road safety, dust, noise, and traffic during construction	• Detailed traffic and transport assessments were undertaken to avoid and minimise risks where possible • During construction, mitigation measures will be implemented. These will be outlined in the localised traffic management plans that will be developed post approval (including dilapidation surveys, road/intersection upgrades, designated heavy vehicle routes, and time-of-day restrictions for heavy vehicles in certain locations)	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Chapter 16 – Noise and vibration Chapter 22 – Other matters Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport Technical Report 8 – Noise and vibration Technical Report 18 – Air quality and greenhouse gas Chapter 6 - Engagement
Construction impacts	Potential disruption to bushwalking tracks, trails, 4WD areas and public reserves	• Potential disruption from construction traffic will be considered and managed during construction • Access needs will be identified through engagement during detailed design and construction phase, with any temporary closures clearly signposted and advance notifications provided to affected users • Alternative access routes will be communicated where possible to minimise disruption • A Community and Engagement Management Plan will be finalised before construction begins that will take the above engagement needs into account	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Chapter 14 – Social Chapter 16 – Noise and vibration Chapter 22 – Other matters Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment Technical Report 8 – Noise and vibration Technical Report 18 – Air quality and greenhouse gas Chapter 6 - Engagement

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Biodiversity and bushfire	Concern for local wildlife, vegetation clearing, and fire risk	• Detailed assessment of biodiversity and bushfire undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible • Mitigation measures are documented in the EIS and will be implemented during construction (including micro-siting of the transmission line infrastructure and work sites, pre-clearing surveys, retention of habitat features and establishment of biodiversity exclusion zones)	Chapter 8 – Biodiversity Chapter 21 – Hazards and risk Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report Technical Report 14 – Bushfire risk assessment Chapter 6 - Engagement
Landscape and visual	Impacts to landscape character	• A landscape character and visual impact assessment was undertaken, with mitigation measures developed to avoid or minimise impacts	Chapter 10 – Landscape and visual Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 3 -Landscape character and visual impact Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
Aviation	Operational impacts to Hunter Valley Glider Club	• A detailed aviation assessment was undertaken, with mitigation measures developed to avoid or minimise impacts	Chapter 21 – Hazards and risk Technical Report 16 – Aviation impact assessment Chapter 6 - Engagement
Strategic context	Questions about need for new lines vs upgrading existing infrastructure	• Detailed analysis of alternatives is presented in the EIS • Alternatives and options incorporated into engagement materials and discussed with community members	Chapter 3 – Alternatives and options Chapter 6 - Engagement
Visual amenity	Visual intrusion of towers near homes, recreation areas, and scenic viewpoints	• Detailed assessment of visual impact and alternative locations • Alternatives and options incorporated into engagement materials and discussed with community members • Mitigation measures are documented in the EIS and will be implemented during construction of the project to minimise impacts on landscape and visual amenity (including minimising vegetation clearing between tourism and cultural viewpoints)	Chapter 10 – Landscape and visual amenity Technical Report 3 - Landscape character and visual impact Chapter 6 - Engagement

3.5 Education/training, unions and jobs advocates

Between November 2023 and April 2025, EnergyCo engaged with education and training providers, unions and jobs advocates to shape workforce development and community benefit initiatives. Discussions focused on aligning training programs with project needs, setting local hiring targets, integrating health and safety standards, and supporting pre-employment readiness. The outcomes of these engagements are summarised in Table 10.

Table 10 Summary of education/training, unions and jobs advocate feedback

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Electricity Infrastructure Jobs Advocate			
Social and economic	Workforce metrics and policy • Statewide skills-gap analysis • Job-creation benchmarks for critical infrastructure	• Detailed assessment of social and economic impacts were undertaken • Mitigation measures are included in the EIS and how they will be implemented will be outlined in the Social Impact Management Plan, Local Business Strategy and Industry and Aboriginal Participation Plan • EnergyCo is expecting to commence consultation with relevant communities in 2026 to inform the design and delivery of the Community and Employment Benefit Program in the Hunter Central Coast region	Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
Hunter Valley Training Company			
Social and economic	• On-site training facilities • Workforce transition programs • Local job targets • SME engagement and supply-chain inclusion	• Detailed assessment of social and economic impacts was undertaken for the EIS • Key mitigation measures are to prepare a Social Impact Management Plan, Local Business and Employment Strategy and Industry and Aboriginal Participation Plans • EnergyCo is expecting to commence consultation with relevant communities in 2026 to inform the design and delivery of the Community and Employment Benefit Program in the Hunter Central Coast region	Chapter 14 – Social Chapter 22 – Other matters Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment Technical Report 19 – Economic assessment
Hunter Jobs Alliance			

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Social and economic	• Degree and research partnerships • Graduate placement pathways	• Detailed assessment of social and economic impacts was undertaken for the EIS • Key mitigation measures are to prepare a Social Impact Management Plan, Local Business and Employment Strategy and Industry and Aboriginal Participation Plans	Chapter 6 – Engagement Chapter 14 – Social Chapter 22 – Other matters Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment Technical Report 19 – Economic assessment
TAFE NSW			
Social and economic	• Short-course modules for transmission construction • Cert II/III	• Detailed assessment of social and economic impacts was undertaken for the EIS • Key mitigation measures are to prepare a Social Impact Management Plan, Local Business and Employment Strategy and Industry and Aboriginal Participation Plans	Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
Unions			
Health and safety	• Health and safety standards • Site access and induction processes	• Detailed assessment of hazards and risks associated with construction of the project has been included in the EIS	Chapter 21 – Hazards and risks Technical report 15 – Preliminary risk screening Technical report 17 – Electric and magnetic fields
Jobs advocates	**(e.g., local employment services)**		
Social and economic	• Pre-employment training needs • Resume and interview coaching	• Detailed assessment of social and economic impacts was undertaken for the EIS • Key mitigation measures are to prepare a Social Impact Management Plan, Local Business and Employment Strategy and Industry and Aboriginal Participation Plans. EnergyCo is expecting to commence consultation with relevant communities in 2026 to inform the design and delivery of the Community and Employment Benefit Program in the Hunter Central Coast region	Chapter 6 – Engagement Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment Technical Report 19 – Economic impact assessment

3.6 Energy and resources sector

EnergyCo engaged directly with major generators, mining operators including Glencore, Yancoal and Centennial Coal and other key stakeholders in the energy and resources sector, including AGL, Origin Energy, Glencore, Yancoal and Centennial Coal during preparation of the EIS. Engagement included targeted workshops, technical briefings and site visits, with a focus on operational integration, land use and access, safety, heritage management, and minimising potential impacts to existing operations.

Feedback from this sector informed corridor refinement, construction planning, environmental and heritage management measures, and co-ordination with other energy projects in the region. The table below summarises the issues raised and how they will be addressed through post-approval planning.

Table 11 Energy sector feedback

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
AGL Macquarie: Bayswater Power Station			
Community engagement process	AGL Macquarie request regular engagement co-ordination	• HTP Senior Acquisition Manager (or delegate) attended fortnightly AGL-EnergyCo co-ordination meetings to support ongoing property-related engagement and co-ordination	Chapter 6 - Engagement
Construction impacts	Estimated daily number of people accessing each construction lease and temporary easement area	• Estimated light and heavy vehicle numbers and workforce numbers associated with construction support site at Hebden Road and Pikes Gully construction support sites has been provided in EIS	Chapter 4 – Project description Chapter 24 - Environmental Management
	AGL Macquarie confirmation that Bayswater Power Station's ability to generate electricity would not be restricted during HTP construction and commissioning.	• Provided formal notice (and Transgrid advice) that no generator outages are required	Chapter 4 – Project description
	AGL Macquarie requested confirmation whether HTP construction activities on its freehold land would trigger the need for EPL amendments.	• Reviewed the final footprint; commitment to assist AGL if EPL revision is required	Chapter 5 – Statutory context Chapter 6 - Engagement

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
	AGL Macquarie sought assurance that potential cumulative impacts from multiple EnergyCo projects on Bayswater operations would be coordinated and managed consistently.	• Fortnightly EnergyCo and AGL Liaison meetings held since 2023 • EnergyCo are in the process of developing a Third Party Agreement, details will be finalised through ongoing engagement • Commitment that there would be no impact to generating assets	Chapter 23 - Cumulative impacts Chapter 6 - Engagement
	AGL Macquarie requested information on any oversize/overmass vehicles accessing AGL land: numbers, timing, duration	• Detailed traffic and transport assessments undertaken including assessment of OSOM routes	Chapter 24 - Environmental Management Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport
Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)			
Strategic context	REZ integration requirements System reliability standards	• Scenarios provided by AEMO have informed the EIS and ongoing coordination will be maintained during delivery	Chapter 3 – Alternatives and options
Australian Energy Regulator (AER)			
Strategic context	Electricity pricing and tariff arrangements Market compliance requirements	• The project is aligned with market compliance requirements and electricity pricing framework	Chapter 4 - Project description
Centennial Coal			
Construction impacts	Identified two access points to the site and proposed a hard-stand area at the Freemans Drive construction support site.	• Agreed to second entry/exit point for emergency access at the Freemans Drive construction support site	Chapter 4 - Project description Chapter 12 - Land use and property
	Location for construction support site and worker accommodation	• Agreement with Centennial Coal for an appropriate footprint on site for construction compound activities and services	Chapter 4 - Project description Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Glencore (Hunter Valley Operations)			
Environmental impacts	Overlapping of spring biodiversity surveys could disrupt operations	• Detailed assessments have been undertaken to avoid and minimise risk where possible. EnergyCo are committed to working collaboratively and sharing data during the project	Chapter 6 - Engagement.
Land use and property	Separation of project from current operations to minimise impact	• Stakeholders requested segregation of the corridor and access roads to enhance mining-area safety and streamline property handover to the contractor	Chapter 4 - Project description
	Impact of easement on mining operations, access across haul roads	• Ongoing consultation with operations team to refine corridor and timing of construction works; haul-road crossing protocols will be developed as part of traffic management requirements post planning approval	Chapter 12 - Land use and property Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical report 4 – Traffic and transport
	Potential constraints on mine expansion (future operations)	• Feedback on the planned upgrade works for Lemington Road under the HVO Continuation Project highlighted the need to co-ordinate timing and access requirements to manage overlapping construction activities • EnergyCo will continue to co-ordinate with HVO closer to the start of construction to avoid conflicts and minimise impacts	Chapter 23 – Cumulative impacts
Glencore (Bulga Coal)			
Design and route selection	Raised potential conflicts between HTP corridor and tenants and sought clarity on corridor interactions Impact on future land use and property value	• EnergyCo has committed to ongoing consultation with stakeholders to understand tenancy and operational constraints	Chapter 4 – Project Description

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Land use and property	Access to maintenance tracks Availability of laydown areas	• Consider shared use of Bulga Coal access road and allocated staging areas outside core mining footprint. The use of the access road is to be subject to ongoing engagement with Bulga Coal	Chapter 4 - Project description Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport
	Concerns due to proximity of access roads to farming or operational areas	• Where possible avoid impacts to operations. Ongoing discussions taking place	Chapter 12 - Land use and property
	Proximity and impacts of HTP on mining operations	• Operational matters will be considered in the development of site management plans, property management plans and to be agreed access protocols	Chapter 12 - Land use and property
	Proximity of mining to Broke Road. Mining immediately beside the corridor at eastern Broke Road following tailings relocation, raising access and safety concerns	• Ongoing coordination with Bulga Coal and project to refine access permits, establish safe operating buffers, and update Environmental Management Strategy and subsequent plans	Chapter 12 - Land use and property
Origin Energy, Eraring Power Station			
Land use and property	Avoid operational areas and access areas	• Detailed assessment of land use and property undertaken	Chapter 12 - Land use and property
Strategic context	Integration with Eraring Battery Energy Storage System Transgrid substation upgrades	• Ongoing coordination will continue through detailed design and delivery to ensure network integration is efficient and avoids operational conflicts • EnergyCo are in the process of developing a Third Party Agreement, details will be finalised through ongoing engagement	Chapter 23 – Cumulative impacts
Yancoal (Mount Thorley–Warkworth)			

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Construction impacts	Objections to the proposed Mount Thorley Warkworth laydown area due to surface-water ponding and drainage risks requiring engineering of drainage and construction standards to protect adjacent stockyard access and long-term land use	• Original laydown site abandoned; Alternative laydown location identified	Chapter 3 – Alternatives and options Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport
	Laydown footprint overlaps numerous potential Archaeological deposits and active Cultural Heritage Management Plan obligations	• Detailed assessment of Aboriginal and heritage impacts undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible • During construction activities, ongoing engagement will be monitored to ensure they are culturally appropriate. Mitigation measures during construction will be outlined within the Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan to be developed in consultation with RAPs	Chapter 9 – Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 2 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
Design and route selection	Raised potential conflicts between HTP corridor and Yancoal tenants and sought clarity on corridor interactions Impact on future land use and property value	• EnergyCo are in the process of developing a Third Party Agreement, details will be finalised through ongoing engagement	Chapter 3 – Alternatives and options Chapter 12 - Land use and property Technical Report – Agriculture impact assessment
Environmental impacts	Yancoal raised concerns about using an area near its Austar operations as a temporary construction support site because of biodiversity and heritage constraints	• Following input from Yancoal's biodiversity team, the Austar option was removed from consideration and alternative temporary support sites were identified that avoid these sensitive areas	Chapter 3 – Alternatives and options Chapter 8 – Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report

3.7 Environmental groups

Environmental groups, including local conservation organisations, State-wide advocacy bodies, and issue-specific interest groups, provided valuable input throughout the planning of the HTP. These stakeholders

played a critical role in identifying ecologically sensitive areas, advocating for the protection of biodiversity corridors and threatened species, and highlighting the importance of minimising impacts on conservation land, national parks, and natural landscapes.

Stakeholders included:

- experts in aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems
- water quality and fish habitat conservation experts
- Birdlife Australia
- Community Environment Network
- Hunter Community Environment Centre
- EcoNetwork Port Stephens
- Central West Environment Council
- Hunter Environment Lobby
- Hunter Bird Observers Club
- Hunter Wildlife Rescue
- Landcare – Hunter Valley Wine Country, Wollombi, Congewai Valley
- Nature Conservation Council of NSW
- Sydney Basin Koala Network.

Their feedback helped shape corridor decisions, informed the biodiversity and visual impact assessments, and contributed to refinements in offset strategies and fire risk management. Engagement with these groups occurred through written submissions, briefings, site visits, webinars and participation in consultation events across the Hunter and Central Coast regions.

Table 12 Summary of feedback from environmental groups

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in EIS
Biodiversity and bushfire impacts	Cumulative impacts on biodiversity corridors and threatened species habitats	• Undertook biodiversity surveys, refined corridor in sensitive areas • Mitigation measures are documented in the EIS to avoid and minimise impacts on habitat corridors • Implementation of a habitat connectivity strategy; offsetting residual impacts through a Strategic Offset Delivery Agreement (SODA) guided by a regional conservation investment strategy to improve ecological connectivity	Chapter 8 – Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in EIS
	Impacts on protected forests and ecological communities	• Avoided high-value conservation areas where possible • Adjusted corridor to reduce clearing and maintain habitat and minimise impacts on threatened ecological communities and species	Chapter 8 – Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report
	Stakeholders raised concerns about the corridor through State forests, biodiversity impacts of overhead versus underground options, and sought opportunities to contribute to surveys, pre-clearing activities, and information sharing	• Stakeholders sought minimisation of biodiversity impacts in sensitive areas, involvement in future biodiversity surveys, and ongoing representation through the environmental seat on the HCCRRG	Chapter 2 – Strategic context- Chapter 8 - Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report
	Bushfire risk and vegetation loss	• Integrated bushfire-resilient design and mitigation measures; firebreaks and emergency access routes included in design	Chapter 4 – Project Description Chapter 21 – Hazards and risk Technical Report 14 – Bushfire risk assessment
Visual and landscape impacts	Visual intrusion in scenic and natural landscapes	• Detailed assessment of visual impact and alternative locations • Alternatives and options incorporated into engagement materials and discussed with community members • Implementation of mitigation/management measures during construction of the project to minimise impacts on landscape and visual amenity (including minimising vegetation clearing between tourism and cultural viewpoints)	Chapter 10 – Landscape and visual amenity Technical report 3 - Landscape character and visual impact
Project justification and alternatives	Feasibility of undergrounding in environmentally sensitive areas	• Detailed assessments were undertaken for alternative options, including undergrounding the transmission line • Undergrounding options were explored and provided comparison or impact and feasibility • Alternatives and options were incorporated into engagement materials and discussed with community members	Chapter 3 – Alternatives and options

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in EIS
Strategic context	Consistency with environmental policy and NSW biodiversity strategies	• The EIS demonstrates how the project aligns with relevant NSW and Commonwealth environment and biodiversity requirements, including principles for impact avoidance, minimisation and offsetting	Chapter 2 – Strategic Context Chapter 8 - Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report
Construction impacts	Concerns about impacts to access tracks and conservation areas used by the public.	• Identified access points and recreational zones during construction planning • Temporary closures to be managed with signage and stakeholder notification	Chapter 6 – Engagement Chapter 8 – Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report
	Desire for continued input into offset planning and post-approvals management, including helping with pre-clearing activities and fauna relocation opportunities.	• An offset advisory process will be established through EIS commitments, with ongoing opportunities for community group involvement in pre-clearing surveys and fauna management • EnergyCo are committed to providing regular updatesand input through the HCCRRG and post-approval engagement.	Chapter 6 – Engagement Chapter 8 - Biodiversity

3.8 Government agencies and departments

Since late-2022, EnergyCo has engaged extensively with Commonwealth and NSW government agencies, including the Department of Defence and Forestry Corporation NSW, to address operational, land use, safety and environmental matters. Engagement included targeted workshops, technical briefings and joint site tours, which informed corridor refinement, operational risk management, access and traffic protocols, and heritage and biodiversity planning.

Stakeholders include:

- DPHI
- Heritage NSW
- EPA
- RFS
- DPI
- TfNSW
- NPWS
- DCCEEW NSW
- DCCEEW
- CASA.

The table below summarises the issues raised and how they will be addressed through post-approval planning.

Table 13 Summary of government department and agency feedback

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Commonwealth agencies			
Airservices Australia			
Construction impacts	Potential impacts to Precision/Non-Precision Navigation Aids, Anemometers, HF/VHF/UHF Communications, A-SMGCS, Radar, PRM, ADS-B, WAM or Satellite/Links	• Airservices Australia indicated no objections to the project proceeding • Vertical obstacle notification will occur upon finalised design and prior to construction	Chapter 21 - Hazards and risk Technical Report 16 – Aviation impact assessment

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
	Consultation on aviation safety and potential impacts; use of cranes, helicopters, drones during construction	• Detailed assessment of aviation impacts has been undertaken. The project would not impact any certified or non-certified aerodromes during construction or operation • Further consultation will be undertaken prior to construction to notify Airservices Australia, Department of Defence, Hunter Valley Gliding Club, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Corporation of NSW and NSW Rural Fire Service of planned use of cranes, helicopters and drones	Chapter 21 – Hazards and risk Technical Report 16 – Aviation Impact Assessment Chapter 6 - Engagement
Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC)			
Construction impacts	Track crossing design standards Service interruption protocols	• Rail-crossing agreements will be developed in consultation with ARTC. Detailed rail possession planning will also be undertaken prior to construction	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)			
Environmental Impacts	Impacts to matters of national environmental signification (MNES)	• The Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) assesses impacts to Commonwealth listed threatened species and communities and impacts to biodiversity on Commonwealth land in the Singleton Military Area (SMA)	Chapter 8 – Biodiversity Chapter 9 – Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report Technical Report 2 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
	Impacts to Commonwealth land (SMA) particularly noting controlling provisions of heritage, landscape and visual and biodiversity	• Impacts to biodiversity on Commonwealth land (SMA) has been assessed in various technical reports included in the EIS	Chapter 8 - Biodiversity Chapter 10 – Landscape and visual Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report Technical Report 2 – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment Technical Report 3 – Landscape character and visual impact assessment

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Department of Defence - Singleton Military Area (SMA)			
Construction impacts	Impacts on Defence road network and traffic movements	• Options assessment undertaken in accordance with the Department of Defence requirements • Options included detailed assessment of onsite considerations (impact on current use and impact on infrastructure and services) • Defence Site Selection Board process completed • Preferred alignment through SMA determined by Department of Defence	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment Chapter 3 - Alternatives and options
Cultural heritage	Impacts on cultural heritage within SMA	• Options assessment undertaken in accordance with the Department of Defence requirements • Options included detailed assessment of onsite considerations (impact on current use and impact on infrastructure and services) • Defence Site Selection Board process completed • Preferred alignment through SMA determined by Department of Defence	Chapter 9 - Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 2 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
Design and route selection	Corridor through the SMA Land use impacts and concern about impacts to operational activities on SMA	• Options assessment undertaken in accordance with the Department of Defence requirements • Options included detailed assessment of onsite considerations (impact on current use and impact on infrastructure and services) • Defence Site Selection Board process completed • Preferred alignment through SMA determined by Department of Defence	Chapter 3 - Alternatives and options Chapter 12 - Land use and property Chapter 21 - Hazards and risks

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Environmental impacts	Environmental and heritage risks within SMA	• Options assessment undertaken in accordance with the Department of Defence requirements • Options included detailed assessment of onsite considerations (impact on current use and impact on infrastructure and services) • Defence Site Selection Board process completed • Preferred alignment through SMA determined by Department of Defence	Chapter 8 – Biodiversity Chapter 12 - Land use and property Chapter 15 - Historic heritage Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report
Land use and property	Impacts on aviation operations, telecommunications systems, traffic, security and safety at SMA	• Options assessment undertaken in accordance with the Department of Defence requirements • Options included detailed assessment of onsite considerations (impact on current use and impact on infrastructure and services) • Defence Site Selection Board process completed • Preferred alignment through SMA determined by Department of Defence	Chapter 3 - Alternatives and options Chapter 12 - Land use and property Chapter 21 - Hazards and risk
	Impacts on roads	• Options assessment undertaken in accordance with the Department of Defence requirements • Options included detailed assessment of onsite considerations (impact on current use and impact on infrastructure and services) • Defence Site Selection Board process completed • Preferred alignment through SMA determined by Department of Defence	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
	Risks to technical, environment, engineering, traffic, security and safety	• Options assessment undertaken in accordance with the Department of Defence requirements • Options included detailed assessment of onsite considerations (impact on current use and impact on infrastructure and services) • Defence Site Selection Board process completed • Preferred alignment through SMA determined by Department of Defence	Chapter 3 - Alternatives and options Chapter 12 - Land use and property Chapter 21 - Hazards and risk

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
	Concern over impacts to training grounds	• Options assessment undertaken in accordance with the Department of Defence requirements • Options included detailed assessment of onsite considerations (impact on current use and impact on infrastructure and services) • Defence Site Selection Board process completed • Preferred alignment through SMA determined by Department of Defence	Chapter 12 - Land use and property
Project justification and alternative	Strategic planning, zone/master planning risks	• Options assessment undertaken in accordance with the Department of Defence requirements • Options included detailed assessment of onsite considerations (impact on current use and impact on infrastructure and services) • Defence Site Selection Board process completed • Preferred alignment through SMA determined by Department of Defence	Chapter 3 – Alternatives and options Chapter 12 - Land use and property
NSW Government agencies			
Crown Lands			
Land use and property	Licence requirements on Crown reserves Public-land access controls	• Executed easement licences under the *Crown Land Management Act* • Detailed assessment of land use and property has been undertaken to avoid and minimise impact where possible • Mitigation measures during construction will be outlined in localised traffic management plans (including public access restrictions and communication strategies)	Chapter 12 - Land use and property
Conservation, Programs, Heritage and Regulation (CPHR)			

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Environmental impacts	Vegetation mapping, candidate species and species survey methodology Approach to partial loss and potential for verification process to be included in approval Recommendation to use new Remote Assessment Guidelines to reduce assumed presence for impacted species Biodiversity offsets	• Extensive and regular engagement with CPHR 2024/2025 • Draft Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) shared and collaborative revisions and updates progressed on the BDAR • In principle agreement reached regarding application of partial loss within BDAR and BAM-C and potential verification process • Commitment to reducing assumed presence through additional survey and/or Remote Assessment Guidelines • Biodiversity offsets to be secured through a Strategic Offset Delivery Agreement	Chapter 8 – Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)			
Environmental impacts	EIS exhibition requirements EIS submissions formatting EIS mapping standards	• Produce materials per DPHI's "*State significant development guidelines – preparing an environmental impact statement*" • Host accessible drop-in events	Chapter 1 - Introduction Chapter 6 - Engagement
	Early agreement on biodiversity survey methodology and BDAR with Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation (CPHR)	• Extensive and regular engagement with CPHR since alternatives and options assessment and Scoping Report – 2024/2025 • Sought advice on survey methodology and shared early findings and draft BDAR with CPHR	Chapter 8 - Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report
	Impact avoidance and minimisation	• Biodiversity and Aboriginal heritage impact avoidance and minimisation has been prioritised through route refinement, project design and tower placement. Sensitive areas have been avoided where possible to reduce impacts	Chapter 8 – Biodiversity Chapter 9 – Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report Technical Report 2 – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment
	Strategic offset delivery	• EnergyCo intends to enter into a SODA for the HTP with the Secretary of the NSW DCCEEW. Under this agreement, responsibility for delivering biodiversity offsets will be transferred to DCCEEW with commensurate funding	Chapter 8 - Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Construction impacts	Specific attention to be given to traffic and transport and social impact assessment	• Early engagement regarding traffic impacts, analysis and design with councils and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) • Mitigation measures will be included within traffic management plans post-approval (including dilapidation surveys, road/intersection upgrades, designated vehicle routes and time-of-day restrictions)	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
Social impacts	Specific attention to be given to traffic and transport and social impact assessment	• Extended engagement undertaken for social impact assessment and some immediate responses actioned including arranging local mental health support for landowners	Chapter 14 - Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
Department of Primary Industries – Agriculture			
Environmental impacts	Assessment of impacts on key fish habitat	• Detailed assessment of biodiversity undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts including a standalone aquatic biodiversity impact assessment • Implementation of mitigation measures during construction will be outlined in the biodiversity management plan • A letter summarising key EIS early findings on agriculture, biodiversity, contamination, soils and surface water and groundwater was sent to DPI in May 2025 with an opportunity to receive a project briefing	Chapter 8 – Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment
Land use and property	Potential impacts on agricultural land use, farming operations, biosecurity and long-term productivity	• DPI Agriculture provided advice about the assessment of the project's impacts on agricultural land • Detailed assessment of agriculture impacts have been undertaken to minimise and avoid impacts where possible including mitigation measures to manage impacts	Chapter 12 – Land use and property Chapter 13 – Agriculture. Technical Report 5 – Agriculture impact assessment
Environment and Heritage NSW			

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Cultural heritage	Archaeological methodology Management of known and potential heritage sites	• Prepared Archaeological Method Statement for test excavations including defined monitoring and salvage requirements • Detailed assessment of cultural heritage impacts have been undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible including mitigation measures to manage direct and indirect impacts	Chapter 9 – Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 2 – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment Chapter 15 - Historic heritage Technical Report 7 – Historical heritage impact assessment
Environment Protection Authority (EPA)			
Construction impacts	Air quality and emissions Dust modelling criteria Emission control measures	• The air quality impact assessment completed as part of the EIS addresses these issues • An Air Quality Management Plan will be prepared post-approval to address dust-suppression measures	Chapter 22 – Other matters Technical Report 18 – Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Report
Fire and Rescue NSW			
Construction impacts	Fire safety planning Construction-phase fire safety standards	• Detailed assessment of bushfire impacts have been undertaken. Mitigation measures will be outlined within a bushfire emergency management plan, post approval	Chapter 21 - Hazards and risk Technical Report 14 – Bushfire risk assessment
Forestry Corporation NSW (FCNSW)			
Community engagement process	FCNSW requested the opportunity to review and approve all proposed external engagement materials that reference FCNSW, its land, or its operations, prior to public release	• FCNSW actively reviews and comments on relevant draft materials prior to external release, in line with the agreed engagement protocol documented in the FCNSW Memorandum of Understanding	Chapter 6 - Engagement

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Construction impacts	Heavy-vehicle use of Martinsville Hill Rd and interaction with FCNSW harvesting schedules	• Detailed traffic and transport assessment undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts • Mitigation strategies during construction will be outlined within localised traffic management plans (including dilapidation surveys, road/intersection upgrades, designated heavy vehicle routes, and time-of-day restrictions for heavy vehicles in certain locations) • The project design was further refined to reduce clearing and biodiversity impacts compared to the other options considered in the area; and reduces potential impacts to FCNSW operations as compared to the initial concept design	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Chapter 24 - Environmental management Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
	Timber harvest scheduling Recreation access planning	• Detailed traffic and transport assessment undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts • Mitigation strategies during construction will be outlined within localised traffic management plans (including dilapidation surveys, road/intersection upgrades, designated heavy vehicle routes, and time-of-day restrictions for heavy vehicles in certain locations)	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Chapter 12 - Land use and property Chapter 14 - Social Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
	Alternate ways to access tower locations in Olney State Forest	• While EnergyCo has tried to accommodate the proposed access points, where possible, not all routes are feasible due to the key environmental, construction and planning constraints	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
	Martinsville Hill Road haulage and access impacts	• Haulage routes assessed; post construction assessment surveys proposed; maintenance schedule agreed • Final protocols to be confirmed during detailed design	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
	Access to forestry operations during construction	• Construction access routes discussed with FCNSW • Operational access needs to be confirmed prior to construction • Traffic management to include forestry users	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Cultural heritage	Potential impacts on Wishing Well archaeological site	• Archaeological method statement prepared • Salvage excavation will be completed prior to access-track upgrades • Heritage recording lodged	Chapter 15 - Historic heritage Technical Report 7 – Historic heritage
Environmental impacts	Avoiding sensitive valley floor routes towards Dooralong and minimising disturbance in conservation areas	• Confirmed corridor stays on ridgetop tracks; adjusted corridor to reduce environmental disturbance	Chapter 3 – Alternatives and options
	Bushfire risk near switching station and transmission line in Olney State Forest	• Corridor and buffer adjustment to maintain fire-fighting access; bushfire-resilient design measures adopted in construction specifications	Chapter 21 - Hazards and risks Technical Report 14 – Bushfire risk assessment
Land use and property	Timber-harvest interruptions Impacts on recreational users	• Regular operational-planning meetings to agree to contractor access windows • Traffic-management plans will include designated forestry-vehicle routes • Ongoing consultation and notifications to user groups prior to and during construction	Chapter 14 - Social Chapter 12 - Land use and property Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
Hunter Water			
Design and route selection	Stakeholders flagged potential impacts on network reliability and continuity	• Minor works to protect or adjust Hunter Water assets will be identified through final design and communicated to the construction contractor as part of detailed construction and utility management planning	Chapter 4 – Project description
Construction impacts	Raised concerns about water use, including sourcing for construction camps and potential impacts on local water supplies and infrastructure	• Consideration of water supply and licensing. Investigations identified water supply options with sufficient water flows and reliable yield • Surface water supply options will be subject to negotiation and agreement with the owners of the supply • The feasibility of surface water extraction locations to be confirmed as part of the detailed design and construction planning	Chapter 17 – Surface water Technical Report 10 – Surface water
NSW Ambulance			

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Construction impacts	Bushfire risk management, emergency vehicle access and operational interfaces	• Emergency services stakeholders, including NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW Ambulance Service, were engaged on bushfire risk management, emergency vehicle access and operational interfaces • Further consultation will be undertaken with these agencies during post-approval planning to finalise a bushfire emergency management and evacuation plan • Emergency egress routes and emergency helipads have been identified for the purposes of emergency scenario planning	Chapter 4 – Project description Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Chapter 21 - Hazards and risks Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment Technical Report 14 – Bushfire risk assessment
NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)			
Environmental impacts	Threatened species	• Detailed assessment of biodiversity impacts (including threatened species) • Avoidance and minimisation of impacts a priority in the design of the project • Implementation of mitigation and management measures during construction and operation to minimise impacts on biodiversity including implementation of biodiversity management plan • Biodiversity offsets would be required to offset impacts of the project on threatened species	Chapter 8 - Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report
	Aquatic ecology	• Detailed assessment of biodiversity impacts (including aquatic ecology) • Avoidance and minimisation of impacts a priority in the design of the project • Appropriate ground disturbance and water management measures will be implemented during construction and operation to minimise impacts on aquatic ecology and included in a soil and water management plan and/or biodiversity management plan	Chapter 8 - Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report
National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)			

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Environmental impacts	Habitat connectivity Koala corridor linkages Biodiversity offsets	• Mitigation measures to avoid and minimise impacts on habitat corridors, including a connectivity strategy and installation of under-transmission line glider poles, retained tall tree stumps and/or rope bridges) • EnergyCo intends to enter into a SODA for the HTP with the Secretary of the NSW DCCEEW. Under this agreement, responsibility for delivering biodiversity offsets will be transferred to DCCEEW with commensurate funding	Chapter 8 - Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report
	Minimising impacts to Corrabare North Flora Reserve and Jilliby State Conservation Area Minimising impacts to biodiversity and Aboriginal heritage	• Design changes in the south to avoid placing the new transmission line in Jilliby State Conservation Area • Sharing early findings for Aboriginal heritage and biodiversity within Corrabare North Flora Reserve and Jilliby State Conservation Area	Chapter 3 - Alternatives and options Chapter 8 - Biodiversity Chapter 9 - Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report Technical Report 2 – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment
	Concerns about removing a historical site (Wishing Well)	• Mitigation measures will be outlined within the historic heritage management plan post approval; mitigation measures may include interpretive signage or a memorial marker at or near the site • Digital heritage records (e.g. virtual models, photographs, historical documentation) • Incorporation of cultural knowledge into broader heritage education efforts	Chapter 15 - Historic heritage Technical Report 8 – Historic heritage
NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS)			
Construction impacts	Emergency-vehicle access corridors	• Emergency egress routes and emergency helipads have been identified for the purposes of emergency scenario planning • Traffic and transport management plan and bushfire emergency management and evacuation plan to be implemented during construction	Chapter 21 - Hazards and risks Technical Report 14 – Bushfire risk assessment Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Environmental impacts	Fire-management zone requirements	• Asset protection zones within the transmission line easement and around switching stations sites, construction support sites and temporary worker accommodation incorporated into the design of the project • Bushfire emergency management and evacuation plan to be implemented during construction	Chapter 21 - Hazards and risk Technical Report 14 – Bushfire risk assessment
SafeWork NSW			
Construction impacts	Construction site safety standards Worker induction and supervision requirements	• SafeWork Codes of Practice will be adopted in the Environment Management System • Mandatory safety inductions to be implemented for all workers	Chapter 21 – Hazards and risk Technical report 8 – Noise and vibration Technical report 15 – Preliminary risk screening Technical report 17 – Electric and magnetic fields
Transport for NSW (TfNSW)			
Construction impacts	Heavy-vehicle routing	• Proposed heavy haulage routes assessed in consultation with TfNSW; regional and state road network capacity reviewed through updated traffic modelling • OSOM (oversize overmass) vehicle movements to be managed through approved haulage routes and time-of-day controls	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
	Intersection upgrades	• Intersections requiring upgrades identified (e.g. Freemans Drive/Wyee Road/Mandalong Road); concept designs prepared; further detailed design to be developed in consultation with TfNSW during the detailed design and construction phase	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
	Coordination with other planned upgrades	• Coordination meetings held to align HTP construction with other planned TfNSW upgrades (e.g. Mandalong Road) to minimise overlap and avoid cumulative congestion impacts	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
	Rail possessions and stringing over state rail corridors	• Safe stringing methodologies to be developed for crossings over rail lines • Construction timing and rail possessions to be planned in close coordination with Sydney Trains/ARTC and TfNSW • Protective barriers and safe working protocols to be included in contractor plans	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
	Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) approval and oversight	• TfNSW will continue to be engaged during detailed design to review and approve CTMPs; plans will include haulage route protocols, intersection upgrades, road safety measures, and condition surveys for state road assets	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
	OSOM permits, notifications and road closures	• All OSOM movements and any required state road closures will be notified to TfNSW in advance • Approvals to be obtained through existing heavy vehicle permit processes • Public notifications will be implemented for any significant State road impacts	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
(Sydney Trains within TfNSW) **Construction impacts**	Understand impact of stringing over rail lines and operations	• Construction methodologies for rail works, including possessions, protective barriers, and safe working procedures to be developed as part of the EMS	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment

3.9 Local government

EnergyCo held targeted consultations with 5 local councils— Central Coast, Cessnock, Singleton, Lake Macquarie and Muswellbrook—to address their unique concerns and priorities.

Key topics included cumulative impacts from overlapping infrastructure projects, temporary workforce accommodation needs, impacts and upgrade requirements for council-owned roads, waste infrastructure capacity, construction water demand and legacy benefit opportunities for each local government area.

The outcomes of these discussions, including agreed mitigation measures and commitments, are summarised in Table 14.

Table 14 Summary of council feedback

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Central Coast Council			
Construction impacts	Use of local roads through construction and access	• Detailed assessment of traffic and transport impacts • Mitigation and management measures will be implemented during construction of the project to minimise impacts on traffic/transportation (including dilapidation surveys, road/intersection upgrades, designated heavy vehicle routes, and time-of-day restrictions for heavy vehicles in certain locations) • Ongoing consultation with council during detailed design • Construction traffic management plan will be prepared and submitted to the council for review	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
	Need to review and approve sediment and erosion management plan	• Soil and water management plans will be prepared by and submitted to the council for review	Chapter 17 – Surface water
	Traffic volumes on local roads; request for dilapidation surveys	• Pre- and post-construction assessment surveys will be undertaken and results shared with the council	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
Environmental impacts	Queries on vegetation removal data and biodiversity impacts	• Detailed assessment of biodiversity impacts • Avoidance and minimisation of impacts a priority in the design of the project • Mitigation and management measures will be implemented during construction and operation to minimise impacts on biodiversity including implementation of biodiversity management plan • Biodiversity offsets would be required to offset impacts of the project • Vegetation clearing prior to and during construction will be recorded	Chapter 8 – Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
	Strategic offset delivery	• EnergyCo intends to enter into a SODA with the Secretary of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW) for the HTP. Under this agreement, responsibility for delivering biodiversity offsets will be transferred to DCCEEW with commensurate funding	Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report
Social and economic	Support for benefit-sharing strategy	• EnergyCo is expecting to commence consultation with relevant communities in 2026 to inform the design and delivery of the Community and Employment Benefit Program in the Hunter Central Coast region. The project's construction phase represents a significant opportunity to deliver meaningful, long-term improvements to community infrastructure and services. Characteristics of the program, its delivery and key initiatives will be refined through stakeholder, community, and regulator engagement during project development and detailed design. The program will have a governance framework that underpins the allocation and management of funds and will ensure benefits are shared with the local communities hosting the renewable energy infrastructure, including the HTP, that will enable the renewable energy transition	Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
Cessnock City Council			

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Aboriginal heritage	Concern that cultural heritage sites may become more accessible	• Detailed assessment of Aboriginal heritage impacts • Avoidance and minimisation of impacts a priority in the design of the project • Mitigation and management measures will be implemented during construction and operation to minimise impacts on Aboriginal heritage including a site condition assessment (that will include consideration of increased access to Aboriginal sites and places as a result of the establishment and maintenance of the transmission easement) and the implementation of an Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan	Chapter 9 – Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 2 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
Construction impacts	Queries on design and use of Wollombi Road support site	• Final site layout to be confirmed during detailed design. Council will continue to be engaged as the design develops	Chapter 4 – Project description
	Use of local roads through construction and access	• Detailed assessment of traffic and transport impacts • Mitigation and management measures will be implemented during construction of the project to minimise impacts on traffic/transportation (including dilapidation surveys, road/intersection upgrades, designated heavy vehicle routes, and time-of-day restrictions for heavy vehicles in certain locations) • Ongoing consultation with council during detailed design • Construction traffic management plan will be prepared and submitted to the council for review	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
	Interaction with Wollombi Road upgrade	• Detailed assessment of cumulative impacts. Proposed Wollombi Road Upgrades do not overlap with construction timeframe of the HTP	Chapter 23 – Cumulative impacts

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
	Concerns about Pokolbin Mountains Road and Mount Baker Road maintenance	• The project would rely on the use of existing public roads during construction and operation of the project. Upgrades are proposed to Mount Baker Road and Pokolbin Mountain Road • Road pre construction assessment surveys and routine inspections will be completed prior to construction and during construction along all nominated construction routes on local roads and existing access tracks to ensure that routes are maintained to safe standard during construction • Where rectification works are required due to project impacts, consultation with the appropriate road authority will be undertaken to confirm the scope of the work required	Chapter 4 – Project description Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
Environmental impacts	Impacts on tourism areas (vineyards, scenic routes)	• Visual Impact Assessment undertaken; mitigation measures detailed	Chapter 10 – Landscape and visual Technical Report 3 - Landscape character and visual impact
	Request regular updates on offset strategy	• Ongoing briefings with both Council and RRG	Chapter 8 – Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report
Social and economic	Support for benefit-sharing package	• EnergyCo is expecting to commence consultation with relevant communities in 2026 to inform the design and delivery of the Community and Employment Benefit Program in the Hunter Central Coast region	Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
Lake Macquarie City Council			
Construction impacts	Freemans Drive construction support site plan	• Proposed location of Freemans Drive construction support site including workers accommodation outlined in EIS • Final site layout/ plan will be done by the design-and-construction contractor	Chapter 4 – Project description

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
	Use of local roads through construction and access	• Completed traffic and transport impact assessment. Ongoing consultation with council during detailed design. Will be detailed in the Traffic and Transport Management Plan	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
	Intersection upgrades at Freemans Drive/Wyee Road/Mandalong Road; impacts from nearby construction support site	• Transport for NSW-led upgrades identified. Detailed design for local road upgrades will be provided to the relevant council for review	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment Chapter 23 - Cumulative impacts
	Mandalong Road upgrade overlapping construction zones	• Coordination will be undertaken with Transport for NSW to minimise construction conflicts during detailed design and delivery phase	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Chapter 23 – Cumulative impacts Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
Environmental impacts	Interest in biodiversity offsets for the project	• EnergyCo has provided regular updates on the project's biodiversity offset approach through council briefings and through the RRG • EnergyCo intends to enter into a SODA for the HTP with the Secretary of the NSW DCCEEW. Under this agreement, responsibility for delivering biodiversity offsets will be transferred to DCCEEW with commensurate funding	Chapter 8 - Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report
Social and economic	Support for benefit-sharing package	• EnergyCo is expecting to commence consultation with relevant communities in 2026 to inform the design and delivery of the Community and Employment Benefit Program in the Hunter Central Coast region	Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
Muswellbrook Shire Council			

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Construction impacts	Cumulative impacts of multiple simultaneous projects in Muswellbrook LGA	• Mitigation measures coordinated across overlapping works through regular briefings and regional coordination meetings between EnergyCo and Council, covering the full portfolio of projects within the LGA	Chapter 23 – Cumulative impacts
	Peak-hour impacts on Hebden Road adjacent to support camp	• Traffic modelling confirmed mitigation needs; measures will be incorporated into a Traffic and Transport Management Plan	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
	Preference for treated wastewater at Hebden Road camp to reduce impacts on potable water	• Water use and management, including opportunities to use treated wastewater for non-potable purposes, will be addressed through the contractor's detailed design and site water management plans	Chapter 4 – Project description
	Use of local roads through construction and access	• Completed traffic and transport impact assessment. Ongoing consultation with council during detailed design. Will be detailed in the Traffic and Transport Management Plan	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
Environmental impacts	Need for Golden Highway visual impact assessment and screening plans	• Visual Impact Assessment completed	Chapter 10 – Landscape and visual Technical Report 3 - Landscape character and visual impact
Social and economic	Request Council representation on expanded RRG	• Mayor became a member of the RRG in May 2025	Chapter 6 – Engagement Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
	Support for legacy benefits and benefit-sharing strategy	• EnergyCo is expecting to commence consultation with relevant communities in 2026 to inform the design and delivery of the Community and Employment Benefit Program in the Hunter Central Coast region. The project's construction phase represents a significant opportunity to deliver meaningful, long-term improvements to community infrastructure and services. Characteristics of the program, its delivery and key initiatives will be refined through stakeholder, community, and regulator engagement during project development and detailed design. The program will have a governance framework that underpins the allocation and management of funds and will ensure benefits are shared with the local communities hosting the renewable energy infrastructure, including the HTP, that will enable the renewable energy transition	Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
	Temporary accommodation demand and local economic opportunities.	• Proposed temporary construction support site including workers accommodation on Hebden Road included in EIS • EnergyCo is expecting to commence consultation with relevant communities in 2026 to inform the design and delivery of the Community and Employment Benefit Program in the Hunter Central Coast region	Chapter 4 – Project description Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
Muswellbrook Shire Council			
Construction impacts	Multiple overlapping projects in Singleton LGA	• Ongoing coordination with other EnergyCo projects and council to plan and manage construction impacts and reduce disruption where possible on local roads	Chapter 23 – Cumulative impacts
	Impacts on Pikes Gully Road, Lemington Road and Gouldsville Road, and requests for upgrades/intersection improvements	• Developed road-upgrade concept designs as part of the EIS. Detailed plans will be submitted for Council review during detailed design	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
	Use of local roads through construction and access	• Completed traffic and transport impact assessment. Ongoing consultation with council through detailed design. Will be detailed in the Traffic and Transport Management Plan	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
	Need for temporary construction camps and local economic benefit	• Proposed temporary construction support site including workers accommodation on Gouldsville Road included in EIS • Hunter-first procurement and employment commitments	Chapter 4 – Project description Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
	Council's own water infrastructure demands and need for timely information	• Committed to share designs related to council assets post-contractor appointment	Chapter 4 – Project description
Social and economic	Desire for a meaningful benefit-sharing strategy	• EnergyCo is expecting to commence consultation with relevant communities in 2026 to inform the design and delivery of the Community and Employment Benefit Program in the Hunter Central Coast region	Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment

3.10 Network service providers and utility stakeholders

EnergyCo engaged with major network service providers and utilities to co-ordinate integration of the HTP with existing infrastructure. Workshops, technical briefings and site inspections addressed co-location, easement design, operational resilience and safety interface requirements. The outcomes of these consultations are summarised in Table 15.

Table 15 Summary of network service providers and utility stakeholder feedback

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
Transgrid			
Design and route selection	Co-location of high-voltage assets Easement widths	• Held joint corridor workshops • Agreed shared-use protocols and finalised easement dimensions	Chapter 12 – Land use and property Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment

Theme	Issues and Feedback	How topic has been addressed	Where addressed in this EIS
	Cut ins to 500kV network and 330kV network modifications	• Working closely with Transgrid to agree to designs	Chapter 4 - Project description
Ausgrid			
Design and route selection	Modification of 11kV distribution network Undercrossing of 66 kV and 132 kV sub-transmission network	• Initial coordination with Ausgrid has informed the reference design, with further detailed co-ordination to continue through delivery to plan modifications and manage any necessary outages	Chapter 4 – Project description Chapter 12 – Land use and property
Jemena			
Design and route selection	Modification and protection of Jemena assets	• Initial coordination with Jemena has informed the reference design, with further detailed co-ordination to continue through delivery to plan modifications and manage any necessary outages	Chapter 21 – Hazards and risks Chapter 12 – Land use and property
NBN/Telstra			
Design and route selection	Modification and protection of assets	• Initial coordination with NBN/Telstra has informed the reference design, with further detailed co-ordination to continue through delivery to plan modifications and manage any necessary outages	Chapter 21 – Hazards and risks Chapter 12 – Land use and property

3.11 Peak bodies, industry and business groups

Peak bodies, industry representatives, and regional business groups provided strategic feedback on the HTP, with a focus on economic development, land use, construction impacts particularly traffic disruption, visual impacts and opportunities for local participation in project delivery.

These stakeholders included chambers of commerce, tourism operators, regional business associations, and energy industry representatives. Their input helped shape aspects of the project related to route selection and corridor refinement near tourism and commercial precincts, regional workforce development, and the visibility and timing of construction activities.

Engagement occurred through targeted briefings, regional forums, written submissions, and ongoing liaison with sector representatives. Feedback from these groups informed the project's socio-economic impact assessment, visual mitigation measures, and benefit-sharing framework.

Table 16 Summary of feedback from peak bodies, business and industry

DPHI Theme	Issues and Feedback	How addressed	Where addressed in EIS
Community engagement process	Requests for early and transparent communication to business owners	• Delivered direct mail, webinars, and local briefings to affected businesses; included business engagement in community updates	Chapter 6 – Engagement
Construction impacts	Potential impact on tourism and businesses due to traffic disruption	• A Traffic and Transport Management Plan will be prepared post approval and will include measures to reduce impact on local tourism and other businesses • Continue consultation with impacted stakeholders and provide notifications in advance of works	Chapter 11 - Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
Project justification	Requests for transparency on route selection and undergrounding	• Presented detailed alternatives assessment, including trade-offs, at regional briefings and stakeholder forums	Chapter 3 – Alternatives and options
Social and Economic	Concerns about overlap with other regional projects affecting infrastructure or business	• Co-ordinated consultation with REZ and other project teams; aligned communications on construction timing	Chapter 23 – Cumulative impacts
	Interest in local procurement and SME opportunities	• Included business briefings in engagement program; highlighted procurement and employment pathways through the Hunter-first policy. Industry briefing and capability sessions were held. A supplier portal (ICN Gateway) was established • Industry briefings were held in August 2024 • Industry Briefing was facilitated in January 2025	Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
Strategic context	Role of HTP in enabling regional investment and energy security	• Developed targeted messaging and included fact sheets outlining HTP's role in the NSW energy transition and benefits to regional economic growth	Chapter 3 –Alternatives and options

4

Wrap up

4 Wrap up

Summary

The Hunter Transmission Project (HTP, the project) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Engagement Outcomes Report demonstrates that the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) has delivered a robust, transparent and adaptive EIS engagement program aligned with NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) guidelines, Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) and the project's Communication and Engagement Plan (CEP).

Through tiered outreach across a mix of channels, including face-to-face meetings, community events, specialist workshops, online tools and targeted stakeholder briefings, EnergyCo secured meaningful input from a broad cross section of stakeholders.

Feedback gathered through this process has led to measurable project outcomes:

- reduction in the number of impacted private properties
- relocation of the switching station
- biodiversity corridor refinements
- improved visual and landscape design
- road design and traffic management changes
- strengthened Aboriginal heritage protections
- enhanced cumulative impact planning.

Where stakeholder concerns extended beyond the original SEARs scope, such as cumulative regional impacts or co-ordination with other infrastructure projects, EnergyCo has proactively addressed these issues through project refinement and broader planning co-ordination.

A consolidated compliance matrix, Table 18 confirms that all core DPHI engagement principles have been met.

As the project is assessed, EnergyCo remains committed to maintaining open, transparent and inclusive engagement with stakeholders. The insights captured in this EIS Engagement Outcomes Report will continue to inform detailed design, construction planning and long-term community outcomes — demonstrating the value of sustained engagement in delivering a more responsive, sustainable and locally supported project.

1.2 4.2 Next steps

1.2.1 Ongoing engagement

The next phase of engagement will occur during the public exhibition of the EIS. This is a formal statutory process led by DPHI, which invites community members, stakeholders, and government agencies to review the EIS and provide written submissions via the NSW Major Projects Planning Portal.

To support community participation, EnergyCo will host a series of community information sessions and drop-in events across the project impact area. These events will offer the opportunity to speak directly with subject matter experts, explore key EIS topics, and learn how to make a submission. Additional information will be shared through the project website, local displays, media and direct communication.

During the exhibition period, EnergyCo will also continue to engage with stakeholders using the methods outlined in Appendix B, ensuring that feedback channels remain open and accessible throughout the process.

Contact details

Stakeholders will be able to continue contacting the HTP Community Team for information, and updates will remain available.

https://www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/projects/hunter-transmission-project

htp@energyco.nsw.gov.au

1800 645 972

1.2.2 Engagement after approval

If the project is approved, engagement will continue throughout the detailed design, construction, operation, decommissioning, and rehabilitation phases.

EnergyCo will appoint a Network Operator (NO) who will be responsible for delivering the project. The NO will be required to:

- meet conditions of the planning approval
- maintain regular communication with stakeholders throughout construction
- manage impacts through site-specific engagement and mitigation strategies
- respond promptly and transparently to concerns.

1.2.3 DPHI Engagement Guidelines compliance matrix

The table below maps each key requirement from the DPHI Engagement Guidelines to where it is demonstrated in the Outcomes Report, indicates compliance status, and identifies any remedial steps for partial compliance.

Table 17 Complying with DPHI engagement guidelines

DPHI Guideline	Evidence location	Status
Plan early "Plan its approach to engagement early in the project formation or scoping phases" Planning NSW	Section 1.1 (About this document)	✓
Engage as early as possible "Commence engagement at the scoping or site-selection phase" Planning NSW	Section 2 (How people were engaged)	✓
Ensure engagement is effective "Provide information, facilitate participation and report back" Planning NSW	Sections 2.1 (Engagement overview) and 3 (What we heard)	✓
Ensure engagement is proportional "Activities must be proportionate to scale, impact and interest" Planning NSW	Sections 2.2 (strategic approach)	✓
Be open and transparent about what can be influenced "Identify and explain project elements open for change" Planning NSW	Section 1.1 (About this document) and 3 (What we heard)	✓
Implement community participation objectives "Tailor techniques, ensure accessibility, safe and inclusive opportunities" Planning NSW	Section 2.2 (strategic approach) and Appendix C (Communication and engagement materials)	✓

4.1.1 SEARs compliance

The table below summarises how the HTP engagement program meets the SEARs for consultation, demonstrating that all relevant stakeholder groups were consulted during the EIS preparation and that their feedback has been addressed in the design, impact assessment and mitigation measures.

Table 18 Compliance to Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

SEARs requirement	How requirement is addressed	Where addressed in the EIS / Outcomes Report
Local Governments (Muswellbrook, Singleton, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie and Central Coast councils)	• Consultation with local governments undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible (including briefings, meetings) • Implementation of mitigation/management measures during construction of the project to minimise impacts on traffic/transportation (including dilapidation surveys, road/intersection upgrades, designated heavy vehicle routes, and time-of-day restrictions for heavy vehicles in certain locations) • Detailed assessment of social impacts including use of temporary worker accommodation. Implementation of mitigation and management measures during construction to manage potential social impacts (such implementation of Accommodation and Employment Strategy) • Assessment of water use and waste management during construction with mitigation and management measures to avoid/minimise impacts	Section 3.9 Government Agencies and Departments Chapter 4 – Project Description Chapter 6 – Engagement Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Chapter 17 – Surface water Chapter 22 – Other Matters Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment Technical Report 6 – Social Impact Assessment Technical Report 10 – Surface water impact assessment

SEARs requirement	How requirement is addressed	Where addressed in the EIS / Outcomes Report
State Government Agencies **(DPHI, CPHR, National Parks and Wildlife Service, FCNSW, TFNSW, Rural Fire Service)**	• Consultation with state government agencies undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible (including briefings, meetings, surveys) • Detailed assessments of biodiversity impacts are outlined within the BDAR. Implementation of mitigation/management measures during construction of the project to minimise impacts are outlined within the biodiversity management plan • Detailed assessment of Aboriginal and heritage impacts undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible. Findings from Aboriginal heritage survey shared with key stakeholders where appropriate. During construction activities and ongoing engagement will be monitored to ensure they are culturally appropriate. • Assessments completed to avoid/minimise impacts on Forestry operations. • Assessments of Bushfire impacts undertaken to avoid/minimise impacts where possible. Draft bushfire risk assessments shared where appropriate. Mitigation measures during construction will be outlined within the bushfire management plan. • Detailed assessment of traffic and transport impacts. Implementation of mitigation/management measures during construction of the project to minimise impacts on traffic/transportation (including dilapidation surveys, road/intersection upgrades, designated heavy vehicle routes, and time-of-day restrictions for heavy vehicles in certain locations)	Section 3.8 Government Agencies and Departments Chapter 6 – Engagement Chapter 8 - Biodiversity Chapter 9 – Aboriginal Heritage Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Chapter 14 - Social Chapter 15 – Historic heritage Chapter 21 – Hazards and Risk Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report Technical Report 6 – Social Impact Assessment Technical Report 8 – Historic heritage Technical Report 14 – Bushfire and Risk Assessment

SEARs requirement	How requirement is addressed	Where addressed in the EIS / Outcomes Report
Commonwealth Government Agencies **(DCCEEW, Airservices Australia, Department of Defence**	• Consultation with state government agencies undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible (including briefings, meetings, surveys) • Impacts to heritage, visual and landscape on Commonwealth land (Singleton Military Area) has been assessed in various technical reports included in the EIS • Detailed assessment of aviation impacts undertaken. Further consultation will be undertaken prior to construction with stakeholders as required. • Detailed assessments of biodiversity impacts are outlined within the BDAR. Implementation of mitigation/management measures during construction of the project to minimise impacts are outlined within the biodiversity management plan	Section 3.8 Government Agencies and Departments Chapter 3 – Alternatives and options Chapter 6 – Engagement Chapter 8 – Biodiversity Chapter 9 – Aboriginal Heritage Chapter 10 – Landscape and visual Chapter 15 – Historic heritage Chapter 21 – Hazard and Risk Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report Technical Report 2 – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment Technical Report 3 – Landscape and visual assessment Technical Report 6 – Social Impact Assessment Technical Report 8 – Historic heritage Technical Report 16 – Aviation impact assessment

SEARs requirement	How requirement is addressed	Where addressed in the EIS / Outcomes Report
Service Providers **(Utilities, emergency services)**	• Consultation with state government agencies undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible (including briefings, communications packs, presentations at LEMCs) • Identification and assessment of existing utilities undertaken. Mitigations to avoid/minimise impacts will be determined during design and construction phase. • Detailed assessments of social impacts undertaken. Mitigation measures during construction will be addressed with local emergency management committees to address potential disruption and emergency response coordination • Detailed assessment of traffic and transport. Implementation of mitigation/management measures during construction of the project to minimise impacts on traffic/transportation (including dilapidation surveys, road/intersection upgrades). Traffic management plans will be implemented to avoid/minimise emergency service response times • Assessments of Bushfire impacts undertaken to avoid/minimise impacts where possible. Draft bushfire risk assessments shared where appropriate. Mitigation measures during construction will be outlined within the bushfire management plan	Section 3.10 Chapter 2 – Strategic context Chapter 4- Project description Chapter 6 – Engagement Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Chapter 14 – Social Chapter 21 – Hazards and risk Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment Technical Report 6 – social impact assessment Technical Report 14 – Bushfire risk assessment

SEARs requirement	How requirement is addressed	Where addressed in the EIS / Outcomes Report
Community Groups	• Consultation with community groups undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible (including briefings, communication packs, webinars, eNewsletters, information sessions, pop-up events) • Detailed aviation assessment, traffic and transport assessment, social impact assessment and landscape character and visual impact undertaken. Mitigation measures to avoid/minimise impacts will be outlined during the design and construction phase • Detailed assessments of biodiversity impacts are outlined within the BDAR. Ongoing commitment to involve relevant biodiversity groups where appropriate • Ongoing consultation will be outlined within the CEP and updates will be communicated through the HCCRRG	Section 3.4 Section 3.7 Chapter 23 – Alternatives and options Chapter 6 – Engagement Chapter 8 - Biodiversity Chapter 10 – Landscape and visual Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Chapter 14 – Social Chapter 21 – Hazards and risk Technical report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report Technical Report 3 – Landscape character and visual impact assessment Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment Technical Report 6 – social impact assessment Technical Report 14 – Bushfire risk assessment Technical report 16 – Aviation impact assessment

SEARs requirement	How requirement is addressed	Where addressed in the EIS / Outcomes Report
Affected Landowners **(private landowners, AGL – Bayswater Power Station, Mining complexes, Centennial, Origin – Eraring Power Station)**	• Consultation with state government agencies undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible (including place manager availability, meetings, briefings, webinars, letters, information sessions, door knocks) • Detailed assessment of alternatives and options. Alternatives and options incorporated into engagement materials and discussed with private landowners with explanations provided about the cost, decision making process, and technical feasibility of alternatives • Detailed assessment of impacts to agriculture. Mitigation and management measures to avoid/minimise impacts (including development of irrigation concepts and biosecurity management subplans developed in consultation with landowners) • Detailed assessment of traffic and transport. Implementation of mitigation/management measures during construction of the project to minimise impacts on traffic/transportation (including dilapidation surveys, road/intersection upgrades) • Continued engagement with affected landowners through property management plans/property access plans and/or Third Party Agreements	Section – 3.2 Chapter 3 – Alternatives and options Chapter 10 – Landscape and visual Chapter 12 – Land use and property Chapter 13 – Agriculture Chapter 21 – Hazards and risk Technical Report 3 – Landscape character and visual impact assessment Technical report 5 – Agriculture impact assessment Technical report 17 – Electromagnetic field impact assessment
Native Title holders	• Consultation with Native Title Holders undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible (including briefings, face-to-face meetings, cultural mapping workshops, communication packs, webinars, participation in field surveys, test excavations, archaeological method statement) • Detailed assessment of Aboriginal and heritage impacts undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts where possible. During construction activities and ongoing engagement will be monitored to ensure they are culturally appropriate • Mitigation measures an ongoing consultation will be outlined within Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan	Section 3.3 Chapter 6 - Engagement Chapter 9 – Aboriginal Heritage Chapter 14 - Social Technical Report 2 – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment

SEARs requirement	How requirement is addressed	Where addressed in the EIS / Outcomes Report
Exploration licence holders, mining lease holders, mineral title holders	• Assessments of impacts undertaken and licence holders consulted via letters • Briefings offered and ongoing consultation will continue with stakeholders where needed	Section 3.6 Chapter 3 – Alternatives and Options Chapter 6 – Engagement Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment

5

Appendices

5 Appendices

Appendix A Stakeholder list

Appendix B Summary of issues and how addressed

Appendix C Communication and engagement tools

Appendix D Communication and engagement materials

Appendix A Stakeholder List

Table 19 Community and stakeholder groups

Group	Stakeholders	Issues and interests	Engagement approach
Impacted landowners within project corridor	• Landowners within the corridor in HTP North, HTP Central and HTP South who are directly impacted by the project. Includes both private and organisational landowners • Geographic distance from project: 0-5 km	• Easement and land acquisition • Compensation • Land use impacts • Environmental impacts - visual impacts, biodiversity, noise and vibration traffic and transport/access road impacts, hazards such as bushfire • Construction impacts • Community and employment benefits	• Dedicated Place Manager and Property Manager for each impacted landowner within project corridor • Place Managers also facilitate landowner feedback on project design • Landowner letters and notifications • Project updates and fact sheets • Project contact details • Face-to-face meetings • Website and interactive map • Information sessions and small landowner group meetings • Property access agreements • Communication materials – factsheets, FAQs, maps, images, newsletters • Website and interactive map • Meetings and briefings • Advertising and media

Group	Stakeholders	Issues and interests	Engagement approach
Landowners outside project corridor	• Landowners outside the corridor in HTP North, HTP Central and HTP South who are indirectly impacted by the project – for example, visual impacts, access road landowners, neighbours of construction support sites. Includes both private and organisational landowners • Geographic distance from project: 0-10 km	• Impact on property, land use impacts, visual impacts, environmental impacts, noise and vibration, traffic and transport/access road impacts, hazards such as bushfire • Construction impacts • Community and employment benefits • Land use impacts.	• Near neighbour engagement campaign for visual impacts as well as construction and operation impacts, including noise and traffic • Regular information stalls in communities within and around the HTP corridor • Direct mailout, letterboxes, letters and emails • Webinars on EIS topics to consult on early findings, including impacts and potential management measures • Communication materials – factsheets, FAQs, maps, images, newsletters • Website and interactive map • Meetings and briefings • Advertising and media
Community members	• Local communities neighbouring HTP North, HTP Central and HTP South, including the towns of Singleton, Broke, Cessnock, Cooranbong, Martinsville, Morisset	• Visual impacts, environmental impacts, noise and vibration, traffic and transport/access road impacts, hazards such as bushfire	• Regular information stalls in communities within and around the HTP corridor • Advertising campaigns to share information • Proactive information sharing via monthly project update newsletter • Webinars on EIS topics to consult on early findings, including impacts and potential management measures
	• Broader Hunter community	• Wider community impacts, particularly during construction • Impacts on people and environment	• Advertising campaigns to share information • Information stalls at broader Hunter events, including renewable energy conferences

Group	Stakeholders	Issues and interests	Engagement approach
	• NSW community • Geographic distance from the project: more than 100 km	• Impacts on people and environment	• Indirect engagement via information sharing on project website, including FAQs and project updates
Traditional owners and Aboriginal groups	• Local Aboriginal Land Councils (Wanaruah, Mindaribba, Awabakal, Biraban and Darkinjung), traditional owners and knowledge holders, registered Aboriginal parties	• Aboriginal cultural heritage • Impacts on people and environment • Employment and business opportunities – local participation • Biodiversity and stewardship arrangements • Training and development – ranger programs	• Dedicated Aboriginal Engagement Officer to facilitate engagement and ensure feedback and input is captured • Direct mailout, letterboxes, letters and emails • Webinars on EIS topics to consult on early findings, including impacts and potential management measures • Communication materials – factsheets, FAQs, maps, images, newsletters • Website and interactive map • Meetings and briefings • Workshops and site visits
HTP Regional Reference Group	• Includes Mayors of Singleton, Cessnock and Lake Macquarie, community representatives for Singleton, Cessnock and Lake Macquarie, business representative, environmental representative, Aboriginal community representative. Managed by an independent chairperson. Focus on all EnergyCo projects based in the Hunter region	• Impacts on people and environment • Opportunities for Hunter businesses	• Regular, in-person meetings. Secretariat services provided by HTP Community Team • Group invites directly impacted landowners, community members and other interest groups to attend and present • Communication materials – factsheets, FAQs, maps, images, newsletters • Website and interactive map • Meetings and briefings • Workshops and site visits

Group	Stakeholders	Issues and interests	Engagement approach
Interest groups	• Peak environmental groups • Recreational users/groups • Business and industry • Tourism • Education and training facilities • Advocacy groups	• Impacts on people and environment • Opportunities for Hunter businesses • Opposition to transmission infrastructure • Impacts on landuse	• Communication materials – factsheets, FAQs, maps, images, newsletters • Website and interactive map • Meetings and briefings • Workshops and site visits • Business and industry events
Elected representatives within project corridor	• Federal Member for Hunter • State Members for Upper Hunter, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie and Wyong	• Project impacts on communities in corridor, including affected landowners • Proactive media opportunities and coverage • Project delivery milestones • Social licence and community benefit initiatives	• Regular briefings and meetings, including with project technical staff so feedback can be captured directly and questions answered
Elected representatives outside project corridor in Hunter region	• Federal Members for Paterson, Newcastle, Dobell and Shortland • State Members for Maitland, Newcastle, Wallsend and Swansea	• Wider community impacts, particularly during construction • Opportunities for the Hunter region	• Briefings and meetings as needed • Provision of communications packs when community reports are released to allow sharing of information with constituents
Local government – elected representatives and officers	• Muswellbrook • Singleton • Cessnock Lake Macquarie • Central Coast	• Impacts to council assets, such as roads and waste facilities • Cumulative impacts • Community benefit funding initiatives, training and development opportunities • Local procurement and participation • Council resourcing • Impacts to local housing, accommodation and development	• Regional Reference Group • Communication materials – factsheets, FAQs, maps, images, newsletters • Website and interactive map • Meetings and briefings • Workshops and site visits

Group	Stakeholders	Issues and interests	Engagement approach
Local government – elected representatives and officers **Outside project area**	• Maitland • Newcastle • Port Stephens	• Wider community impacts, particularly during construction • Community benefit funding initiatives, training and development opportunities • Local procurement and participation	• Proactive meetings are held with council officers to share information and consult on options as project is developed, where the project interacts with a local government area
Australian Government agencies	• Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water • Department of Defence • Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner • Civil Aviation Safety Authority • Airservices Australia	• Project alignment • Impacts on people and environment	• Direct engagement via HTP leadership • Meetings and briefings • Communication materials
NSW Government agencies	• Department of Planning • Housing and Infrastructure • Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water • National Parks and Wildlife Service • NSW Forestry Corporation • Transport for NSW • Regional NSW • Rural Fire Service • Fire and Rescue NSW • Environment Protection Authority • Safework NSW	• Impacts on people and the environment • Environmental planning and approvals • Regional and economic development • Infrastructure investment • Cumulative impacts and studies • Participation, training and employment	• Direct engagement via HTP leadership • Meetings and briefings • Communication materials

Group	Stakeholders	Issues and interests	Engagement approach
Energy industry	• Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) • Consumer Trustee (AEMO Services) • Australian Energy Regulator (AER) • Australian Energy Market Commission • Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner • Electricity Infrastructure Jobs Advocate • Energy Security Board • Australian Renewable Energy Agency • Australian Energy Council • Clean Energy Council • Energy Consumers Australia • Transgrid • AGL Macquarie • Origin • Centennial • Telecommunication operators	• Impacts and costs to energy consumers • Energy market regulation • Long-term energy service agreements (LTESAs) and access rights • Roadmap initiatives • Transition to reliable clean energy	• Direct engagement via HTP leadership • Meetings and briefings • Communication materials

Appendix B Summary of issues and how addressed

This appendix consolidates the key issues raised by stakeholders throughout the HTP engagement program and summarises how these issues have been addressed in project design, assessment or mitigation commitments. It complements the zone-based and theme-based analysis in Section 3 and provides a full reference for how stakeholder feedback has shaped the project.

The table draws on feedback from all stakeholder groups, including landowners, Aboriginal stakeholders, government agencies, business and industry, environmental groups, local councils, education and training providers, emergency services and broader community members.

Theme	Topic(s) raised	How addressed	Where addressed in EIS
Land use and property	Property access, acquisition, compensation	• One-on-one meetings and tailored maps to clarify alignment and easement details • Design changes to avoid/minimise impacts • Ongoing consultation about the acquisition process	Chapter 3 –Alternatives and options Chapter 4 – Project description Chapter 12 – Land use and property Technical Report 5 - Agriculture Technical Report 17- Electromagnetic field impact assessment
	Land use impacts (agriculture, dairy, irrigation, EMF)	• Design changes, irrigation expert advice, development of irrigation concepts, biosecurity subplans • Development of property management plans/property access plans developed in consultation with landowners • Project to comply with EMF exposure standards	Chapter 12 – Land use and property, Chapter 13 – Agriculture Chapter 21 - Hazards and risks Technical Report 5 – Agricultural impact assessment Technical report 17 – electromagnetic field impact assessment
	Use of existing easements/ undergrounding	• Detailed alternatives and options assessment. Not technically or economically feasible in most areas	Chapter 3 – Alternatives and Options Technical Report 3 – Landscape character and visual assessment

Theme	Topic(s) raised	How addressed	Where addressed in EIS
Community engagement process	Transparency, responsiveness, adequacy of engagement activities	• updated engagement protocols, broadened communications to reach less engaged groups. Tailored information and materials provided • Engagement activities independently reviewed as part of transparency processes	Chapter 6 - Engagement Chapter 14 - Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
Construction impacts	Traffic, road safety, intersection upgrades, haulage routes	• Detailed traffic and transport assessments undertaken • Mitigation measures during construction to be outlined in localised traffic management plans (including dilapidation surveys, road/intersection upgrades, designated heavy vehicle routes, and time-of-day restrictions for heavy vehicles in certain locations)	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment
		• Consultation with local emergency management committees, including all emergency services, has taken place • Regular consultation with rural fire service brigades along alignment • Developed post approval, the Construction Traffic Management Plan to include emergency service response needs	Chapter 11 – Traffic and transport Chapter14 - Social Chapter 21 – Hazards and soils Technical Report 4 – Traffic and transport impact assessment Technical Report 6 - Social impact assessment Technical Report 14 – Bushfire risk assessment
	Air quality and dust	• Detailed dispersion modelling. The construction air quality management plan to be developed post-approval	Technical Report 18 – Air quality and greenhouse gas assessment
	Construction impacts to temporary accommodation, water supply, waste	• Social impact assessment • Mitigation measures will be documented post approval in Accommodation Management Plan, Local Business and Employment Strategy, Soil and Water Management Plan and Waste Management Plan	Chapter 4 - Project description Chapter 14 – SocialChapter 17 – Surface water Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment

Theme	Topic(s) raised	How addressed	Where addressed in EIS
Cultural heritage	Aboriginal heritage — sites, storylines, view-lines	• Enhanced engagement with RAPs. Cultural-mapping workshops • Mitigation measures will be outlined within the Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan (including micro-siting infrastructure) which will be developed post approval by a heritage specialist and in consultation with the RAPs	Chapter 9 – Aboriginal heritage Technical Report 2 – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment
Design and route selection	Tower placement, corridor alignment, undergrounding	• Detailed assessment of alternatives/options. Changes made to avoid sensitive areas (heritage, visual, biodiversity)	Chapter 3 - Alternatives and options Technical Report 3 – Landscape character and visual assessment
Environmental impacts	Biodiversity (clearing, threatened species), offsets	• Design changes to minimise clearing. BDAR prepared • Offset strategy developed • Opportunities for stakeholder participation in surveys	Chapter 3 - Alternatives and options Chapter 8 - Biodiversity Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report
	Bushfire risk	• Bushfire risk assessment • Design changes to protect fire-fighting capability • Asset protection zones	Chapter 21- Hazards and risks Technical Report 14 – Bushfire risk assessment
	Water impacts — aquatic ecology, groundwater, surface water	• Survey methodologies agreed with agencies. • Impact assessments and mitigation measures developed	Chapter 8 - Biodiversity Chapter 9 – Aboriginal heritage Chapter 17 – Surface water Chapter 18 -Groundwater Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report
	Contamination	• Contamination assessment completed • Mitigation measures outlined	Chapter 22 – Other matters

Theme	Topic(s) raised	How addressed	Where addressed in EIS
Visual and landscape	Visual impact from towers, viewsheds, tourism routes	• Adjustments to tower locations and setbacks • Minimise clearing between key viewpoints	Chapter 3 - Alternatives and options Chapter 10 – Landscape character and visual impact Technical Report 3 – Strategic alternatives and options
Project justification and alternatives	Need for project, corridor options, REZ interface	• Project justification and need clarified • Cumulative planning issues addressed • Joint briefings to clarify REZ overlaps	Chapter 2 - Strategic context Chapter 3 - Alternatives and options Chapter 23 Cumulative impacts
Social and economic	Employment, community benefit, local economic impacts	• EnergyCo is expecting to commence consultation with relevant communities in 2026 to inform the design and delivery of the Community and Employment Benefit Program in the Hunter Central Coast region • Local employment targets will be outlined within Social Impact Management Plan and Local Business and Employment Strategy	Chapter 14 – Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment Community Benefit Scheme not specifically addressed in EIS.
	Education and training	• Engagement with education providers • Post approval, development of a social impact management plan to include workforce strategy	Chapter 14 - Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
	Supply chain opportunities	• Industry briefings • Supplier portal (ICN Gateway) established	Chapter 14 - Social Technical Report 6 – Social impact assessment
Strategic context	Cumulative and regional planning issues	• Communication materials updated • REZ coordination in briefings	Chapter 2 - Strategic context Chapter 23 – Cumulative impacts

Appendix C Communication and engagement tools

Key: EII = Energy Infrastructure Investment Act; EIS = Environmental Impact Statement; PE = Public exhibition; A = Post approval

Purpose: Tools that could be used through the different phases of the project.

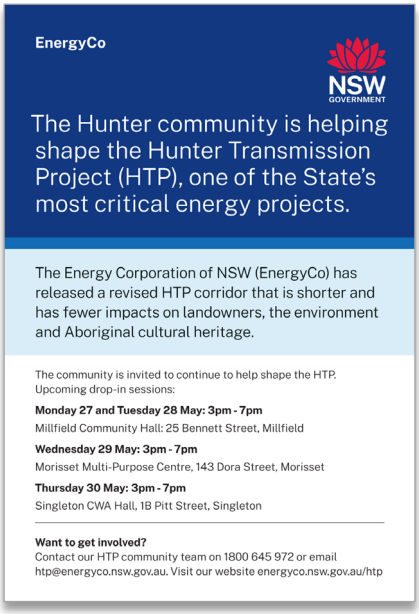
TYPE	PURPOSE	TIMING		EIS	PE	A
Advertising	**Used to inform about:** ▪ **project introduction, updates** ▪ **public exhibition period** ▪ **meeting or display** ▪ **events** ▪ **benefit sharing**	**As required** **2 weeks before an event**		✓	✓	✓
Calling cards	Used to inform the community of activities in the immediate area. ▪ Sorry we missed you	48 hours (min) 7 days (max)		✓	✓	✓
Community feedback forms	An informal survey to provide community feedback on issues, behaviour and performance.	As required		✓	✓	✓
Community information line and email address	Provides a free and accessible point of contact for enquiries and complaints related to the works.	Ongoing		✓	✓	✓
Community Information Sessions	Use to inform the local community about the various stages of the project.	As required		✓	✓	
Consultation outcomes report	Used to provide the project team with community feedback from public display of the delivery strategy and environmental impact assessment.	EII Act EIS		✓		
Consultation Manager	Project database used to capture all contact with the community and stakeholders.	Contacts to be entered as received		✓	✓	✓
Correspondence (letters, emails, phone calls)	Inform, liaise with and respond to stakeholders and community members – either proactively or in response to contact or complaints.	As required		✓	✓	✓
Door knocks	To directly provide advice and information to affected landowners.	Introduction of project		✓	✓	✓
E-Newsletter	Provides regular project updates to registered community members and stakeholders. Subscriptions will be encouraged through EnergyCo's communication materials and at engagement events.	Monthly		✓	✓	
Fact sheets	Used to provide specific information about the various projects.	October 2024 March 2025 Update for EIS		✓	✓	✓
Focus groups	To explore specific project topics in depth with a small group of stakeholders, gather detailed feedback, and test ideas to help inform project decisions and refinements. Guided by a facilitator.	As required		✓	✓	
Frequently asked questions	Internal tool to provide basic information and project key messages with which to respond to enquiries.	October 2024 Update for EIS		✓	✓	✓

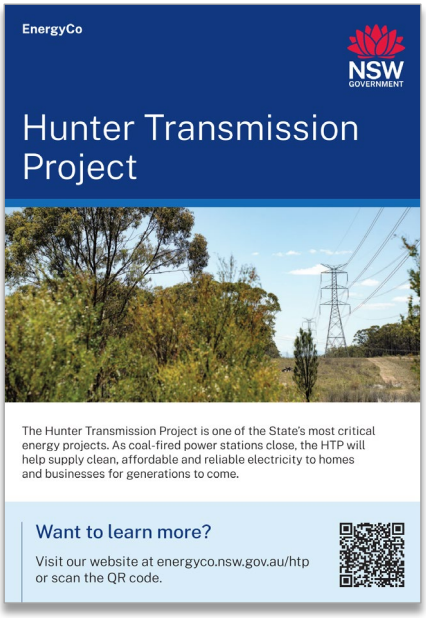
TYPE	PURPOSE	TIMING		EIS	PE	A
Online interactive map	To allow the community to understand where the project is located and how it interacts with other EnergyCo projects.	Ongoing		✓	✓	✓
Key messages	Ensures that a project is explained to all stakeholders consistently and accurately.	October 2024 Update for EIS		✓	✓	✓
Maps / diagrams	Provides a visual explanation of the work and associated impacts. Can be included in notification letters and materials	October 2024 Update for EIS		✓	✓	✓
Meetings	Gives stakeholders the chance to discuss issues in a more interactive format than a briefing.	Ongoing		✓	✓	✓
Meeting minutes	To document outcomes of discussions with stakeholders/community members	As required		✓	✓	✓
Media release	Allows information about Program milestones to be disseminated to a wider audience – follow HTP media management procedure	As required Refer comms plan		✓	✓	✓
Media event / Promote Plan	Provides HTP with an opportunity to present positive media cover. Media briefing paper to be provided to HTP ahead of upcoming opportunity.	As required Refer comms plan		✓	✓	✓
Newsletter	Provides a general update on the Program to the community.	As required		✓	✓	✓
Notification – 7-day	Used to provide specific information on the work to be carried out at a particular site/s. Should be used for all site based activities for early works and studies. The information should include: ■ The nature of the work – what we are doing ■ Where the work will be carried out ■ Work hours and duration ■ Why we are doing the work ■ Benefits to the community and environment ■ Impacts (noise, odour, access, traffic etc.) ■ Contact details for further information.	7 days (preferred) for residents/ businesses.		✓	✓	✓
Online forum	To provide real-time, two-way engagement through a facilitated online Q&A session, allowing stakeholders to ask questions, share feedback, and receive project updates in an accessible digital format.	March- August 2025		✓	✓	
Photography (and video)	To provide stakeholders with visual communication via newsletters, displays at forums and information sessions, social media posts etc	Create photo bank. Used as required		✓	✓	
Photomontages and graphics	During consultation to allow for community feedback on tower locations.	As required		✓	✓	
Printed materials	Banners, posters, flyers, brochures used to communicate specific information about the project	Update for EIS and public exhibition		✓	✓	✓
Public forums and information sessions	To provide stakeholders with an opportunity to speak directly to the Program team and give feedback on a particular topic or phase of the project.	Quarterly ongoing		✓	✓	✓

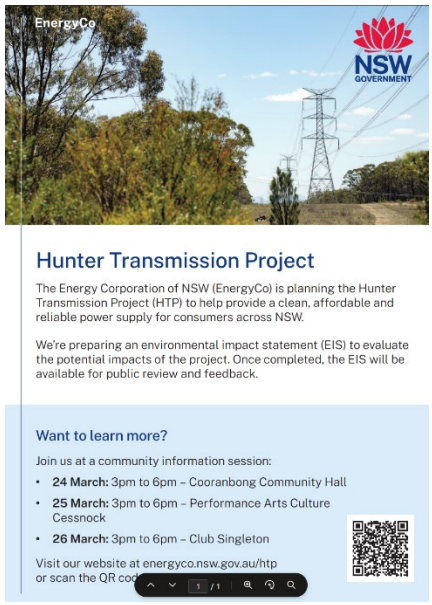
TYPE	PURPOSE	TIMING		EIS	PE	A
Scripts	Outlines for regular, standard briefings on project information for stakeholders	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Signage	May be fixed (e.g. to a pole or fence) or temporary (e.g. Variable message board, A-frame). Used to provide project contact details and to notify external stakeholders of the project.	Events – as required	✓	✓	✓	✓
Site visits	Meetings on site to inform and consult with government agencies, councils, special interest groups and other stakeholders about specific issues	As required	✓	✓	✓	
Social Media (Facebook, LinkedIn)	Used to inform the community of the project (awareness), events or how to participate in engagement	As required	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stakeholder briefings	Used to provide information about the project to stakeholders including elected representatives / agencies	As required MPs/Council at least quarterly	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stakeholder workshops / working group	Used to engage with multiple government stakeholders / help deliver preferred long-term solutions from potential options	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Surveys	To gather stakeholder feedback, opinions, and concerns to inform decision-making and improve project outcomes.	By topic or as required		✓	✓	
Website	Used to consult with the community around details and impacts of upcoming major works	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Webinar	Provide targeted information about topics of high interest or impact and invite feedback. Includes Q&A session. Online.	March- August 2025		✓	✓	
Workshop	To explore specific, complex issues in a structured way. Participants may work in small groups.	March- August 2025		✓	✓	
Videos	Explainer videos and videos used to communicate complex information about the project, provide updates and share key project messaging	As required	✓	✓	✓	✓

Appendix D Communication and engagement materials

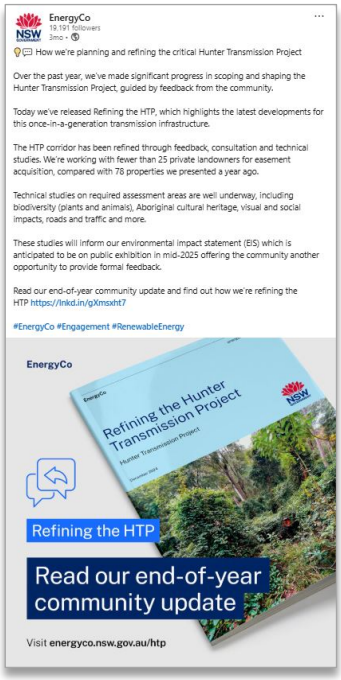
Print advertising

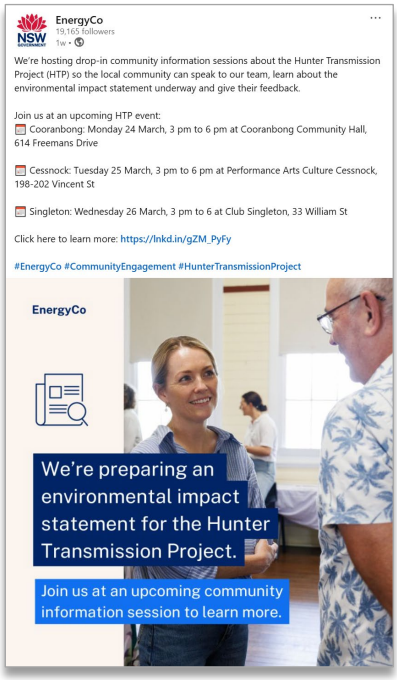






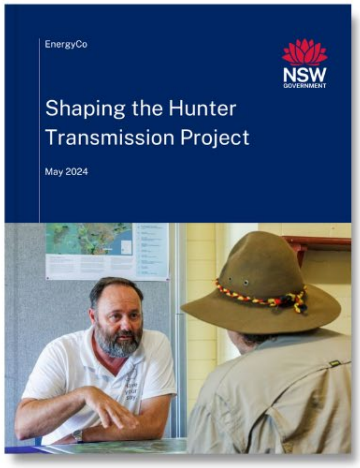
Social media posts

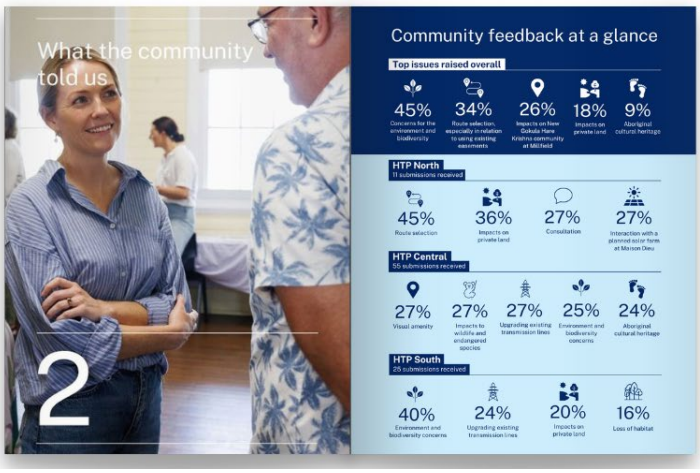




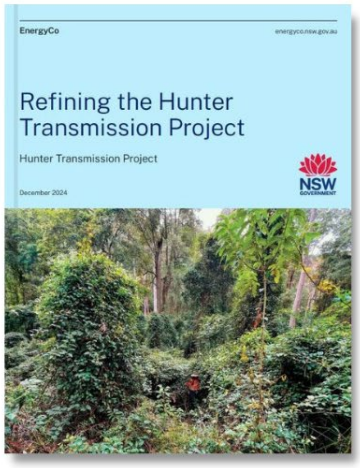
Milestone updates – booklets

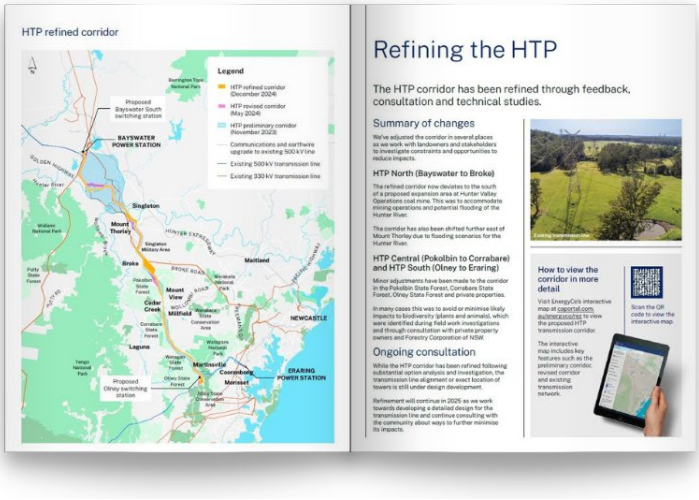
Shaping the HTP – May 2024



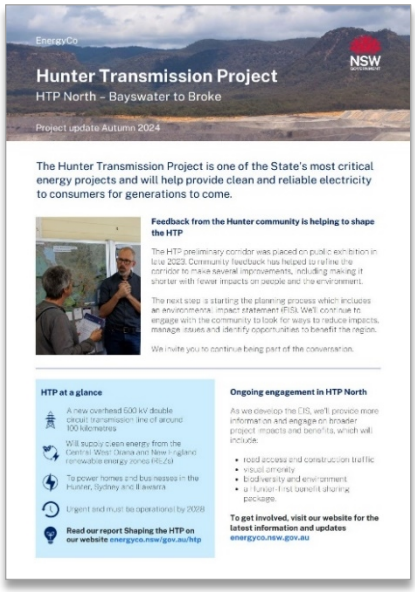


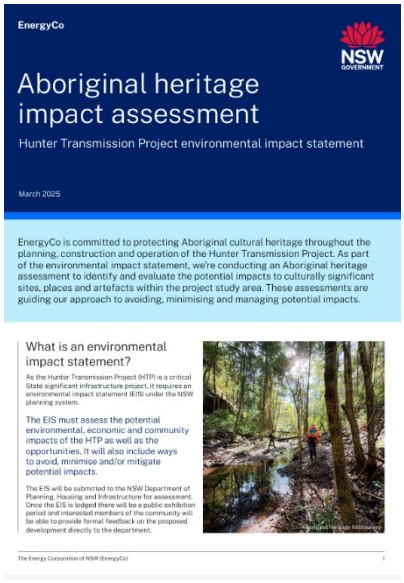
Refining the HTP – December 2024



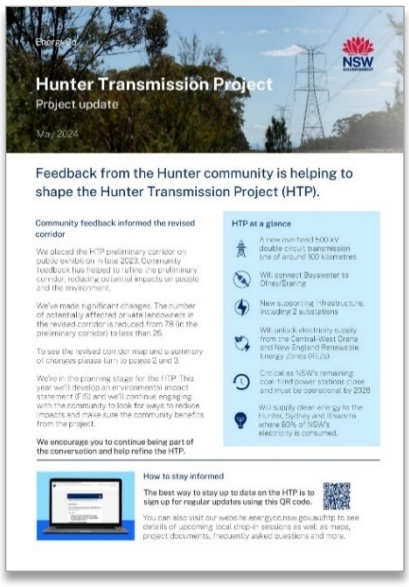


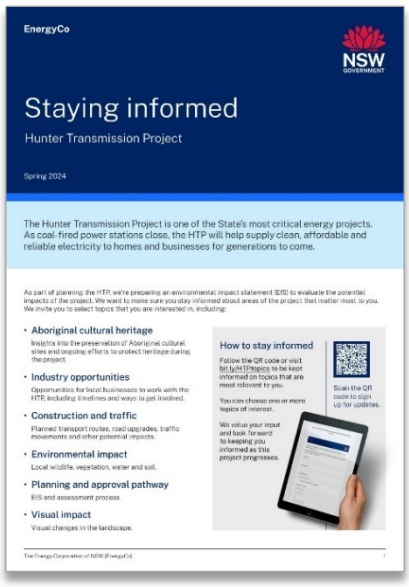
Fact sheets



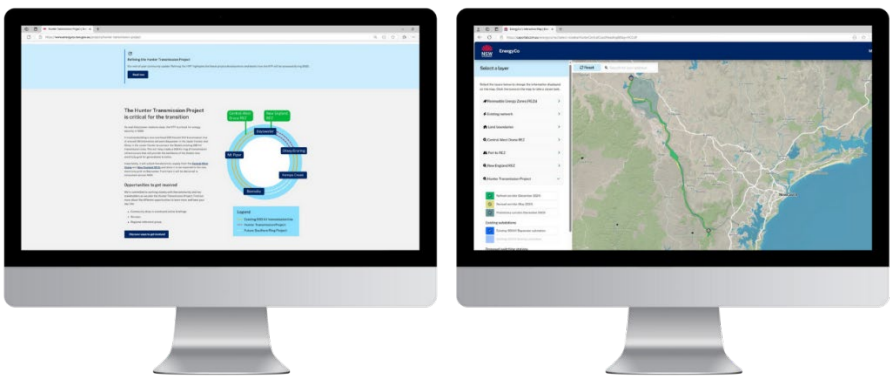


Direct mailouts

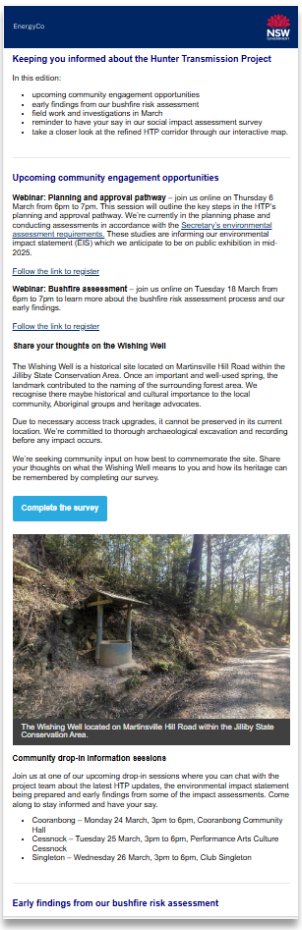




HTP website and interactive map



Monthly e-Newsletter



Keeping you informed about the Hunter Transmission Project

In this edition:

- upcoming community engagement opportunities
- early findings from our bushfire risk assessment
- field work and investigations in March
- reminder to have your say in our social impact assessment survey
- take a closer look at the refined HTP corridor through our interactive map.

Upcoming community engagement opportunities

Webinar: Planning and approval pathway – join us online on Thursday 6 March from 6pm to 7pm. This session will outline the key steps in the HTP's planning and approval pathway. We're currently in the planning phase and conducting assessments in accordance with the Secretary's environmental assessment requirements. These studies are informing our environmental impact statement (EIS) which we anticipate to be on public exhibition in mid-2025.

Follow the link to register

Webinar: Bushfire assessment – join us online on Tuesday 18 March from 6pm to 7pm to learn more about the bushfire risk assessment process and our early findings.

Follow the link to register

Share your thoughts on the Wishing Well

The Wishing Well is a historical site located on Martinsville Hill Road within the Jilliby State Conservation Area. Once an important and well-used spring, the landmark contributed to the naming of the surrounding forest area. We recognise there maybe historical and cultural importance to the local community, Aboriginal groups and heritage advocates.

Due to necessary access track upgrades, it cannot be preserved in its current location. We're committed to thorough archaeological excavation and recording before any impact occurs.

We're seeking community input on how best to commemorate the site. Share your thoughts on what the Wishing Well means to you and how its heritage can be remembered by completing our survey.

Complete the survey

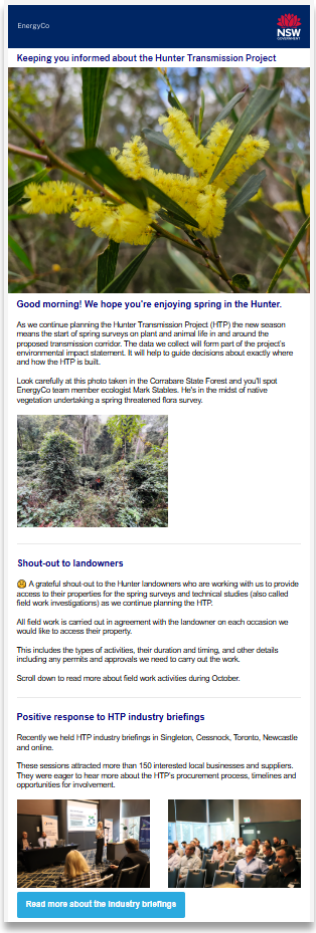
The Wishing Well located on Martinsville Hill Road within the Jilliby State Conservation Area.

Community drop-in information sessions

Join us at one of our upcoming drop-in sessions where you can chat with the project team about the latest HTP updates, the environmental impact statement being prepared and early findings from some of the impact assessments. Come along to stay informed and have your say.

- Cooranbong – Monday 24 March, 3pm to 6pm, Cooranbong Community Hall
- Cessnock – Tuesday 25 March, 3pm to 6pm, Performance Arts Culture Cessnock
- Singleton – Wednesday 26 March, 3pm to 6pm, Club Singleton

Early findings from our bushfire risk assessment



Keeping you informed about the Hunter Transmission Project

Good morning! We hope you're enjoying spring in the Hunter.

As we continue planning the Hunter Transmission Project (HTP) the new season means the start of spring surveys on plant and animal life in and around the proposed transmission corridor. The data we collect will form part of the project's environmental impact statement. It will help to guide decisions about exactly where and how the HTP is built.

Look carefully at this photo taken in the Corrabare State Forest and you'll spot EnergyCo team member ecologist Mark Stables. He's in the midst of native vegetation undertaking a spring threatened flora survey.

Shout-out to landowners

A grateful shout-out to the Hunter landowners who are working with us to provide access to their properties for the spring surveys and technical studies (also called field work investigations) as we continue planning the HTP.

All field work is carried out in agreement with the landowner on each occasion we would like to access their property.

This includes the types of activities, their duration and timing, and other details including any permits and approvals we need to carry out the work.

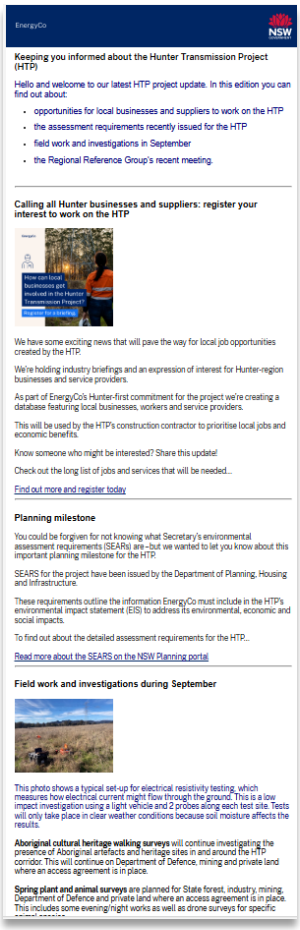
Scroll down to read more about field work activities during October.

Positive response to HTP industry briefings

Recently we held HTP industry briefings in Singleton, Cessnock, Toronto, Newcastle and online.

These sessions attracted more than 150 interested local businesses and suppliers. They were eager to hear more about the HTP's procurement process, timelines and opportunities for involvement.

Read more about the industry briefings



Keeping you informed about the Hunter Transmission Project (HTP)

Hello and welcome to our latest HTP project update. In this edition you can find out about:

- opportunities for local businesses and suppliers to work on the HTP
- the assessment requirements recently issued for the HTP
- field work and investigations in September
- the Regional Reference Group's recent meeting.

Calling all Hunter businesses and suppliers: register your interest to work on the HTP

We have some exciting news that will pave the way for local job opportunities created by the HTP.

We're holding industry briefings and an expression of interest for Hunter-region businesses and service providers.

As part of EnergyCo's Hunter-first commitment for the project we're creating a database featuring local businesses, workers and service providers.

This will be used by the HTP's construction contractor to prioritise local jobs and economic benefits.

Know someone who might be interested? Share this update!

Check out the long list of jobs and services that will be needed...

Find out more and register today

Planning milestone

You could be forgiven for not knowing what Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) are – but we wanted to let you know about this important planning milestone for the HTP.

SEARS for the project have been issued by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

These requirements outline the information EnergyCo must include in the HTP's environmental impact statement (EIS) to address its environmental, economic and social impacts.

To find out about the detailed assessment requirements for the HTP...

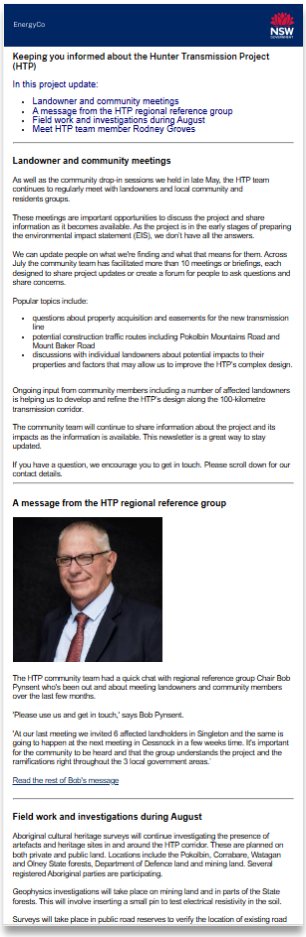
Read more about the SEARS on the NSW Planning portal

Field work and investigations during September

This photo shows a typical set-up for electrical resistivity testing, which measures how electrical current might flow through the ground. This is a low impact investigation using a light vehicle and 2 probes along each test site. Tests will only take place in clear weather conditions because soil moisture affects the results.

Aboriginal cultural heritage walking surveys will continue investigating the presence of Aboriginal artefacts and heritage sites in and around the HTP corridor. This will continue on Department of Defence, mining and private land where an access agreement is in place.

Spring plant and animal surveys are planned for State forest, industry, mining, Department of Defence and private land where an access agreement is in place. This includes some evening/night works as well as drone surveys for specific



Keeping you informed about the Hunter Transmission Project (HTP)

In this project update:

- Landowner and community meetings
- A message from the HTP regional reference group
- Field work and investigations during August
- Meet HTP team member Rodney Groves

Landowner and community meetings

As well as the community drop-in sessions we held in late May, the HTP team continues to regularly meet with landowners and local community and residents groups.

These meetings are important opportunities to discuss the project and share information as it becomes available. As the project is in the early stages of preparing the environmental impact statement (EIS), we don't have all the answers.

We can update people on what we're finding and what that means for them. Across July the community team has facilitated more than 10 meetings or briefings, each designed to share project updates or create a forum for people to ask questions and share concerns.

Popular topics include:

- questions about property acquisition and easements for the new transmission line
- potential construction traffic routes including Pokolbin Mountains Road and Mount Baker Road
- discussions with individual landowners about potential impacts to their properties and factors that may allow us to improve the HTP's complex design.

Ongoing input from community members including a number of affected landowners is helping us to develop and refine the HTP's design along the 100-kilometre transmission corridor.

The community team will continue to share information about the project and its impacts as the information is available. This newsletter is a great way to stay updated.

If you have a question, we encourage you to get in touch. Please scroll down for our contact details.

A message from the HTP regional reference group

The HTP community team had a quick chat with regional reference group Chair Bob Pynsent who's been out and about meeting landowners and community members over the last few months.

'Please use us and get in touch,' says Bob Pynsent.

'At our last meeting we invited 6 affected landholders in Singleton and the same is going to happen at the next meeting in Cessnock in a few weeks time. It's important for the community to be heard and that the group understands the project and the ramifications right throughout the 3 local government areas.'

Read the rest of Bob's message

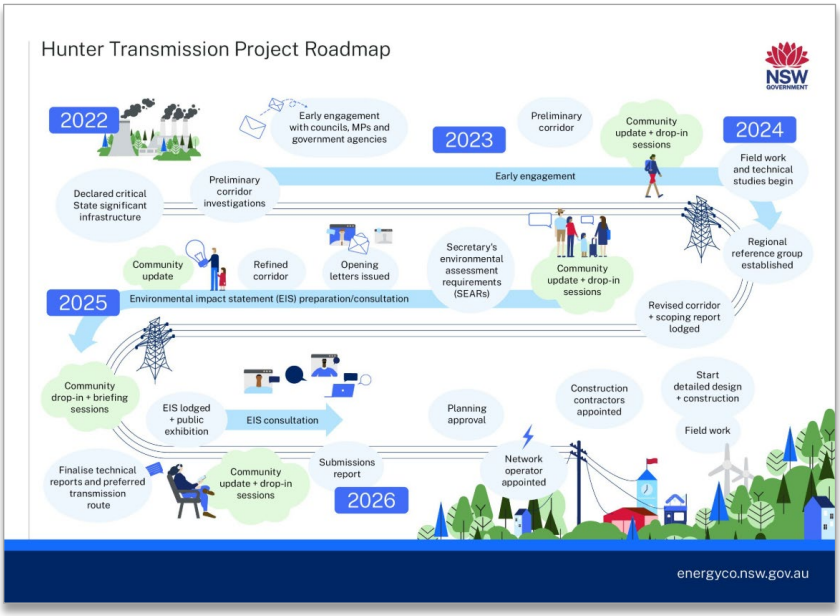
Field work and investigations during August

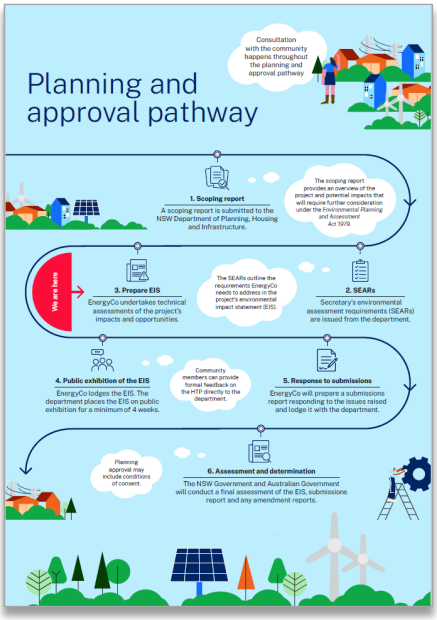
Aboriginal cultural heritage surveys will continue investigating the presence of artefacts and heritage sites in and around the HTP corridor. These are planned on both private and public land. Locations include the Pokolbin, Cornbare, Watagan and Olney State forests, Department of Defence land and mining land. Several registered Aboriginal parties are participating.

Geophysics investigations will take place on mining land and in parts of the State forests. This will involve inserting a small pin to test electrical resistivity in the soil.

Surveys will take place in public road reserves to verify the location of existing road

Infographics

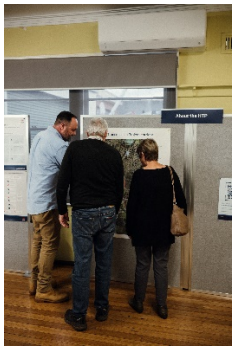




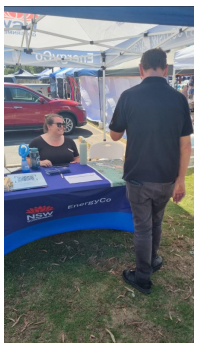
1.2.4 Samples of engagement activities

Community information sessions






Pop-up events




Industry briefings with businesses and suppliers

Appendix E

Proposed mitigation measures

Table E.1 details the mitigation measures that will be implemented to avoid or minimise potential impacts from the project. Some environmental impacts are relevant to multiple technical aspects and therefore will share common mitigation measures (e.g. Aboriginal heritage and visual amenity, or biodiversity and agriculture). Where this occurs, the mitigation measure has not been duplicated but rather one ID number has been provided for the particular measure and a cross reference to that ID number in other related environmental aspects.

Table E.1 Summary of mitigation and management measures

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
Biodiversity				
B1	Biodiversity impacts	A biodiversity management plan (BMP) will be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced biodiversity expert and will be implemented prior to the commencement of clearing works and for the duration of construction. The BMP will include (as a minimum): • the location and extent of areas of vegetation clearance and habitat disturbance, and how these will be suitably demarcated on-site • the location and extent of areas to be protected (e.g. retained vegetation, hollow-bearing trees, nests, burrows and other habitat features, including applicable buffers to habitat features) located inside the construction impact area or in close proximity to clearing areas. • pre-clearing survey procedures • two-phase clearing process to allow fauna to move into adjoining habitat • a threatened species unexpected finds protocol • fauna handling and rescue procedure • measures to be implemented on-site to clearly demarcate areas to be retained as 'no go areas'. • procedures for monitoring of partial clearance • salvage of resources • revegetation/rehabilitation plan (including seed collection where appropriate) • controlling erosion • bushfire management • education of construction teams • adaptive management procedures (including triggers) • monitoring, evaluation reporting and compliance. 'No go area' demarcation devices must be established prior to the commencement of clearing works in each construction area and be maintained throughout the construction	Detailed design Construction	All locations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
B2	Impacts on native vegetation, TECs, threatened species and potential SAII entities	The locations of TECs, habitat for threatened species and SAII entities will be considered, and potential impacts avoided or minimised to the greatest extent practicable during finalisation of the detailed design and construction methodology. This will include: • micro-siting of transmission line infrastructure within the HTP corridor • prioritising disturbance in areas with a Vegetation Integrity score <17 as per *section 9* of the BAM • sensitive biodiversity areas to be avoided, (including species polygons, buffered threatened species locations, areas of TECs, SAII entities and MNES) will inform the detailed design of the project As part of this measure a hierarchy of biodiversity constraints will be developed and mapped to provide an overarching avoidance prioritisation framework to inform detailed design and the BMP.	Detailed design Construction	Sensitive biodiversity areas Avoidance micro-siting areas Regent honeyeater and Swift parrot important areas Applicable locations identified in Figure 14.21 of *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
B3	Impacts on threatened species breeding habitat	Prior to construction activities taking place within 100 metres of rocky areas containing caves, overhangs or crevices, cliffs or escarpments and during the breeding season for the Large-eared Pied Bat, Eastern Cave Bat (November to February), Large Bent-winged Bat, Little Bent-winged Bat (December to February), an ecologist will be engaged to determine if the species are present. If present, an assessment of the proposed activities will be completed to determine what, if any, activities can take place within the relevant 100 m, and what mitigation measures need to be implemented. Measures may include cessation of certain activities, amending the construction methodology including selecting alternative plant or equipment. Any requirements for a management plan will also be determined at that time.	Detailed design Construction	Within 100 m of rocky areas containing caves, or overhangs or crevices, cliffs or escarpments Applicable locations identified in Figure 3 of *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*
B4	Impacts on native vegetation, TECs, threatened species and potential SAII entities	Micro-siting of temporary construction infrastructure, including construction support sites, laydowns areas and access tracks (new and upgraded), will be undertaken to minimise vegetation clearing and disturbance of watercourses. This will include: • prioritising areas of low biodiversity value • utilising existing access tracks, where feasible • locating watercourse crossings at narrow width locations • minimising the quantity of cut and fill activities. Applicable to all TECs and habitat for threatened species and SAII entities.	Detailed design Construction	Construction support sites, laydown areas and access tracks

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
B5	Impacts on fauna habitat connectivity	A connectivity strategy will be developed and implemented to avoid and minimise impacts to connectivity for threatened species. Connectivity corridors, in the form of installation of under-transmission line glider poles, rope bridges and/or retained tall tree stumps, will be investigated and installed in appropriate locations, and in accordance with clearance requirements for transmission lines and infrastructure, where habitat connectivity for fauna species will be impacted. The exact location and design of under-transmission line glider poles, rope bridges and/or retained tall tree stumps will be nominated as part of the connectivity strategy and will be guided by the locations of habitat connectivity identified in Figure 14.14 and 14.15 of *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*. The strategy will be developed for all relevant threatened species, including (but not limited to) Squirrel Glider, Yellow-bellied Glider, and Greater Glider, Southern Greater Glider, Gang-gang Cockatoo, Glossy Black-Cockatoo and Swift Parrot. This strategy will require ongoing management of connectivity corridors.	Detailed design Construction Operation	Relevant habitat connectivity locations
B6	Loss of nesting hollows for hollow dependant fauna	A supplementary hollow and nest strategy will be developed and implemented for the installation of nest boxes, or other hollow creation methods, to provide alternative roosting and/or nesting habitat for threatened fauna displaced during clearing. Nest box/hollows will be installed prior to commencement of clearing works in relevant construction locations. Where supplementary hollows are proposed to be established on land adjacent to the easement, these will be subject to landowner agreement and captured in any property management plan.	Detailed design Construction	Relevant locations
B7	Inadvertent impacts on trees	Tree protection measures are to be installed and maintained for trees to be retained within the hazard zone, in accordance with *AS 4970-2009 – Protection of Trees in Development Sites* throughout construction.	Detailed design Construction	Applicable trees within the hazard tree zone (Disturbance area HZ)
B8	Impacts on native vegetation, TECs, threatened species and potential SAII entities	Pre-clearing surveys will be guided by the BMP and completed prior to clearing at each location by a suitability qualified ecologist. The proposed clearing extents will be marked out on-site prior to the pre-clearing surveys. Pre-clearing surveys will be carried out prior to the commencement of clearing works. During the surveys, the ecologist will: • survey the proposed clearing extent (including confirmed clearing extents within the assumed habitat of SAII entities) • identify any fauna that will require relocation prior to clearing, including inspection of any built structures and wooden fence posts to be demolished • confirm if occupied habitats need to remain until fledging/movement of young can occur • confirm that 'no-go zones' are demarcated • confirm that hollow-bearing trees within and adjacent to the clearing extents are prominently marked/tagged confirm that nest boxes are in place (where required) in suitable locations adjacent to areas to be cleared, or suitable locations for installation have been identified.	Detailed design Construction	All locations
B9	Unintentional harm to biodiversity values	All relevant project personnel, including relevant sub-contractors will be trained on biodiversity management protocols and requirements for the project, through inductions, toolbox talks and targeted training, and provided with sensitive biodiversity area maps (showing clearing boundaries and exclusion zones) and updates as required. • Inductions and training will be completed prior to commencement of work for all relevant personnel.	Construction	All locations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
B10	Impacts on understorey vegetation in riparian areas	Understorey vegetation will be protected within vegetated riparian zones where reasonable and feasible (within the definition of the NSW *Water Management Act 2000*). Vegetation clearing will be limited to the tree stratum and shrubs above 2 m in height only, with root systems and trunk bases being retained in-situ.	Construction Operation	Riparian environments
B11	Impacts on riparian vegetation and aquatic habitats	A riparian vegetation management plan (RVMP) will be developed and implemented for the project to manage activities within vegetated riparian zones to minimise impacts to aquatic environments. The plan will be prepared prior to and implemented during any disturbance to a riparian area. The plan will identify the measures to be implemented to minimise impacts from construction activities (such as temporary and permanent watercourse crossings) within riparian and aquatic environments. A schedule of works will be stipulated within the approved RVMP. Riparian areas subject to disturbance will be progressively stabilised and rehabilitated. The RVMP will form a sub-plan to the BMP.	Detailed design Construction	Riparian environments disturbed during construction of the project
B12	Impacts on threatened bird species at risk of line strike and EMF	Bird diverters will be installed on transmission lines at appropriate locations to reduce impacts on aerial fauna species from collision with transmission lines and infrastructure. The exact position and diverter model will be finalised during detailed design by a qualified ecologist in consultation with CPHR. Installation of the bird diverters will occur within 2 weeks of transmission line installation or as soon as practical and will remain in place and/or replaced as required.	Construction Operation	Riparian environments disturbed during construction of the project
B13	Clearing of native vegetation (biodiversity offset requirements)	The predicted clearing of native vegetation and habitat by the project identified in *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report* will be monitored against the recorded clearing. A revised Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM-C) calculation based on the project's final disturbance to biodiversity post construction will be completed. Any additional (or reduced) credit liability identified will be met as part of the biodiversity offset scheme requirements and secured under the SODA.	Construction	Disturbance area
B14	Unexpected impacts on threatened species and ecological communities	An unexpected finds protocol will be implemented if threatened ecological communities or flora and fauna species, not assessed in *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report,* are identified in the disturbance area.	Construction	Disturbance area
B15	Impacts on riparian corridors and aquatic habitat	Watercourse crossings (especially but not only to key fish habitat) will be designed to minimise disturbance and harm within riparian corridors and aquatic habitat will be rehabilitated where practicable, in accordance with the following guidelines: • *Guidelines for controlled activities on waterfront land* (NRA 2018) • *Why do fish need to cross the road? Fish passage requirements for waterway crossings* (Fairfull and Witheridge 2003) *Policy and guidelines for fish habitat conservation and management* (DPI 2013).	Detailed design Construction	All relevant watercourse crossing locations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
B16	Operational guidelines and procedures	Develop and implement guidelines and procedures for maintenance of the project during operation as part of the operational EMS or equivalent. These guidelines and procedures will cover the following: • vegetation clearing and maintenance commitments in the biodiversity development assessment report and environmental impact statement • avoiding access and disturbance in areas of high biodiversity conservation significance; outside of the areas required for construction • avoiding maintenance of vegetation that does not need to be maintained during operation.	Operation	Operation impact area
B17	Indirect impacts from light spill	• Lighting designs to be in accordance with the *National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife (DCCEEW 2023).*	Detailed design Operation	Operation impact area
B18	Impacts on threatened amphibian habitat	An amphibian management plan will be prepared and implemented for the duration of construction. The plan is to include (as a minimum): • the location and extent of areas of threatened amphibians breeding habitats, and how these will be suitably demarcated on-site • the location and extent of areas to be protected (e.g. retained vegetation and other habitat features, including applicable buffers to habitat features) located inside the construction area or in close proximity to the clearing areas • measures to control the spread of Chytrid Fungus within the disturbance area and adjoining threatened amphibians habitat • monitoring requirements to ensure effective control • measures to be implemented on-site to clearly demarcate areas to be retained as 'no go areas' 'No go area' demarcation devices must be established prior to the commencement of clearing works in the location and extent of areas of threatened amphibians breeding habitats. This plan will form a sub-plan to the BMP.	Detailed design Construction	Threatened Amphibians breeding habitats within or near the disturbance area
B19	Spread of Myrtle Rust into sensitive vegetation communities	A Myrtle Rust procedure will be developed to ensure the project is consistent with the objectives of FCNSW and NPWS Myrtle Rust management.	Detailed design Construction	Disturbance area
B20	Vegetation clearing	Implement the clearing procedures, control measures and post- construction restoration measures identified to ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, biodiversity values are retained as assessed in *Technical Report 1 – Biodiversity development assessment report*.	Detailed design Construction Operation	Disturbance area A (including centreline) Disturbance area B Disturbance area HZ

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
Aboriginal heritage				
AH01	Cultural heritage management	An ACHMP will be developed by a heritage specialist in consultation with the RAPs to provide the post-approval framework for managing archaeological mitigation and Aboriginal heritage within the project impact area. The ACHMP will consider guiding principles presented in the ACHA and will address the following: • processes, timing, communication methods and project involvement (e.g. on-site activities) for maintaining Aboriginal community consultation and participation through the remainder of the project. This will include a grievance mechanism that is readily available and designed for use by the local Aboriginal community • descriptions and methods to avoid any inadvertent impacts to identified Aboriginal objects and sites and areas of archaeological sensitivity outside of the construction impact area. A suitable regime of monitoring these activities will also be outlined, including locations, methods, personnel and timing • descriptions and methods of any additional investigative actions that may be required prior to construction works commencing or during the project for sites that are to be adversely impacted. Activities should include suitable archival recording and cultural material recovery (e.g. relocation of key components, surface collection and/or archaeological excavations). These should include opportunity for Aboriginal participants to recover and relocate culturally important flora species at HTP-C-AR01 and HTP-C-AR02. For these activities, details of locations, methods, personnel, and timing will be included • description and methods for undertaking further Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, investigation and mitigation of any areas of the project that have changed following completion of the ACHA or during the final design and construction of the project • description and methods of post-excavation analysis and reporting of the archaeological investigations and activities implemented as part of the ACHMP. For excavations, these will include suitable collection and processing of stone artefacts, and chronological, soil, and environmental samples • reinforcement of how the cultural landscape is to be considered throughout the project's construction and detail the rehabilitation of the construction impact area. Assessment of rehabilitation of areas where infrastructure is not remaining after construction of the project will be undertaken to determine suitable ecological communities and other factors in returning the cultural landscape as close to its current state as feasible • procedures for managing the unexpected discovery of Aboriginal objects, sites and/or human ancestral remains during the project • procedures for the curation and long-term management of cultural materials recovered or relocated as part of the works outlined in the ACHMP and any preceding stages associated with the project • processes for reviewing, monitoring, and updating the ACHMP as the project progresses • procedures for the long-term management of cultural materials that remain within the operational impact area following construction activities suitable knowledge transfer procedures for personnel changes between project planning and delivery to minimise loss or mistranslation of the intent of the information, findings and future steps for heritage management.	Detailed design Construction	Project impact area, and all identified Aboriginal objects, sites and deposits identified in the ACHA that will be adversely impacted by the project

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
AH02	Aboriginal objects outside the project impact area	Additional assessment will occur in accordance with the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (2010a) for areas where ground disturbing activities are required in locations outside of the previously assessed area. Where required, additional heritage surveys will be carried out with the RAPs prior to ground disturbing activities occurring in any such areas (including areas where only visual inspection has been undertaken). If no Aboriginal objects are found or if Aboriginal objects are found and they would not be impacted, then a letter report will be prepared by an archaeologist that documents the findings and gives clearance to proceed.	Construction Operation	Activities outside of the project impact area
AH03	Aboriginal objects of high significance	Direct and indirect impacts to all highly significant identified Aboriginal objects and sites and their immediate environment (at least 55 m) within and in the vicinity of the project impact area will be avoided.	Detailed design Construction Operation	• DEEP CK MOTHER SWA (rock shelter) • Flat Rock lookout HTP-C-CP01 (cultural place) • HTP-C-CVM08 (cultural place) • HTP-C-GG03 (grinding groove) • HTP-C-GG05 (grinding groove) • Identified significant sites outside the impact area referenced in Table G.2 of *Technical Report 2 – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment*
AH04	Impact avoidance and minimisation	The project will investigate the micro-siting of project infrastructure and optimisation of construction activities in consultation with an Aboriginal heritage specialist to avoid or minimise impacts to all identified Aboriginal objects and sites within the project impact area. Some guiding principles for consideration of avoidance of Aboriginal sites and objects during construction of the project include (but are not limited to): • incorporation of the sites, cultural deposits, curtilages, and obligations for their protection into cultural inductions for the construction workforce • establishment of fencing and/or signage during works in and around identified sites and cultural deposits, which will be implemented in consultation with an Aboriginal heritage specialist and/or RAPs • where necessary, establishment of surface protection such as heavy-duty ground protection mats, or equivalent, which will be implemented in consultation with an Aboriginal heritage specialist and/or RAPs. Any site-specific avoidance measures developed to address this commitment will be integrated into AH01.	Detailed design Construction	All identified Aboriginal sites and objects presented in Table 10.1 of *Technical Report 2 – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment*

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
AH05	Cultural heritage management	Prior to construction impact, archaeological test excavations will be carried out in areas where ground disturbance to areas of high cultural significance would occur during construction on the remaining sites noted in section 9.3 of the ACHA. Test excavations will adopt approaches and methods outlined in the ACHA.	Detailed design	Areas of high cultural significance, including areas predicted to contain Warkworth Sand system deposits
AH06	Cultural heritage management	A cultural values mitigation strategy will be developed in consultation with the Awabakal Elders and key knowledge-holders who participated in the cultural values mapping study for the project. This will be undertaken to explore mitigations for the perceived social and cultural impacts to important viewlines and viewscapes between major promontories in HTP Central, and localised cultural landscapes at Trig Road, Flat Rock, Dora Creek and the Dora pinnacles. The strategy will include, but not be limited to: • implementation of Aboriginal-led cultural inductions throughout the project impact area • support for cultural monitoring of development activities through the Trig Road cultural landscape, Flat Rock cultural landscape, and within 200 m of the Dora pinnacles and Dora Creek. This will include approaches and methods for cultural monitors to be able to relay concerns to the project for consideration and subsequent management • support for an Aboriginal-led research program to investigate cultural areas of interest and associated Aboriginal sites and places at Trig Road cultural landscape and Flat Rock cultural landscape. This will include but not be limited to: HTP-C-RS14 (#45-3-5-5013), Corrabare State Forest Road 2 (#45-3-3582), Corrabare State Forest Western Side of Langans Rd SWA (#45-3-3583), and Corrabare (#45-3-2140)	Construction	Flat Rock cultural landscape, Trig Road cultural landscape, Dora Creek, Dora pinnacles
AH07	Cultural heritage management	Where possible, the clearing of vegetation between significant cultural viewing locations and the project impact area will be minimised in discussion with Awabakal Traditional Owners. Where practicable, any intervening vegetation will be protected to reduce the potential for views of the project from Flat Rock lookout, including the view from the top of the rock as well as the setting and access track.	Detailed design Construction	Flat Rock Lookout (HTP-C-CP01 [#45-3-5003]) Other important cultural viewlines and viewscapes, including but not limited to SL5 and SL8
AH08	Cultural heritage management	Where practicable, project elements will be positioned to maximise the distance from and/or minimise their visibility within culturally important view-lines, notably SL5, in consultation with the Awabakal Traditional Owners.	Detailed design Construction	Important cultural viewlines and viewscapes, including but not limited to SL5

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
AH09	Heritage interpretation	A heritage interpretation strategy will be developed by a heritage specialist to identify the Aboriginal heritage values throughout the project impact area, and to provide direction for potential interpretive opportunities for the project or off-site (e.g. at Broke, Cessnock or Martinsville). This strategy will be made available for consultation and feedback with the Wonnarua, Awabakal and Darkinjung Traditional Owners. Following consultation and feedback on the strategy, a heritage interpretation plan will refine the strategy with content (visual and textual) and design details in order to allow the implementation of the plan. The interpretation strategy and interpretation plan will be co-designed and closely developed with local Wonnarua, Awabakal and Darkinjung Traditional Owners. This includes identification of initial aims and ideas, content and structure. Content should include, but not be limited to: • the ethnographic and historical record, which includes post contact and contemporary associations with the site and immediate environs • consultation and input from the Wonnarua, Awabakal and Darkinjung Traditional Owners • information obtained from the archaeological excavations and findings undertaken for the project.	Construction Operation	All locations
AH10	Consultation	The Aboriginal community consultation process for this project will continue throughout detailed design and construction.	Detailed design Construction	N/A
AH11	Consultation	A copy of the ACHA and all relevant Aboriginal heritage information management system (AHIMS) site recording forms and information for the project will be lodged with Heritage NSW and provided to each of the RAPs, as relevant.	Detailed design	N/A
AH12	Operation	Following construction of the project, all Aboriginal sites and objects unharmed and/or partially impacted will be subject to a site condition assessment (including mapping and recording in GIS systems) by a heritage specialist in consultation with the RAPs. The site condition assessment will identify management requirements for the future conservation and protection of all documented cultural materials in the context of future operation and maintenance of the operation impact area. This will include consideration of increased access to Aboriginal sites and places as a result of the establishment and maintenance of the transmission easement.	Construction Operation	Project impact area
Landscape character and visual				
LV1	Vegetation retention	Vegetation clearance for the project will be limited to the minimum extent necessary for construction and operation to maximise existing visual screening and retention of the existing landscape character. Retained vegetation will be clearly demarcated on site as 'no-go zones' prior to the commencement of construction. Construction personnel will be made aware of no-go zones as part of environmental site induction(s).	Detailed design Construction Operation	All locations
LV2	Construction lighting	Lighting at construction support sites will be designed and operated in accordance with *AS 4282 2019 Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting.*	Detailed design Construction	Construction support sites
LV3	Visual changes near residences	For private properties assessed as having a moderate or higher visual impact, screening options will be agreed with the landowners. Screening options may include vegetation that will be installed and established by a contractor. Any screening vegetation will be installed in accordance with a plan and specification prepared by a qualified Landscape Architect or designer.	Construction	Private dwellings assessed as having a moderate or higher visual impact

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
LV4	Visual changes near residences	Opportunities will be investigated to reduce the height of the transmission towers visible from those dwellings with a moderate visual impact in the vicinity of Cessnock Road, Broke.	Detailed design	Private dwellings assessed as having a moderate or higher visual impact near Cessnock Road, Broke.
	Cultural heritage management	The clearing of vegetation between significant cultural viewing locations will be managed in accordance with Aboriginal heritage mitigation measure AH7	Detailed design Construction	Flat Rock Lookout (HTP-C-CP01 45-3-5003) Other important cultural viewlines and viewscapes, including but not limited to SL5 and SL8
	Cultural heritage management	The positioning of project elements to minimise their visibility within culturally important view-lines will be managed in accordance with Aboriginal heritage mitigation measure AH8	Detailed design Construction	Important cultural viewlines and viewscapes, including but not limited to SL5

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
Traffic and transport				
TT1	Construction traffic impacts	A traffic management plan (TMP) will be prepared as part of the project environmental management strategy. The TMP will be developed in consultation with the relevant road/rail authorities and will include as a minimum: • confirmation of construction routes • measures to maintain access to local roads and properties • driver safety measures, including a driver code of conduct, requirements for in-vehicle monitoring systems, a driver fatigue management plan and the locations of rest areas along construction routes • site specific traffic control measures (including signage) to manage and regulate traffic movement prepared in consultation with the relevant road authorities and implemented by licenced traffic management contractors • measures to maintain pedestrian and cyclist access • requirements and methods to consult and inform the local community of impacts on the local road network • coordination with TfNSW and councils for road and intersection works and road crossings • coordination with ARTC for rail line crossings • requirements to obtain relevant approvals, including road occupancy licence(s), for any potential works in the road corridor and access by restricted access vehicles or OSOM vehicles required for the project. Where feasible, temporary road closures will be planned to occur outside of the traffic peak periods to minimise impacts to the road network • access to construction sites including entry and exit locations and measures to prevent construction vehicles queueing on public roads • maintenance and safety measures required along access tracks and at access points to construction support sites, including appropriate line marking and signage and wheel cleaning facilities as required • a response plan for any construction traffic incident, or complaints management process • requirements for routine inspections of construction routes • consideration of other developments that may be under construction to minimise cumulative impacts.	Detailed design Construction	Construction routes, access tracks, construction support sites and temporary worker accommodation accesses
TT2	Road and intersection upgrades	Upgrades will be carried out for intersections where turn warrant assessments have determined that works are required for construction vehicles to carry out safe turning movements. Intersections will be upgraded in line with the required works outlined in *Chapter 4 (Project description)*. In addition, safety measures will be implemented as required at intersections assessed as being non-compliant with safe intersection sight distance criteria, including the provision of additional advance warning signs, temporary reductions in speed limits or clearing of vegetation in consultation with the relevant road authority. Safety measures will be implemented in line with the required works outlined in *Chapter 4 (Project description)*.	Construction	Intersections identified as requiring upgrades for turn warrant treatment or safe intersection sight distance
TT3	Intersection performance impacts	Ongoing investigation will be carried out to determine appropriate measures at the New England Highway/Hebden Road intersection to minimise impacts of right turning construction traffic from Hebden Road onto the New England Highway in the AM and PM peaks. Measures to minimise intersection performance impacts as a result of construction traffic will be investigated in consultation with relevant stakeholders.	Detailed design Construction	New England Highway/Hebden Road intersection

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
TT4	Intersection performance impacts	Ongoing investigation will be carried out to determine appropriate measures at the Golden Highway/Range Road intersection to minimise the impacts of through and right turning movements in the AM peak. Measures to minimise intersection performance impacts as a result of construction traffic will be investigated in consultation with relevant stakeholders.	Detailed design Construction	Golden Highway/Range Road intersection
TT5	Road safety – design related	All accesses will be designed to accommodate the required construction vehicle(s) in line with the TTIA and in accordance with relevant Austroads guidelines (where applicable).	Detailed design	Construction routes, access tracks, construction support sites and temporary worker accommodation accesses
TT6	Road condition	Pre-construction road dilapidation surveys and routine inspections will be completed along all nominated construction routes on local roads. Where rectification works are required due to project impacts, consultation with the appropriate road authority will be undertaken to confirm the scope of the work required.	Detailed design Construction	Local roads
TT7	Access to properties	Access to properties will be maintained throughout construction where feasible. Where that is not feasible, temporary alternative access arrangements will be provided following consultation with affected landowners and in accordance with the requirements of the construction communication and engagement plan. Disruptions to property access and traffic will be notified to landowners at least 5 business days prior and in accordance with the relevant community consultation processes outlined in the EMS.	Construction	Construction impact area
TT8	Pedestrian and cyclist access	Ongoing consultation will be carried out with local bicycle groups where available and with Forestry Corporation NSW for walking and biking trails in State forest. Safe pedestrian and cyclist access will be maintained where the project interacts with existing pedestrian or bicycle facilities on public roads. Where this is not feasible, temporary alternative access arrangements will be provided following consultation with affected stakeholders and the relevant roads authority.	Construction	Construction impact area
TT9	OSOM vehicle access	Ongoing consultation will be undertaken with Transport for NSW regarding the use of State roads for OSOM vehicle routes and appropriate permits will be obtained from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator for OSOM movements.	Detailed design Construction	OSOM routes
TT10	Cumulative impact with Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) Continuation Projects	Further analysis and coordination with HVO will be undertaken during detailed design and construction planning regarding works required in the vicinity of Lemington Road and any associated staging/timing to minimise adverse performance and road safety impact on Lemington Road and at its intersections with the New England Highway and Golden Highway.	Detailed design Construction	Lemington Road and surrounding roads near HVO in the northern section of the project impact area
TT11	Cumulative impact of the Mandalong Road upgrade works by Transport for NSW	Further analysis and coordination with Transport for NSW will be undertaken during detailed design and construction planning on the proposed construction activities requiring access on Mandalong Road and associated staging/timing to minimise adverse performance and road safety impacts at the Mandalong Road/Freemans Drive/Wyee Road intersection. Alternative routes will be used should use of this intersection not be possible.	Detailed design Construction	Mandalong Road and surrounding areas in the southern portion of the project impact area

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
Land use and property				
LP1	Direct land use impacts	The design will continue to be refined to minimise potential impacts on existing land use and properties as far as practicable.	Detailed design	All locations
LP2	Property impacts	Property management plans will be developed for directly impacted properties in consultation with the landowner. The property management plans will outline the protocols that will be implemented to address landowner concerns during construction. This will include: • the process for rectification of any damage to property infrastructure caused by construction • the process for rehabilitation and stabilisation of disturbed areas following completion of construction • details of any access tracks or other infrastructure provided for temporary construction activities that are to be retained and not restored to the pre-existing condition (where requested by the landowner prior to the completion of construction) • pre-condition assessments to determine the existing condition of assets, infrastructure, utilities that are considered to be impacted by construction activity • measures to minimise disruption to agricultural or other practices during construction, including identification of: – existing grazing and cropping activities and farm infrastructure arrangements (e.g. Fences, access tracks) within the project impact area – any required adjustments to existing agricultural activities during construction, including adjustments to fencing or access tracks or adjustments to grazing or cropping activities as a result of the location of permanent infrastructure within agricultural land. This will be informed by ongoing consultation with landowners. – noise intensive activities during construction that would overlap with sensitive periods of the livestock production cycle (e.g. Lambing or calving) – vehicle movements and other construction activities in the vicinity of livestock – the need for the movement of livestock away from potential stressors created during construction activities • any fencing and gate requirements • specific biosecurity controls • contact details for the person who will liaise with landowners to provide direct avenues of enquiry for information and issues management.	Detailed design Construction	All locations
LP3	Impacts to utilities and services	The location of all services and utilities within the construction impact area will be confirmed during detailed design, and any required protection or relocation works will be designed in consultation with utility providers and landowners.	Detailed design Construction	All locations
LP4	Indirect impacts on State forests	To minimise impacts to State forests and State forest operations (including recreational uses), the Forestry Corporation of NSW will be consulted on construction methodologies and activities as part of continued design development, and prior to and during construction activities.	Detailed design Construction	• Olney State Forest • Watagan State Forest • Corrabare State Forest • Pokolbin State Forest • Corrabare North Flora Reserve

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
LP5	Indirect impacts on NPWS estate	To minimise disruption to the NPWS estate, EnergyCo will consult with NPWS on construction methodologies and activities as part of continued design development and prior to and during construction activities.	Detailed design Construction	• Jilliby State Conservation Area • Corrabare North Flora Reserve
LP6	Impacts to mine operations	To minimise disruption to mining activities, mine operators will be consulted on construction methodologies and activities as part of continued design development and prior to and during construction activities. This will include consultation relating to: • any adjustments to existing mining-related infrastructure (including fences, tracks, mine roads and access tracks) • the timing and location of construction works, especially where there are some restrictions on vehicle or construction equipment movements • the timing and location of construction works which have the potential to impact mine operations, such as the stringing of transmission lines over existing mine infrastructure or active mining areas.	Detailed design Construction	Mining complexes
LP7	Impacts to mine exploration and risks from mine subsidence	To minimise disruption to mining exploration activities, the Department of Regional NSW – Mining, Exploration and Geoscience, and holders of exploration licenses will continue to be consulted as part of continued design development prior to and during construction. Additionally, to manage risks associated with mine subsidence, the Department of Regional NSW – Mining, Exploration and Geoscience, will continue to be consulted as part of detailed design and throughout construction.	Detailed design Construction	• Mine exploration lease areas • Mine subsidence districts
LP8	Impacts to energy generation or electrical transmission infrastructure	To minimise disruption to energy generators, owners of transmission infrastructure will be consulted on construction methodologies and activities as part of continued design development and prior to and during construction activities.	Detailed design Construction	• Bayswater substation • Eraring substation • Existing transmission infrastructure
LP9	Impacts to road and rail transport corridors	To minimise disruption to road and rail corridors and operations during construction activities (stringing) impacting the M1 Pacific Motorway, and rail corridors, TfNSW and ARTC will be consulted on construction methodologies and activities as part of continued design development and prior to and during construction activities.	Detailed design Construction	Stringing locations
LP10	Land disturbance	Disturbed areas will be stabilised and appropriately reinstated back to pre-construction condition where practical, or as agreed in consultation with the relevant landowner and documented in property management plans.	Construction	All locations
Agriculture				
AG1	Property restrictions	Ongoing consultation will be carried out with impacted agricultural landowners to better understand impacts to agricultural operations and to inform the support to be provided to the landowners. Support provided will include the development of alternative irrigation strategies where current irrigation activities are inhibited.	Detailed design Construction	All locations
AG2	Agricultural resource disturbance	During construction, disturbed areas will be stabilised and appropriately reinstated to their previous condition and use as soon as feasible and reasonable following the completion of construction. This will be carried out in consultation with the relevant landowner.	Construction	All locations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
AG3	Biosecurity impacts during construction	On a regional level, any import of equipment or machinery, including from overseas, will follow the standard procurement safeguards and quarantine procedures as per the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. In addition, a biosecurity management plan will be prepared that includes detailed construction and operational risks and controls in relation to pests, weeds, and diseases applicable to the project. The biosecurity management plan will address: • weed management controls, including inspection and cleaning of vehicles, plant and equipment, and management of earthworks and clearing activities • development of specific controls where high biosecurity risks are identified (e.g. with respect to foot and mouth disease to control any risk of introduction of the pathogen as a result of project activities) • specific controls applicable to properties in consultation with landowners, which will be consistent with property biosecurity plans where they are in place. Agreed protocols will be documented in the biosecurity management plan • a monitoring program to track the effectiveness of the controls identified in the biosecurity management plan • consultation with the owners of organic certified properties to identify the specific risks and controls required to be implemented. The biosecurity management plan will be prepared in consultation with landowners and relevant local council biosecurity officers in relation to the distribution of important weeds and the location of high biosecurity risk areas. In accordance with the requirements of the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* and *Biosecurity Regulation 2017,* the relevant control authority will be notified if new infestations of State priority weeds started because of construction activities.	Construction	All locations
AG4	Biosecurity Impacts during operation	The biosecurity protocols and procedures captured under the network operator's environmental management system will be implemented along the transmission line easement, at substations and switching stations, and along access tracks during operation.	Operation	All locations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
Social				
S01	Social impacts and benefits identified in SIA	A Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) will be developed to outline the proponent's integrated approach to managing social impacts, enhancing benefits, and delivering responsive engagement and communications. The SIMP will: • detail commitments and management measures, specifying the social impacts addressed, affected stakeholders, implementation timeframes, roles and responsibilities • describe how project-specific and regional social changes will be monitored to support adaptive management • provide mechanisms for community and stakeholder input to mitigation planning and evaluation of effectiveness. The SIMP will be implemented and monitored through quarterly data collection where possible to inform adaptive management and continuous improvement. Monitoring outcomes will be shared with the Regional Reference Group and other stakeholder forums as relevant during construction. The proponent will also host annual community surveys to seek feedback on SIMP monitoring. The SIMP will be reviewed annually and updated based on monitoring data and community and stakeholder feedback. This will include assessing the relevance of mitigation measures and identifying any new issues or initiatives requiring inclusion to ensure they meet the residual risk ratings. Review outcomes will be published on the proponent's website.	Detailed design Construction	Corridor Local Regional

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
S02	Social impacts and benefits identified in SIA	A community communication strategy will establish the approaches to facilitating communication between the proponent and the community during construction. The strategy will: • appoint dedicated community liaison officer(s) and ensure they receive adequate training aligned to trauma-informed care principles • ensure key stakeholders - including affected landowners, Hunter businesses, community groups and local government, are proactively informed through regular updates using a range of communications channels • undertake proactive, targeted engagement with impacted stakeholders located near construction support sites and accommodation facilities—including schools, childcare centres, and social services in Millfield, Cooranbong and Martinsville—to develop and implement agreed mitigation measures • undertake consultation with affected schools and childcare facilities and local governments on traffic impacts and management approaches • implement real time traffic monitoring and SMS alerts for local residents • establish a feedback mechanism by which the community can discuss or provide feedback to the proponent, including how the proponent will respond to enquiries or feedback from the community • implement targeted communications regarding visual, noise, and air quality impacts, road changes/closures, and emergency access coordination—ensuring timely notification ahead of disruptions (see also mitigation measures LV1–LV3, NV1, AQ1–AQ3, and TT1) • provide clear, accessible information on EMF, fire safety, and associated risk reduction measures to address community concerns • offer 24/7 access to psychological services and tailored mental health support programs, with targeted confidential counselling for directly affected landowners • continue adaptive engagement with Traditional Owners, maintaining agreed governance arrangements and supporting ongoing cultural monitoring through planning and construction (see also mitigation measure AH1) • engage with affected tourism and recreation operators to minimise disruptions and support continuity of operations • set out a framework to develop a community notification processes in consultation with Forestry Corporation of NSW and councils during construction.	Detailed design Construction	Corridor Local Regional
S03	Decision making systems, way of life, community, accessibility, livelihoods, health and well being, culture	A complaints management system will be maintained throughout the construction period and for a minimum of 12 months after the completion of construction. The complaints management system will include the following (at a minimum): • contact details for a 24-hour response line and email address for ongoing stakeholder contact throughout the project • details of complaints received will be recorded • verbal and written responses describing what action will be taken will be provided to the complainant (or as otherwise agreed by the complainant).	Detailed design Construction	Corridor Local Regional

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
S04	Decision making systems, way of life, community, livelihoods, health and well being	A landowner engagement strategy will be developed and implemented for the project and will include: • appointing a dedicated land acquisition manager to oversee implementation of the strategy • ensuring all land and property access and community liaison personnel are trained in community and stakeholder engagement and trauma-informed care to support interactions with vulnerable individuals, including those with chronic illness, disability, or mental health conditions. Property management plans will also be implemented to complement the landowner engagement strategy These will be customised to address landowner concerns and property-specific needs, with a focus on respect for landowner values and expectations, co-existence principles, biosecurity, and permissible land uses (see LP2 in *Chapter 12 (Land use and property)*)	Detailed design Construction	Corridor Local
S05	Community, livelihoods	A local business and employment strategy will be prepared and implemented, reflecting EnergyCo's Hunter-first commitments to the local community. It will include the following initiatives: • identify local skills gaps and workforce skills and training requirements • set targets for local employment in line with the *NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan* (NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change 2022) • set diversity and inclusion targets that align with the *NSW Procurement Board Direction PBD 2023-01 Skills, Training, and diversity in construction* (NSW Treasury 2023) • education and training partnerships, including with TAFE NSW and local high schools and the upcoming Cessnock Education Precinct to support energy transition career pathways • support tailored training and upskilling programs for residents, with a targeted focus on young people, Aboriginal people, candidates seeking career transition from existing local industries, and older people • providing full, fair, and reasonable access to Australian, regional and local suppliers, and including commitments to an ongoing program of engagement with regional suppliers and contractors • investment in retraining and upskilling pathways for workers transitioning into renewable energy industries (e.g. technicians, infrastructure specialists) • maintaining a local and regional supplier database to increase promotion and access to project opportunities • prioritising local procurement and contractor engagement, with clear targets for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) linked to *NSW Procurement Board Direction PBD-2023-03 Procurement opportunities for small and medium businesses* (NSW Treasury 2023) and the *Small and Medium Enterprise and Regional Procurement Policy* (Buy NSW 2021) • partnering with Business Hunter and Local Chambers of Commerce to promote procurement opportunities • outlining mechanisms to monitor cumulative competition and changes to community access to key goods and services that may be affected by the project's local procurement activities • delivery of workforce initiatives focused on Aboriginal employment pathways and contractor engagement.	Detailed design Construction	Local Regional

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
S06	Community, livelihoods	An industry and Aboriginal participation plan, outlining tailored strategies to strengthen Aboriginal business participation, will be prepared and implemented and will include: • 'meet-the-contractor' events for local and Aboriginal businesses to learn about potential opportunities associated with project delivery • supply chain mapping, with a focus on identifying goods and services suitable for local sourcing (e.g. select civil works, catering, cleaning, transport) and identifying the capacity of local and Aboriginal business to be ready for additional demand • Aboriginal procurement commitments of 2.5% with a stretch goal of up to 10% in line with the *NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan* (NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change 2022) • set targets for local procurement in line with the *NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan* (NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change 2022) • monitoring of the availability and price of goods and services in the community that are locally procured. This plan will be developed in consultation with local business representatives including Traditional Owners and local Aboriginal business representatives.	Detailed design Construction	Local Regional
S07	Way of life, community, livelihoods, health and well being	A temporary worker accommodation management plan(s) will be developed prior to construction to address requirements set out in the *NSW Guideline for Construction Workers Accommodation* (May 2025), and informed by consultation with neighbours, councils, health and emergency service stakeholders. It will include: • contemporary analysis of local accommodation capacity in key localities including consideration of updated workforce estimates • a code of conduct for workers, which will include a zero-tolerance policy relating to anti-social behavior, health and safety, environmental management, community engagement and cultural awareness raising • measures to support workforce well-being and integration with the local community (e.g., internet access, promotion of participation in local events, healthy food options, wellbeing and safety programs) • dedicated health, paramedic, catering, and recreational services • specific measures to support community cohesion and safety at nearby communities including Cooranbong, Martinsville, and the Lake Liddell Recreation Reserve • security protocols for each accommodation facility. The plan will be reviewed on a 6-monthly basis to monitor effectiveness of management commitments and to address emerging or unanticipated impacts.	Detailed design Construction	Corridor Local
Historic heritage				
HH1	Historic heritage management	An HHMP will be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced heritage specialist to provide the post-approval framework for managing archaeological mitigation and historical heritage within the project impact area. The HHMP will include as a minimum: • measures that will be implemented to manage potential impacts on listed heritage items and sites with historical heritage value • inclusion of heritage awareness and management training within the site induction process for relevant personnel involved in site works • identify heritage sites that will be subject to archival recording • details of the management of any historic heritage artefacts recovered during construction.	Detailed design Construction	Project impact area, and all identified heritage items that will be adversely impacted by the project

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
HH2	Impacts to heritage curtilage	Prior to construction activities near the heritage item, an exclusion barrier (e.g. fence or suitable alternative) will be installed at the curtilage of heritage items and sites where works will be in the vicinity to reduce the risk of unintentional impacts to heritage values. Where works enter the curtilage of an item or site: • any significant elements of the heritage item or site will be fenced off, preferably with a minimum of a 5 m buffer, where possible • where not possible, the area of works will be fenced off from the remaining part of the item or site curtilage • the barrier will be maintained for the duration of construction.	Detailed design Construction	• Blacksmith's shop and forge - Vere township • Unidentified site - Vere township • Vere school and Second Range Warden's Residence • Oakley Estate (Location 1) • Warringah Stud/Old Myrtle • Stafford homestead and Clifford' homestead • Archerfield and outbuildings • Catholic Church and Cemetery
HH3	Impacts to heritage curtilage	The construction impact area at tower pad areas will be remediated at the end of construction to minimise impacts to setting of the heritage curtilage.	Construction	• Belmont • Beer Homestead • 'Stafford' homestead and 'Clifford' homestead • Eraring Power Station • Stone house, timber slab barn and fencing
HH4	Ground disturbance at archaeological areas	Where possible, ground disturbance will be avoided within these site curtilages. Alternatives to ground disturbance for access track upgrades may include laying of protective materials, such as thick plastic and geofabric, over the ground surface followed by a layer of gravel. Materials for the upgrade of the access track can be deposited on top of this protective layer.	Detailed design Construction	• Blacksmith's shop and forge - Vere township • Unidentified site - Vere township • Vere school and Second Range Warden's Residence
HH5	Changes to settings of item or heritage site	A review of visual impacts may be required once the final tower locations are known.	Detailed design	• Oakley Estate • Stafford homestead and Clifford' homestead

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
HH6	Changes to settings of item or heritage site	Minimise tree removal in the laydown area at Crump Street.	Construction	• Millfield General Cemetery
HH7	Disturbance or destruction of unexpected items of potential heritage significance, relics or human remains	Any items of potential heritage significance or human remains discovered during construction will be managed in accordance with an unexpected finds procedure. Work in the vicinity of the find will stop if objects such as bonded bricks, timber or stones appearing in formation indicating a wall or floor for instance are found, or if soil with artefacts concentrations, is excavated. A description of the types of finds that will stop works within the vicinity of the finds will be determined prior to construction as part of the HHMP and staff involved in excavation work will be informed about how to apply it. The unexpected finds procedure will include actions such as: • stop work procedures and exclusion buffers • using the advice of a technical specialist • consultation with Heritage NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Heritage NSW) • protocols for continuing work in the area after assessment.	Detailed design Construction	• Blacksmith's shop and forge - Vere township • Unidentified site - Vere township • Vere school and Second Range Warden's Residence • Oakley Estate (Location 1) • Warringah Stud/Old Myrtle • Belmont • Beer Homestead • 'Stafford' homestead and 'Clifford' homestead • Brick farmhouse • Archerfield and outbuildings • Eraring Power Station
HH8	Potential disturbance or destruction of known items of potential heritage significance, relics or human remains	Should it not be possible to avoid ground disturbance, archaeological monitoring of any ground disturbing works will be prepared at sites of archaeological potential. An archaeological method statement (AMS) will be prepared for the proposed works, in accordance with the HHMP.	Detailed design Construction	• Blacksmith's shop and forge - Vere township • Unidentified site - Vere township • Vere school and Second Range Warden's Residence
HH9	Confirmed destruction of known items of heritage significance, relics or human remains	Direct impacts to the Wishing Well are unavoidable due to access track upgrades to Martinsville Hill Road. The Wishing Well will be subject to archaeological excavation and recording to ensure that a record is made prior to its demolition. An AMS will be prepared for these works. A commemorative plaque will be installed in a location as close as possible/practicable to the water source of the Wishing Well, which will be determined through further consultation with NPWS, Forestry Corporation of NSW and Heritage NSW. Continue consultation regarding engineering solutions for maintaining access to the water source post-construction.	Detailed design Construction	• Wishing Well
Noise and vibration				

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
NV1	General noise and vibration	A Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (CNVMP) will be prepared to provide the framework and mechanisms for the management and mitigation of all potential noise and vibration construction impacts from the project. The CNVMP will include: • confirmation of nearby sensitive receivers • confirmation of work, construction equipment and hours of work will be completed and quantify resulting impacts at sensitive receivers. • criteria for the project and approval conditions • procedures and mitigation measures for potential impacts during out-of-hours work • requirements for noise and vibration monitoring • details of how community consultation in relation to noise and vibration will be completed • procedures for handling complaints • details on how respite will be applied where ongoing high impacts are expected at certain receivers.	Detailed design Construction	Project impact area and sensitive receivers
NV2	Prolonged construction noise impact from fixed work areas	Noise path control, such as hoarding or earth bunds will be investigated and implemented where required. Positioning of site structures will be considered to act as barriers between noisy work and receivers where practical.	Detailed design Construction	Construction support sites, laydown areas, substations and switching sites where receivers are predicted to be noise affected and near fixed work areas with long work durations
NV3	Out of hours construction works	Construction of the project will be carried out during standard construction hours where possible (Monday to Friday between 7.00 am and 6.00pm and Saturday between 8.00am and 1.00pm). An out of hours (OOH) work protocol that details how the project will identify, assess and approve out of hours work outside standard construction hours will be developed and implemented. The protocol will include provisions to: • carry out additional assessments for work proposed outside standard construction hours, to confirm noise levels at potentially affected sensitive receivers and determine suitable mitigation measures to minimise noise levels • notify and engage with potentially noise affected receivers about upcoming work outside standard construction hours and address any associated complaints. • identify appropriate respite for noise affected receivers (where required).	Detailed design Construction	Stringing transmission lines across main roads (M1 Pacific Motorway, Wollombi Road, Cessnock Road, Putty Road) Other works that may need to be conducted out of standard construction hours

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
NV4	Construction noise impacts	Where construction is likely to result in exceedances of NMLs at sensitive receivers, mitigation and management measures will be implemented where practicable and appropriate. This will include (but is not limited to) the following measures: • select quieter plant and equipment and use alternative construction methods to minimise noise levels • plan and schedule concurrent noisy activities to minimise the number of items of noisy plant operating at one time and cumulative noise levels • install screens or use barriers to mitigate noise from stationary noise sources • maximise the offset distance between noisy plant and sensitive receivers • orient noisy plant and equipment away from sensitive receivers • use noise source controls, such as residential class mufflers, to reduce noise from all regularly used plant including cranes, excavators and trucks • use non-tonal reversing alarms in place of traditional beeper reversing alarms during OOH where noise impacts are predicted • turn off machinery when not in use • confirm equipment is maintained in accordance with manufacture's requirements to minimise generation of excessive noise • operate machinery in a manner which reduces occurrence of maximum noise level events, such as excavator bucket impacts, material drop heights, steel on steel impacts and dragging materials across hard surfaces • provide awareness training regarding noise mitigation measures to be implemented as part of regular toolbox meetings • notify and consult with potentially noise affected receivers about upcoming noisy activities • Confirm that noise affected receivers outside standard construction hours and highly noise affected sensitive receivers are managed with consideration to the CNVG5 additional mitigation measures such as notifications, verification, and respite where appropriate	Construction	All locations where exceedances of the applicable construction noise criteria are predicted at sensitive receivers
NV5	Construction noise validation	Monitoring will be carried out at representative locations during noise intensive activities that have the potential to cause noise exceedances at sensitive receivers, to confirm that actual levels are consistent with the predictions and that appropriate mitigation measures have been implemented.	Construction	All locations where exceedances of the applicable construction noise criteria are predicted at sensitive receivers
NV6	Noise levels from construction traffic	All construction vehicle movements will adhere to the following measures: • OOH vehicle movements will be minimised where possible • construction delivery vehicles will be fitted with straps rather than chains for unloading, wherever possible • use of engine compression brakes will be avoided at night and in residential areas • site access points and access tracks will be located as far as practical away from sensitive receivers • traffic flow, parking and loading/unloading areas will be planned to minimise reversing movements • construction inductions will include driver behaviour requirements to minimise vehicle noise emissions.	Construction	Construction routes and access tracks

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
NV7	Vibration	Where vibration intensive work is required within the recommended minimum working distances and is considered likely to exceed the cosmetic damage criteria: • different construction methods with lower source vibration levels will be investigated and implemented, where feasible • confirm any vibration-sensitive heritage structure that could be impacted by the proposed works including confirming the structural integrity of the structure and applying appropriate vibration criteria • vibration monitoring will be undertaken at the start of work to determine actual vibration levels at the receiver • work will be ceased if the monitoring indicates vibration levels are likely to, or do, exceed the relevant criteria • direct and indirect impacts to all identified aboriginal objects and sites of high significance and their immediate environment (≥55 m) within the project impact area will be avoided	Construction	All locations
NV8	Construction aircraft noise	Management measures will be implemented to minimise aircraft noise at sensitive receivers where practicable and appropriate, including: • notifying nearby sensitive receivers of upcoming work involving aircraft. This will include use of helipads within construction support sites, flight paths outside of the project impact area and stringing or other work within the HTP corridor. Notification will include scheduled dates, locations, indicative hours and a description of the proposed work • prioritising use of helipad locations at the construction support sites with the maximum distance offset from sensitive receivers (Hebden Road and Pikes Gully Road support sites) • varying flight paths between helipads and the HTP corridor to avoid repeated helicopter noise at sensitive receivers. • operating aircraft in accordance with Airservices Australia *Environmental Principles and Procedures for Minimising the Impact of Aircraft Noise* (2002) and the Helicopter Association International (HAI) Fly Neighbourly Guide.	Construction	HTP corridor and construction support sites
NV9	Operational transmission line noise	Operational transmission line noise impacts will be reviewed during detailed design, once the transmission tower and line placement, conductor arrangement and any property acquisitions are known. For each residence where potential operational noise levels are predicted to exceed the PNTL, noise monitoring to confirm actual operational noise levels will be carried out at representative locations following commencement of project operation. The noise monitoring will occur during representative L50 weather/atmospheric conditions conducive to generating 'worst case' noise from corona discharge. For residences where the monitoring identifies corona discharge levels above PNTLs, consultation will be undertaken with the landowner of the affected residence to identify solutions. Once the appropriate solutions have been agreed with the landowner, these will be implemented as soon as reasonably practical.	Detailed design Operation	All locations
NV10	Operational switching station and substation noise	Operational switching station and substation noise impacts will be reviewed during detailed design. The design will consider the following measures with a view to minimising noise impacts: • selection of equipment with consideration of operating sound power levels, where feasible • incorporation of transformer barriers where reasonable and feasible.	Detailed design Operation	Bayswater South and Olney switching stations Eraring substation
Surface water				

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
SW1	Impacts to surface water	A project specific Soil and Water Management Plan (SWMP) will be prepared, which provides mitigation measures to minimise impacts on soils and water. The SWMP will be prepared in accordance with the management approach outlined in *Chapter 8 (Management)* of *Technical Report 10 (Surface water impact assessment)* and will: • identify foreseeable risks relating to soil erosion and water pollution during construction and describe how these risks will be managed • include a description of soil and water management approaches, methods for impact assessment and monitoring, and mitigation measures • include ESCPs • include surface water quality monitoring requirements • include stormwater management plans At the completion of construction, appropriate measures will be carried into the network operator's Environmental Management System.	Detailed design Construction	All locations
SW2	Water quality and geomorphology	Scour protection will be considered for any infrastructure within a watercourse. Design will incorporate features that minimise impact on flow conditions and natural function of the watercourse, where feasible and reasonable. Works within or near watercourses will consider and adhere to the following guidelines: • *Controlled activities - Guidelines for watercourse crossings on waterfront land* (DPE 2022b) • *Controlled activities - Guidelines for instream works on waterfront land* (DPE 2022c) • *Why Do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Watercourse Crossings* (DPI 2003) • *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management* (DPI 2013).	Detailed design Construction	All locations
SW3	Erosion and sedimentation	Erosion and sediment control plans (ESCPs) will be developed, prior to construction, and implemented in consultation with a Certified Professional in erosion and sediment control for all disturbance activities. ESCPs will include additional considerations for areas of high risk (e.g. high slopes) and located upstream of sensitive biodiversity areas (i.e. State forest areas) including at Olney switching station. The plans will detail the processes, responsibilities and measures to manage potential soil and water quality impacts in accordance with the principles and requirements in: • Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction, Volume 1 (Landcom 2004), Volume 2A (DECC 2008a) and 2C (DECC 2008b), commonly referred to as the 'Blue Book' • Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (IECA 2008) • Guidelines for controlled activities (Riparian corridors (DPE Water 2022a) and Watercourse crossings (DPE Water 2022b).	Detailed design Construction	All locations
SW4	Water quality monitoring	As part of a soil and water management plan (SWMP), a water quality monitoring program will be developed and implemented to establish baseline water quality conditions in watercourses of high sensitivity that may be impacted by nearby construction and to detect changes in water quality that may be attributable to the project during construction. The frequency, location and duration of sampling will be detailed in a monitoring program. Monitoring will: • be positioned upstream and downstream of project disturbance areas, focusing on locations with sensitive receiving environments. Where upstream and downstream monitoring is not possible, pre-construction water quality conditions will be established through baseline monitoring • be carried out in accordance with water quality objectives and criteria for the project and in accordance with Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC 2000).	Detailed design Construction	All locations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
SW5	Stormwater management – general	General stormwater management principles within the project impact area will include: • appropriate siting of proposed infrastructure within the project impact area, which will minimise (and avoid where possible) disturbance to existing drainage lines, riparian vegetation and overland flow paths • grading of earthworks to minimise changes to existing catchments and flow paths • surface drainage infrastructure that diverts upslope runoff around infrastructure and excavations to receiving drainage lines • infrastructure areas that contain oil and/or grease will include suitable containment measures • scour protection will be considered downstream of areas that increase runoff into receiving watercourses • consideration of appropriate water quality and stormwater controls (for ancillary areas) upstream of sensitive receiving environments, such as at Olney switching station.	Detailed design Construction	All locations
SW6	Stormwater management – concrete batching plants	Stormwater management measures for concrete batching plants (both mobile and temporary) will include: • the separation of clean and potentially contaminated runoff by a bunded cementitious areas • the collection of first flush runoff from cementitious areas • offsite disposal of contaminated water not suitable for reuse to a licenced waste facility.	Detailed design Construction	All locations
SW7	Stormwater management – excavations	Stormwater management measures for excavations (particularly for transmission towers) will include bunding around excavations to prevent runoff into excavations.	Detailed design Construction	Excavations
SW8	Stormwater management – spoil	Runoff from spoil piles, topsoil stockpiles and other excavated material will be managed through: • minimising the number of stockpiles, stockpile areas and the time they are exposed • locating stockpiles away from drainage lines and natural watercourses and from where they will be susceptible to erosion • bunding stockpiles in accordance with Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction, Volume 1, 4th Edition (Landcom 2004) • stabilising stockpiles, establishing sediment controls and suppressing dust as required.	Detailed design Construction	All locations
SW9	Water supply	Water supply management will be undertaken in accordance with agreements between the construction contractors, relevant landowners and relevant water users and suppliers. Groundwater and surface water allocations purchased from existing registered bores/users must be extracted in accordance with the conditions stated in the associated water access license(s) and water supply works approval(s).	Prior to and during construction	Water extraction locations
SW10	Dewatering	In the event that dewatering is required: • the management of discharge water will be documented in the SWMP and will consider options for containment, reuse, application to grassed areas and transport to licensed waste facilities. In the event that discharge water is discharged to grassed areas: • application will be limited to grassed areas within the project impact area, away from watercourses. If the discharge water if highly turbid, dewatering through a filter sock (or similar) or via transportable sedimentation tanks will be considered, where appropriate, to minimise sedimentation.	Detailed design Construction	Excavations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
SW11	Construction impact area – clearance (general)	Clearance practices will include: • immediate laying of mulch where ground disturbance has occurred (except in riparian corridors) • stabilisation of mulch where mobilisation by wind or runoff is possible • management of mulching activities and stockpiles to minimise tannin production and avoid discharge to watercourses • ground stabilisation using felled vegetation placed across the slope to minimise the concentration of flows, especially upstream of riparian corridors.	Construction	All locations
SW12	Construction impact area – clearance (riparian buffer areas)	Riparian buffer areas include 5 m from the top of bank of any mapped or unmapped watercourse. Clearance practices in riparian buffer areas will include: • hand clearing methods that minimise ground disturbance and disturbance of the understorey • no placement of mulch (and measures to avoid the transport of mulch into watercourses) • stabilisation of the watercourse bed and banks will be installed as soon as practical, where disturbance to the understorey or ground has occurred. Where vegetation clearance is oblique or parallel to the watercourse (i.e. not perpendicular), stabilisation works with minimal impact will be designed prior to disturbance and installed as soon as practical.	Construction	Riparian corridors
-	Hazardous chemicals	Store chemicals, fuels and other hazardous substances in accordance with Mitigation Measure DG1, DG2, DG3 and DG4.	Construction Operation	All locations
Groundwater				
GW1	Damage and/or removal of existing landholder bores	Bores within the construction impact area will be clearly demarcated to protect the infrastructure from accidental damage. In the instance that accidental damage does occur, make good provisions will apply in accordance with the minimal impact criteria listed in the AIP. This will likely include replacement of a bore in a similar nearby location in consultation with landowners.	Construction	Construction impact area
GW2	Lowering of groundwater levels	All groundwater allocations will be extracted in accordance with the conditions of project approval and where required, associated water access licence(s). Where groundwater is encountered during excavations, any dewatered volumes will be recorded and managed in accordance with the requirements of the WM Act, WM Regulation and project consent conditions.	Construction	In locations of incidental groundwater take
Flooding				
FL1	Risk of flooding to construction support sites	Detailed construction planning will consider flood risk at construction support sites, including: • reviewing construction site layouts and staging construction activities in order to avoid or minimise obstruction of overland flow paths and limiting the extent of flow diversion required • designing the layout of construction ancillary facilities and implementing stormwater management controls during their establishment in order to manage the impact of flooding on construction personnel, equipment and materials • identifying and applying measures to not worsen flood impacts on the community and on other property and infrastructure during construction up to and including the 1% AEP event where reasonable and feasible. Where warranted by the scale and nature of the proposed works this will include flood modelling and assessment to assess the extent of potential impacts and therefore the scope of mitigation measures that may be required • measures to mitigate alterations to local runoff conditions due to construction activities.	Detailed design Construction	All locations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
FL2	Risk of flooding to stockpiles	Spoil stockpiles will be located in areas that are not subject to frequent inundation by floodwater, ideally outside the 10% AEP flood extent. The level of flood risk accepted at stockpile sites will depend on the duration of stockpiling operations, the type of material stored, the nature of the receiving drainage lines and also the extent to which it would impact flooding conditions in adjacent development.	Detailed design Construction	All locations
FL3	Flood risks during construction	Construction ancillary facilities (including temporary worker accommodation, workshops and staff facilities) will be located to manage the risk of construction personnel and machinery being exposed to hazardous flooding conditions during floods up to 1% AEP in magnitude based on the flood hazard vulnerability thresholds set out in *Flood Risk Management Guideline FB03 – Flood Hazard* (DPE, 2023).	Detailed design Construction	All locations
FL4	Flood risks during construction	Flood emergency management measures for construction of the project will be prepared and incorporated into relevant environmental and/or safety management documentation. This will include: • contingency planning for construction ancillary facilities that are located in areas that are inundated by mainstream flooding or major overland flow during a 1% AEP event • for construction facilities located within the floodplain (i.e. within the PMF extent) the identification of how flood related risks to personal safety and damage to construction facilities and equipment will be managed • procedures to monitor accurate and timely weather data and disseminate warnings to construction personnel of impending flood producing rain.	Detailed design Construction	All locations
FL5	Impact on existing flood behaviour	The impact of the project on flood behaviour will be confirmed during detailed design. This will include consideration of future climate change.	Detailed design	All locations
FL6	Impact on existing flood behaviour	The project will be designed to minimise changes in the frequency, depth, velocity and duration of inundation that would lead to adverse flood related impacts on: • surrounding development for storms up to 1% AEP in intensity • critical infrastructure, vulnerable development or increases in risk to life due to a significant increase in flood hazard for floods up to the PMF.	Detailed design	All locations
FL7	Impact on existing flood behaviour	The substation upgrades extension and new switching stations will be designed to manage adverse impacts on the receiving drainage lines as a result of changes in the depth, velocity, extent and duration of flow during storms up to 1% AEP event in intensity.	Detailed design	Substations and switching stations
FL8	Impact on existing flood behaviour	The impact of the Eraring substation extension on flood behaviour at the existing Eraring Power Station will be confirmed during detailed design. Consultation will continue to be carried out with Origin Energy to confirm the effect that any residual flood impacts could have on the operation of the Eraring Power Station for all floods up to the PMF, and to inform the scope of mitigation measures that may be required.	Detailed design	Eraring substation extension
FL9	Impact on existing flood behaviour	The substation and switching stations, including their access road connections to existing roads, will be designed to ensure that the existing level of flood immunity of the road network is maintained and increases in flood depths and hazards along the road network are minimised.	Detailed design	Substations and switching stations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
FL10	Impact on existing flood behaviour	Localised increases in flow velocities around transmission line towers, at drainage outlets from the substation and switching stations, and at watercourse crossings along access tracks will be mitigated through the provision of scour protection and energy dissipation measures.	Detailed design	All locations
FL11	Flooding impacts at transmission corridor	Transmission towers located on the floodplain (i.e. within the PMF extent) will be designed to manage the risk of failure of the transmission line network due to damage from flooding.	Detailed design	HTP corridor
FL12	Flood impacts at access tracks	Drainage control measures will be incorporated into the upgraded access tracks and new access tracks to manage runoff and the impact it could have on scour to the tracks and surrounding areas. These drainage control measures will be implemented in accordance with the following guidelines: • *Guidelines for the Planning, Construction and Maintenance of Tracks* (Department of Land & Water Conservation, 1994) • *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction – Volume 2C Unsealed Roads* (Department of Environment and Climate Change, 2008c). Scour protection will be provided to manage localised increases in flow velocities upstream and downstream of watercourse crossings along the upgraded or new access tracks, while the access tracks will be lined or stabilised where required to manage scour of the track and the impact this could have on the displacement of sediment into the downstream watercourse.	Detailed design Construction	Upgraded or new access tracks
FL13	Flood impacts at road and intersection upgrades	Further flood modelling will be undertaken during detailed design to assess the impact that road and intersection upgrades will have on flood behaviour. During detailed design, detailed 3-dimensional layouts of the proposed road and intersection upgrades will be developed, which will be used to inform the layout of the associated drainage measures that are aimed at controlling external catchment runoff. The detailed 3-dimensional layouts of the proposed road and intersection upgrades will also be used to undertake an assessment of the impact that the proposed works would have on flooding patterns and to identify the scope of additional drainage measures that would be required to manage any resulting adverse impacts due to changes in the depth, velocity and duration of inundation external to the road corridor.	Detailed design	Road and intersection upgrades
Soils and contamination				
SL1	Erosion and sedimentation	Undertake field assessment and laboratory testing of representative soils subject to disturbance to refine soil management and erosion and sediment control measures. A soil ground truthing program should be prepared to select representative soils and a suitable laboratory testing suite, as determined by a suitably qualified environmental consultant based on a review of the regional data presented in this report and the outcomes of site inspections. The program should cover the entire project impact area, but focus on high risk areas identified within this report (i.e. high erosion risk, mapped acid sulfate soil risk areas, regionally mapped BSAL). The program should consist of a minimum of 1 site per transmission tower, multiple sites for infrastructure areas where ground disturbance is of higher impact, and 1 site per 500m for new tracks, should be included in the program, however this should be informed by landform, risk assessment and site observations and more sites may be required.	Detailed design Construction	All locations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
SL2	Disturbance of sodic soils	Implement additional measures if sodic soils are identified in SMU 2 and would be subject to ground disturbance and/or where sodic soils are stockpiled. This is anticipated to be primarily in the localities of Bayswater, Broke and Mount Thorley and may include applying gypsum as an ameliorant to displace the sodium and provide the soil with a stronger aggregate and hold structure when wet.	Detailed design Construction	Areas mapped as SMU 2
SL3	Rehabilitation of disturbed areas	A Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP) will be prepared as part of the project's environmental management system. The RMP will detail all aspects of returning construction areas to a safe, erosionally stable and non-polluting landform consistent with surrounding terrain and land uses. The detailed Rehabilitation Plan will include a Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) that addresses erosion and soil risks during construction rehabilitation, as per Table 16 of *Technical Report 9 - Soils and land impact assessment*.	Detailed design Construction	All locations
SL4	Rehabilitation of disturbed areas	Areas of disturbed soil will be rehabilitated promptly and progressively during construction to minimise the risk of erosion and sedimentation occurring.	Construction	All locations
SL5	Rehabilitation of disturbed areas	Temporary erosion and sediment control measures will be put in place for high risk areas (i.e. high erosion risk, mapped acid sulfate soil risk areas, regionally mapped BSAL) until a time rehabilitation objectives (as outlined in the RMP) and sufficient groundcover has been achieved.	Detailed design Construction	Areas of high erosion risk, mapped acid sulfate soils risk areas and regionally mapped BSAL
SL6	Erosion and sedimentation during operation	Limit additional soil disturbance during operation by restricting traffic to formed access tracks and roads.	Operation	All locations
SL7	Erosion and sedimentation during operation	Standard erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented to minimise the potential for erosion within areas to be accessed during operation. These measures will be developed on a case-by-case basis and are likely to include measures such as sediment fencing, localised sediment traps, and progressive stabilisation with vegetation.	Operation	All locations
C1	Contamination exposure (human health and/or the environment)	Develop a Contamination Management Plan that: • includes measures to avoid or minimise disturbance to areas of medium to high risk of contamination where possible • ensures that prior to construction, areas of medium to high contamination risk are tested to confirm the presence/absence of contaminants of concern • includes an unexpected finds protocol to manage the discovery of previously unidentified contaminated material (including acid sulfate soils, naturally occurring asbestos and the discovery of high carbon material within mining complexes outside of areas indicated by mine operators where this occurs). Investigation and management of contamination a will be carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation, standards and guidelines, including but not limited to the *National Environment Protection (Assessment of Contamination) Measure 1999*, as amended 2013, and all relevant guidelines made or approved under the NSW *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* and the NSW *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.	Detailed design Construction	All locations
C2	Mobilisation of saline soils	Prior to ground disturbance, a visual inspection will be undertaken to identify areas that potentially contain saline soils. Areas where evidence of salting is observed or recorded will be subject to further testing as required. If salinity is confirmed, excavated soils will be managed in accordance with Book 4 Dryland Salinity: Productive use of Saline Land and Water (NSW DECC 2008) to prevent impacts from salinity.	Construction	All locations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
C3	Impacts due to spontaneous combustion from disturbance of high carbon material	Avoid disturbance of areas of active (and previously active) surface mining, underground mine access and process routes where possible. Where these areas cannot be avoided, testing of the material(s) will be undertaken to confirm if high carbon material would be disturbed and/or exposed, and appropriate safeguards implemented to make sure the risk of spontaneous combustion is adequately controlled in accordance with the *Industry and Investment MDG Spontaneous Combustion Management Guideline* (NSW 2011).	Detailed design Construction	All locations
C4	Contamination exposure to human health and/or the environment	Disturbance to areas of medium to high risk of contamination will be avoided or minimised where practicable during construction. Investigation and management of contamination will be carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation, standards and guidelines, including but not limited to the *National Environment Protection (Assessment of Contamination) Measure 1999*, as amended 2013, and all relevant guidelines made or approved under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* and the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.	Detailed design Construction	Areas of medium to high contamination risk
C5	Contamination exposure to human health and/or the environment	Prior to construction, areas subject to disturbance within the Mount Arthur, HVO, Mount Thorley Warkworth and Bulga Coal Mine lease areas will be tested to confirm the presence/absence of contaminants of concern. Interface with existing mine surface and groundwater infrastructure should be avoided to the extent practicable.	Detailed design Construction	Mount Arthur, HVO, Mount Thorley Warkworth and Bulga Coal Mine sites
C6	Contamination exposure to human health and/or the environment	Additional investigations will be undertaken to confirm the presence/absence of the contaminants of concern prior to commencing ground disturbance within 50 m of farm structures or farm dams (if applicable).	Detailed design	Ground disturbance within the construction impact area within 50 m of farm structures or farm dams
C7	Contamination impact to human health and/or the environment	An unexpected finds protocol will be developed and implemented to manage the discovery of previously unidentified contaminated material.	Construction	All locations
C8	Soil and/or water pollution	Construction materials, spoil and waste will be stored/managed in accordance with applicable EPA requirements to minimise the potential for the project to result in the contamination of soil, groundwater, and/or surface water quality.	Construction	All locations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
C9	Unexploded ordinance	Manage unexploded ordinance risks in accordance with Defence Unexploded Ordnance Management Manual and in consultation with the Department of Defence. Undertake site-specific risk assessment at locations where there is a risk of encountering unexploded ordinance. The risk assessment will be carried out prior to any activities that could interact with unexploded ordinance and include field verification to validate the historical assessment of unexploded ordinance contamination and identify appropriate mitigation practices. Ensure the risk assessment includes input from an appropriate unexploded ordinance specialist and identifies if and when an explosives engineer is required during construction activities. Ensure the management actions identified in the risk assessment are implemented prior to and during all relevant construction activities. Ensure all personnel conducting intrusive works within an identified unexploded ordinance area are provided with appropriate safety and awareness briefing(s) prior to participating in the intrusive works.	Construction	All locations
C10	Soil and/or water pollution	Incident response procedures will be implemented to avoid and manage accidental spillages of fuels, chemicals or fluids during operation and maintenance activities.	Operation	All locations
-	Erosion and sedimentation during construction	Manage erosion and sedimentation through the implementation of Erosion and Sediment Control Plans in accordance with mitigation measure SW1 and SW3.	Detailed design Construction	All locations
-	Soil and/or water pollution from the project	Store chemicals, fuels and other hazardous substances in accordance with Mitigation Measure DG1, DG2, DG3 and DG4.	Construction Operation	All
Hazards and risk				
BF1	Bushfire emergency and evacuation	A bushfire emergency management and evacuation plan (BEMEP) will be prepared and implemented in accordance with the risk management measures detailed in *Chapter 7 (Management)* of *Technical Report 14 - Bushfire risk assessment* and the requirements of NSW RFS. The BEMEP will outline procedures for: • monitoring forecast fire danger ratings, alerts and warnings, and any fire incidents, and communicating this information to the construction and operational workforce • evacuating the project impact area in response to fire warnings or incidents, including protocols for authorising and supervising evacuations and identifying off-site refuge locations and evacuation routes (including alternative emergency evacuation routes in forested areas) • reporting fire and smoke sightings to the NSW RFS, FCNSW, and the Singleton Military Area Range Control • determining when it is safe to returns to the project impact area following an evacuation • training for emergency response and evacuation management.	Detailed design Construction Operation	All locations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
BF2	Bushfire	A bushfire safety system will be prepared and implemented in accordance with the risk management measures detailed in *Chapter 7 (Management)* of *Technical Report 14 - Bushfire risk assessment*. The bushfire safety system will detail restrictions and procedures to prevent accidental fire ignition during construction and operation, and contingency arrangements for workers to extinguish accidental fire ignitions at the source while the fire can still be controlled with portable extinguishers and on-site equipment. In particular, the bushfire safety system will include: • engagement protocols with NSW RFS and FCNSW fire teams • a hot works management system for implementation during construction • a smoking prohibition and a designated smoking area protocol • fire-safe work procedures for earthmoving and drilling works • protocols for driving and parking vehicles off established roads to minimise the potential for accidental fire ignition from vehicle exhausts • measures to minimise worker exposure to bushfire risk, including exclusion of works during elevated fire danger conditions, active fire weather and incident monitoring, and a clearly communicated bushfire evacuation plan with primary and alternative trafficable routes.	Detailed design Construction Operation	All locations
BF3	Bushfire (fire prevention quality assurance)	A works quality auditing process will be applied to construction contractors and will incorporate audit criteria assessing the implementation of the required fire prevention, preparedness and response-readiness measures detailed in *Chapter 7 (Management)* of *Technical Report 14 - Bushfire risk assessment*.	Construction	All locations
BF4	Bushfire (project design, operation and maintenance)	The project will be designed, operated and maintained to reduce bushfire risk to and from project infrastructure in accordance with the applicable standards detailed in *Chapter 7 (Management)* of *Technical Report 14 - Bushfire Risk Assessment*, including: • transmission lines will be designed to meet or exceed design standards in Australian Standard *AS/NZS 7000:2016 Overhead line design* • easements will meet or exceed design standards in Australian Standard *AS/NZS 7000:2016 Overhead line design – Appendix CC* • switching stations will meet or exceed design standards in Australian Standard *AS 2067:2008 Substation and high voltage installations exceeding 1 kV AC* • maintenance and operation of the transmission infrastructure will be carried out in line with Australian Standard *AS 5577:2013 Electricity Network Safety Management Systems* • asset management will be carried out in line with *ISO 55001:2014 Asset Management – Management Systems – Requirements*.	Detailed design Construction Operation	All locations
BF5	Bushfire (asset protection zones)	Asset protection zones (APZs) will be established for Bayswater South and Olney switching stations, temporary worker accommodation and project office buildings at construction support sites, in accordance with the requirements of *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019* (NSW RFS 2019) and NSW RFS standards for APZ, and as detailed in *Technical Report 14 - Bushfire Risk Assessment*. Routine inspection and control of vegetation will be carried out for APZ maintenance.	Detailed design Construction Operation	Construction support sites Switching stations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
BF6	Bushfire (Olney switching station)	A fire trail will be installed and maintained within the APZ on the western side of Olney switching station, providing connection to Watagan Forest Road.	Construction Operation	Olney switching station
BF7	Bushfire (vegetation maintenance)	Cyclic inspections and control of vegetation within transmission line easements and hazard tree zone will be carried out in accordance with Transgrid standard for *Maintenance of Easements and Access Tracks.*	Construction Operation	HTP corridor and hazard tree zone
BF8	Bushfire (firefighting water supply)	Where reticulated (mains) water supply is not available, a static water supply (tank) will be provided at Bayswater South and Olney switching stations in accordance with the requirements of *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019* (minimum capacity of 20,000 litres). Design details will be confirmed during detailed design. Where reticulated (mains) water supply is available, hydrant spacing, design and sizing is to comply with the relevant clauses of AS 2419.1:2021.	Detailed design Construction Operation	Bayswater South and Olney switching stations
DG1	Storage and use of dangerous goods	Dangerous goods will be stored in accordance with suppliers' instructions and relevant legislation, Australian Standards, and applicable guidelines. Dangerous goods storage may involve bulk storage tanks, chemical storage cabinets/ containers or impervious bunds. Any storage areas will be designed in accordance with Australian Standard *AS1940: The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids* where applicable. The storage and use of dangerous goods will be carried out in line with the following: • all personnel required to work with dangerous goods and other hazardous material will be trained in their safe use and handling • all chemicals or other dangerous goods will be stored in a bunded area and away from any drainage lines or pits. The capacity of the bunded area will be at least 130% of the largest chemical volume contained within the bunded area • no refuelling or bulk herbicide preparation will occur within 40 m of natural drainage lines • in the event that minimum distances cannot be achieved (e.g. due to land constraints or a requirement to store volumes of hazardous materials in excess of storage thresholds), a risk management strategy will be developed as required to confirm that the project would not have a significant off-site risk.	Construction Operation	All locations
DG2	Accidental spills of dangerous goods	Environmental spill kits containing spill response materials suitable for the works being undertaken will be kept on site at all times and be used in the event of a spill. Any spills will be contained, cleaned up promptly and immediately reported to the relevant site representative.	Construction Operation	All locations
DG3	Transport of dangerous goods	Dangerous goods and hazardous substances will be transported in accordance with relevant legislation and codes, including the *Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Act 2008,* Road and Rail Transport (Dangerous Goods) (Road) Regulation 1998 and the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail (National Transport Commission, 2018).	Construction Operation	All locations
DG4	Storage and transport of dangerous goods during operation	During operation, storage and transport of dangerous goods will be managed to ensure the development remains below the potentially hazardous screening criteria in Applying SEPP 33.	Operation	All locations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
EMF1	Public exposure to EMF	Detailed design for the project will be developed to comply with the following criteria for public exposure to EMF: • Magnetic fields: 2000 milligauss being the ICNIRP guideline 'Reference Level' • Electric fields: 9.1 kV per metre directly under the lines and at the edge of easement, ensuring compliance with the ICNIRP guideline 'Basic Restriction', and 5 kV per metre at the boundary of switching stations (where access is unrestricted), ensuring compliance with the ICNIRP reference level.	Detailed design	Transmission line, substation modifications, new switching stations
EMF2	Occupational exposure to EMF	Detailed design for the proposed switching stations and modifications to existing substations will be developed to comply with the following criteria for occupational exposure to EMF: • Magnetic fields: 10,000 milligauss • Electric fields: 10 kV per metre.	Detailed design	Substation modifications and new switching stations
TC1	Impacts to AM radio	Investigations will be carried out during detailed design to determine the AM radio impacts to receivers within 131 m of the centre of the transmission line. The measured radio frequency interference levels at a sensitive receiver location will be investigated to determine if compliance with the relevant limits can be achieved for at least 80% of the time with a confidence level of at least 80% (80/80 rule).	Detailed design	Sensitive receivers within 131 m of the centre of the transmission line
AS1	Safety of Aircraft Movements	The final design of the HTP with coordinates and elevations will be provided to the following stakeholders prior to construction: • Airservices Australia • Commonwealth Department of Defence • Hunter Valley Gliding Club • NSW Ambulance Service • NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service • Forestry Corporation of NSW • NSW Rural Fire Service • mine complexes traversed by HTP • certified aerodromes within 30km of the HTP • uncertified aerodromes and HLS within 10km of the HTP. Further notification will occur if the finalised design, upon completion of construction, alters the details supplied to the above listed stakeholders. Complete the Vertical Obstacle Notification Form in accordance with the requirements of Airservices Australia.	Detailed design	Operation impact area
AS2	Safety of Aircraft Movements	To facilitate the flight planning of aerial application operators conducting flight operations on any property near the proposed transmission line, final design details of the project, including location and height information of the transmission line will be provided to landowners. This is so that, when asked for hazard information on their property, the landowner may provide the aerial application pilots and/or emergency services helicopter pilots with all relevant information.	Detailed design	Operation impact area

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
AS3	Safety of Aircraft Movements	The following stakeholders will be notified of the scheduling of the use of cranes, drones and helicopters for the construction of the project, prior to the commencement of relevant works: • Airservices Australia • Commonwealth Department of Defence • Hunter Valley Gliding Club • NSW Ambulance Service • NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service • Forestry Corporation of NSW • NSW Rural Fire Service • mine complexes traversed by HTP.	Detailed design	Operation impact area
AS4	Safety of Aircraft Movements	Helicopters and/or drones used for stringing will be operated in accordance with the applicable CASRs for their operations.	Construction	Operation impact area
AS5	Safety of Aircraft Movements	Obstacle lighting and marking of the transmission lines is not considered to be required outside of the lateral limits of certified airports' OLS. Whilst not currently a requirement, this will need to be confirmed by CASA. The provision of markers on transmission lines and towers within 3 nautical miles of an uncertified aerodrome and the Singleton Military Area should be discussed with the appropriate stakeholders during detailed design. Obstacle lighting and marking of the transmission lines in the vicinity of HLS is to be considered where requested by nearby landowners.	Detailed design	Operation impact area
AS6	Obstacle lighting	Temporary construction cranes greater than 60 m in height will have obstacle lighting fitted near the top of the crane.	Construction	All locations
Other matters				
AQ1	Air quality – general	A construction air quality management plan will be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person and will include appropriate measures to mitigate the risk of air quality impacts from the project during construction.	Detailed design Construction	Project impact area and impacted receivers

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
AQ2	Dust generation – general	Management measures to prevent or minimise dust generation and impacts on the local community and environment will include but not be limited to: • appropriate communications will be developed before construction and earthwork activities start to notify the potentially impacted residences of the project (including the duration and types of works) and relevant contact details for complaints reporting • a complaints register will be maintained through construction which will include any complaints related to dust • any exceptional incidents that cause dust and/or air emissions, either on or off site, and the action taken to resolve the situation will be recorded in the register • shade cloth barriers with site fences around sensitive receiver locations close to potentially dusty activities, such as excavation and material stockpiles, will be used where practicable • proper maintenance of all equipment engines will be carried out • engines will not be left running at idle where possible • a water cart or sprays will be deployed to keep exposed areas and soil stockpiles moist, where necessary and practical • working practices will be modified by limiting activity during periods of adverse weather (hot, dry and windy conditions) and when dust is seen leaving the site • the extent of clearing of vegetation and topsoil will be limited to the designated footprint required for construction and appropriate staging of any clearing will be implemented • earthworks and exposed areas will be revegetated (where required) to stabilise surfaces as soon as practicable • imported construction materials such as sands and aggregates will be appropriately managed to maintain adequate moisture levels. This will include, but is not limited to, applying water to stockpiles, covering stockpiles and/or storing materials in bunded areas, where practical • vehicle loads entering and leaving the project impact area with potentially dusty loads will be covered to prevent escapes of materials during transport • water-assisted dust sweepers will be used to remove, as necessary, any material tracked out of the project impact area onto public roads • on-site access roads will be inspected for integrity and necessary repairs to the surface will be instigated where necessary as soon as reasonably practicable • all inspections of construction routes and any subsequent action will be recorded in a site register.	Construction	• Bayswater South switching station • Olney switching station • Construction support sites and laydown areas • Transmission line (including access tracks)
AQ3	Dust generation specific to helicopter and drone usage	Management measures to prevent or minimise dust generation and impacts on the local community and environment from helicopter and drone activities will include but not be limited to: • vegetation will be maintained (or exposed areas will be revegetated) with groundcover (i.e. grass) in the immediate area surrounding helicopter pads • helicopter activities will be monitored by site personnel to implement additional management measures when required • water-assisted dust sweepers will be used to remove, as necessary, any material deposited onto helicopter pads • watering will be deployed to ensure exposed areas are kept moist, where required.	Construction	Construction support sites (Pikes Gully Road, Gouldsville Road and Freemans Drive)

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
AQ4	Dust generation specific to concrete batching plants	Management measures to prevent or minimise dust generation and impacts on the local community and environment from concrete batching plants will include but not be limited to the following: • trucks transporting aggregates and sand loads will be covered • raw aggregates and sands will be stored appropriately in storage bays or bins and materials will not exceed the height of the bays • raw materials will be kept adequately moist for both storage and transfer (e.g. via front end loader) • cement silos and hoppers will be fitted with dust filters • cement silos will be fitted with emergency pressure alerts and emergency cut-off protection systems • transfer of cement from storage to batching will occur via closed loop system (e.g. steel augers).	Construction	Construction support sites and laydown areas (with concrete batching plants)
WM1	Waste management	A waste management and resource recovery plan will be prepared and will include appropriate measures to manage waste generation, reuse, recycling and disposal during construction of the project.	Detailed design	All locations
WM2	Waste facilities	The recycling and disposal facilities to be used during construction and operation of the project will be determined based on availability/capacity, waste licensed to be accepted and confirmed waste classifications. Consultation will be carried out with local councils including Muswellbrook, Singleton, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Central Coast and Newcastle in relation to the disposal of project waste at licensed facilities.	Detailed design Construction	All locations
WM3	General waste management	The following general waste management actions will be implemented throughout the construction and operation of the project: • the waste hierarchy principles of avoid/reduce, reuse, or recycle with disposal as the last resort will be applied • waste will be assessed, classified, managed and disposed of in line with the *NSW EPA Waste Classification Guidelines* (2014) and the relevant requirements of the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014* • waste streams will be segregated to avoid cross contamination of materials and to maximise reuse and recycling opportunities • waste and surplus spoil will be removed and transported to an appropriately licensed waste disposal or transfer facility or other facilities lawfully able to accept materials • wastewater from construction work will be collected and transported to a licensed premise that can lawfully accept the waste.	Construction Operation	All locations
WM4	General waste management	The waste management measures outlined in Table 22.13 and Table 22.15 of the EIS will be implemented.	Construction Operation	All locations
E1	Local employment opportunities	Local worker participation will be promoted via the preparation of a local workforce development plan, a local industry participation plan and an Australian industry participation plan.	Detailed design Construction Operation	All locations

Reference	Impact	Mitigation measure	Timing	Relevant location(s)
E2	Local business opportunities	Consultation will be carried out with local councils, economic development organisations and local chambers of commerce to: • inform local business of the goods and services required for the project, the service provision opportunities and compliance requirements of business to be able to secure contracts • encourage local businesses to meet the requirements of the project for supply contracts • develop relevant networks to assist qualified local and regional businesses to tender for the provision of goods and services to support the project.	Detailed design Construction	All locations
Cumulative				
CI1	Occurrence of cumulative impacts	Consultation with construction contractors, proponents, councils and affected landowners as required to coordinate construction staging/timing with the aim of minimising and managing potential cumulative impacts. This will include: • identifying the potential for cumulative impacts associated with concurrent construction programs (e.g. shared access routes, work sites, resources) • developing mitigation measures to mitigate cumulative impacts as they arise.	Detailed design Construction	All locations