

Energy Corporation of NSW
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24 September 2025

To whom it may concern

Support for the Hunter Transmission Project to proceed

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Environmental Impact Statement for the Hunter Transmission Project (HTP) and provide feedback.

Home to some of the Australia's largest energy users and emissions intensive businesses, including in hard-to-abate sectors, national and NSW commitments to emissions reductions, clean energy infrastructure and decarbonised industry depend on actions in the Hunter.

The Committee for the Hunter therefore has a high level of awareness of the Hunter Transmission Project (HTP) and how it is vital in the delivery of the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap and the economic future of our region. We support the HTP proceeding as a State Significant Infrastructure project:

- The HTP has been identified as critical shared infrastructure in the industry-led *Hunter Hydrogen Infrastructure Masterplan*. The Hunter has one of only two projects nation-wide progressed under the Australian Government Hydrogen Headstart program. Through creating capacity for clean energy generation, storage and distribution, the HTP has been independently assessed as essential to the development and growth of the Hunter's burgeoning hydrogen industry.
- The Masterplan also notes the high clean electricity demand forecast for local manufacturing, further confirmed by Tomago Aluminium's EOI seeking partners to meet ambitions for emissions reductions and renewable energy in 2030 and beyond. Investment in major transmission like the HTP will be critical in sustaining the Hunter's heavy industry and ensuring their competitiveness in the emerging clean energy economy. This investment helps provide long-term energy security for industry and business around the State as coal fired power stations retire over the next decade, and will help protect and save jobs in the Hunter.
- The Hunter is a \$96 billion economy in transition as the contribution of coal to the region declines over time. This requires creating new jobs and investment in sectors of competitive advantage and connecting affected workers and businesses to these opportunities. Clean energy generation and technology, including major projects like the HTP, have been identified by the Committee as engines of growth. The HTP project, provides an important source of new jobs and economic activity, while sustaining industry jobs.

The Committee understand the urgency for the HTP to be operational by 2028 and the trade-offs navigated by Energy Co in the selection of the corridor. This includes a level of impact on local communities and environment made in the long-term State interest, including protecting Hunter industry, ensuring electricity supply for businesses and communities, national security and sovereign manufacturing, and taking action to protect future generations from damaging levels of climate change and national security.

We note the HTP alignment works along disturbed land and avoids national parks, while it does intersect with important areas of state forest. We request the utmost care be taken to reduce and manage community, environmental and biodiversity impacts in the construction and operation of the HTP with transparency around decisions.

The Committee will continue to champion the HTP as vital infrastructure for the Hunter region and NSW's future. We commend EnergyCo on engaging with communities and stakeholders at this stage in the project and encourage strong consultation, along with science and expert advice, to continue to inform decisions on the HTP.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alice Thompson".

Alice Thompson
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About the Committee for the Hunter

The Committee for the Hunter (the Committee) is an independent and inclusive champion for the people of the Greater Hunter and their enterprises. Representing 70 organisations including the largest employers and institutions in the region, we provide a unified voice for the Hunter.

Our members are drawn from the private and community sectors and all three levels of government. We come together with a shared interest in building a sustainable, prosperous and equitable future for our region. The Committee delivers on that promise through advocacy on regionally-significant priorities, thought leadership and partnerships.

The diversification of the Hunter economy is the most significant priority of the Committee and our members.

A UNIFIED VOICE
FOR THE HUNTER



More information about the Committee can be found at www.hunter.org.au