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1. Introduction

This Evaluation Plan has been prepared for the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process undertaken as part of the Strategic Market Engagement for the HumeLink project.

This plan covers the evaluation activities to be undertaken by Transgrid's Evaluation Team commencing on the ECI Stage 1 Tender Closing Date and Time (1:00PM AEDT on 23 December 2022) and concluding with the selection of the Preferred ECI Tenderers and the start of ECI Stage 2 (targeted for February 2023).

1.1. Project Background

HumeLink is a new 500 kV transmission line which will connect Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle. It is one of the state's largest energy infrastructure projects, with about 360km of proposed new transmission lines, and new or upgraded infrastructure at four substation locations.

Transgrid intends to deliver HumeLink under the following two separate Contract Packages:

HumeLink East	HumeLink West
Key scope:	Key scope:
 Augmenting the existing Bannaby 500 kV substation 	 Augmenting the existing Wagga 330 kV substation
Delivering a new 500 kV double circuit	Delivering a new Gugaa 500 kV substation
transmission line connecting the augmented Bannaby 500 kV substation to the Interface Point where it will connect with HumeLink West	 Augmenting the Maragle 330 kV switching station (being constructed by Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project) to establish
Delivering the infrastructure required at the Interface Point to enable the connection of the	Maragle 500 kV substation
HumeLink West and HumeLink East transmission line works – including the interface tower and associated infrastructure	 Delivering a new 500 kV double circuit transmission line connecting the augmented Maragle 500 kV substation to the Interface Point where it will connect with HumeLink East
	 Delivering a new 500 kV double circuit transmission line connecting the new Gugaa 500 kV substation to the Interface Point where it will connect with HumeLink East
	 Delivering a new 500 kV double circuit transmission line (operated at 330 kV) connecting the augmented Wagga 330 kV substation and the new Gugaa 500 kV substation.
	 Rebuilding part of the existing Wagga 330 kV substation to Lower Tumut 330 kV switching station 330 kV transmission line '051' for approximately 2 km.

An indicative overview of the HumeLink project and each Contract Package is provided in Figure 1.





Figure 1: Indicative Overview of the Project and Contract Packages

1.2. Overview of the Strategic Market Engagement

Transgrid is undertaking a Strategic Market Engagement process to select the Delivery Partners who will:

- (a) design and construct each Contract Package for HumeLink; and
- (b) participate in Transgrid's Delivery Partner Panel and support the delivery of Transgrid's upcoming program of major projects.

This Strategic Market Engagement comprises of two separate phases – the EOI Phase and the ECI Phase as outlined in **Figure 2**.



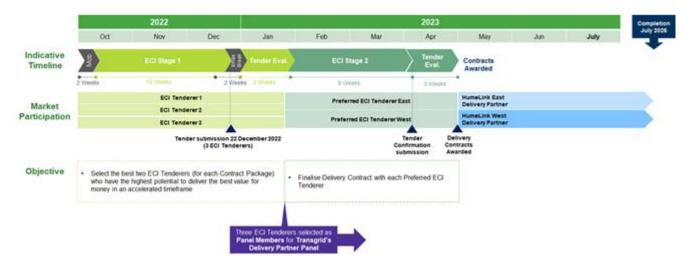


Figure 2: Overview of Strategic Market Engagement

The EOI Phase commenced with the release of the Invitation for Expressions of Interest (on 4 August 2022) and concluded with the announcement of the following three entities being shortlisted to participate in the ECI Phase as ECI Tenderers:

- (a) Acciona Kalpataru Genus Joint Venture;
- (b) Downer + CPP Joint Venture; and
- (c) UGL.

The first stage of the ECI Phase (ECI Stage 1) commenced with the release of the ECI Request for Tender (on 17 October 2022) that invited each shortlisted entity to participate in the ECI Interactive Process and to submit Tenders to deliver each Contract Package. At the conclusion of ECI Stage 1, Transgrid intends to select a Preferred ECI Tenderer for each Contract package to proceed to ECI Stage 2.

Further, Transgrid intends for all three ECI Tenderers to be selected as panel members in Transgrid's Delivery Partner Panel to support the development and delivery of Transgrid's future major projects subject to satisfactory performance during the ECI Stage 1 process.

1.3. Project Objectives

The purpose of the HumeLink project is as follows:

- (a) supply reliability in NSW by firmly connecting Snowy 2.0 and other new generation in southern NSW, managing the shortfalls as a result of the progressive retirement of coal-fired generation;
- (b) greater access to lower cost generation to meet demand in major load centres;
- (c) additional capacity for new generation (primarily renewable generation) in southern NSW, an area which has recognised potential for high-quality wind and solar power generation;
- (d) greater sharing of energy between NSW, ACT and VIC;
- (e) ability to unlock the full capacity of the expanded Snowy Hydro Scheme;
- (f) more renewable energy to enter the market, supporting Australia's aspirations for emissions reduction;
- (g) the creation of construction jobs and provision of training upskilling during delivery; and



(h) generally enhanced economic activity in regional NSW, bringing opportunities for involvement and benefits for local communities, along the route.

Transgrid's delivery objectives for HumeLink include:

- (a) ensuring the Works and the Delivery Partner's activities are delivered to Transgrid's high standards, including:
 - (i) zero harm to workers and the public;
 - (ii) minimal environmental impacts and incorporate sustainability practices;
 - (iii) minimal community disruption; and
 - (iv) positive engagement with the Transgrid's key stakeholders;
- (b) minimising capital cost to deliver the Works to the requirements of the Delivery Contract;
- (c) achieving early completion to allow connection of new generation in line with AEMO ISP target implementation date; and
- (d) minimising impacts from interfacing works.

These objectives apply to both Contract Packages. Through the ECI RFT, Transgrid has sought Tenders that propose solutions that will maximise the achievement of these objectives in performing the Delivery Partner's obligations under the Delivery Contract.

1.4. Purpose of this Evaluation Plan

The purpose of this Evaluation Plan is to:

- (a) provide evaluation guidelines to the Evaluation Team and Transgrid personnel involved in the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process;
- (b) provide an outline of the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process and procedures;
- (c) ensure that probity and confidentiality is maintained throughout the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process;
- (d) provide an auditable process for the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process; and
- (e) ensure that each ECI Tenderer is assessed fairly and equitably.

Unless otherwise stated in section 8 (Definitions) of this Evaluation Plan, defined terms used in this Evaluation Plan have the same meaning as identical terms defined in the ECI RFT.

1.5. Related Documents

This plan should be read in conjunction with the:

- (a) ECI RFT, dated October 2022 and any subsequent Addenda;
- (b) HumeLink Probity Conduct Plan, dated July 2022 (as provided in Appendix A of this Evaluation Plan); and
- (c) Transgrid Code of Ethics and Conduct, dated March 2022 (as provided in Appendix B of this Evaluation Plan).



1.6. Amendments to this Evaluation Plan

Any changes to this Evaluation Plan and the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process must be approved by the Evaluation Panel Chairperson. Any approved changes will be documented as an amendment to this Evaluation Plan and noted in the Evaluation Report.



2. Evaluation Criteria

This section outlines the Evaluation Criteria that Transgrid will use in the evaluation of Tenders.

Transgrid will apply the same Evaluation Criteria to both Contract Packages, with consideration of the specific scope, challenges, and opportunities of each package.

Table 1: Evaluation Criteria

No	Criterion	Description	Relevant Returnable Schedule
100	I-PRICE EVALUAT	ION CRITERIA	
1	Organisation and Key Personnel	 The ECI Tenderer's demonstrated capacity, capability and strategy to successfully resource and deliver the Project for each major delivery phase (design, construction, commissioning). The ECI Tenderer's ability to demonstrate collaboration, innovation, and leadership in a project environment. 	1
		 The ECI Tenderer's understanding of the project scope, technical requirements, and desired outcomes. 	
2	Technical and Delivery	 Demonstrated ability to develop an optimal technical solution that satisfies Transgrid's requirements, including the acceptability of any proposed changes to the Employer's Requirements. 	2
	Approach	 Demonstrated effectiveness of the ECI Tenderer's delivery approach for the Project, including with respect to safety and demonstration of a robust delivery programme that effectively mitigates and manages programme risk. 	
3	Critical Resources and Sourcing Security Strategy • Demonstrated effectiveness of the ECI Tenderer's strategies for critical resources and sourcing security, including processes to manage changes in the supply of / demand for these resources.		3
		The extent to which the ECI Tenderer demonstrates:	
4	Environment and Community Investment	 an effective approach to complying with Transgrid's environmental management and sustainability requirements, including the planning conditions set out in Schedule 4 of the Delivery Contract; and 	4
		 strong commitment and effective approach to achieving Transgrid's community investment objectives for the Project. 	
		The extent to which the ECI Tenderer demonstrates:	
5	Collaboration	 effective collaboration and performance of the ECI Tenderer during the ECI Interactive Processes; and 	5
		 effective strategy to build upon the ECI Phase to sustain a collaborative and high-performing team culture throughout the delivery of the Works. 	



No	Criterion	Description	Relevant Returnable Schedule
		The acceptability and appropriateness of the ECI Tenderer's overall commercial solution to ensure alignment between Transgrid and the Delivery Partner in achieving the Project Objectives, including:	
	6 Commercial Alignment	 the commercial structure of the ECI Tenderer and, where relevant, contractual arrangements between all Participants and Providers (including material subcontractors); 	
6		 the nature and extent of the departures from the Delivery Contract proposed by the ECI Tenderer; 	6
		 acceptability of the proposed incentive regime and other commercial bid-back; and 	
		 the ability to achieve contractual close within Transgrid's required timeframes. 	
PRI	PRICE EVALUATION CRITERIA		
7	Price	The level of certainty that ECI Tenderer's price proposal will ensure value-for-money for Transgrid.	7

Where Transgrid determines that a Tender has failed to satisfy the minimum requirements for any individual Evaluation Criteria, Transgrid may (at any time, and in its absolute discretion) exclude the Tender from the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.

The Non-Price Evaluation Criteria and Price Evaluation Criteria are not listed in any order of importance or preference and no weightings are given to each Evaluation Criterion.

Any Alternative Tenders, Options and Pre-Agreed Variations that are included in the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process will also be assessed against the Evaluation Criteria outlined above.

In accordance with section 6.4 (Other considerations) of ECI RFT Volume 1 (General Information and ECI Phase Requirements), Transgrid reserves the right to:

- (a) vary or amend its Evaluation Criteria at any time, in which case Transgrid intends to provide reasonable notification to the ECI Tenderers;
- (b) develop and consider sub-criteria for any, or all, of the Evaluation Criteria;
- (c) take into account information provided in response to a particular Evaluation Criterion in the evaluation of other Evaluation Criteria;
- (d) request additional information or clarifications in relation to any Tender, including via interview or presentation;
- (e) at its discretion, give preference to any one or more of the Evaluation Criteria over the other criteria; and
- (f) at its discretion, consider any other information in the evaluation of any Tender including:
 - (i) the ECI Tenderer's performance on previous Transgrid projects;
 - (ii) information obtained by Transgrid through its own enquiries (including referee checks); and
 - (iii) any other information considered relevant by Transgrid.



3. Evaluation Team

This section outlines the Evaluation Team responsible for undertaking the ECI Stage 1 evaluation activities.

3.1. Overview

The Evaluation Team will be established by Transgrid prior to the Tender Closing Date and Time, and comprises the following key groups:

- (a) Executive Review Panel (ERP);
- (b) Evaluation Panel (EP); and
- (c) Sub-Panels.

The Evaluation Team will be supported by the:

- (a) Transaction Manager, who will facilitate the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process and support the Evaluation Team to undertake its evaluation responsibilities; and
- (b) Probity Advisor, who will be an independent observer of the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process and will not be involved in the actual evaluation of any Tender.

Figure 3 below provides an overview of the structure of the Evaluation Team.

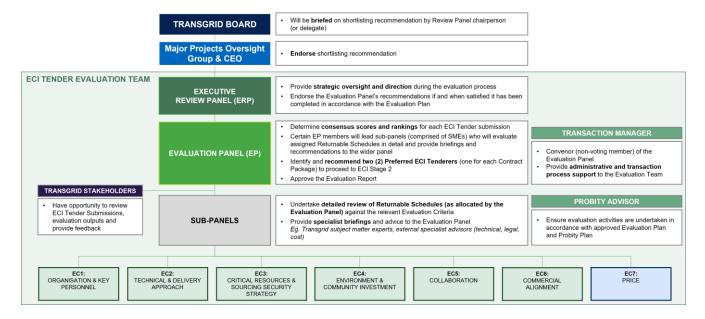


Figure 3: Evaluation Team Structure

Details in relation to the roles, responsibilities and membership of each respective group are provided in the following sections.



3.2. Executive Review Panel

This section outlines the responsibilities and membership of the Executive Review Panel. The Executive Review Panel will provide strategic oversight and direction to the evaluation work undertaken by the Evaluation Panel.

3.2.1. Executive Review Panel membership

The Executive Review Panel comprises the following members:

Table 2: Executive Review Panel Members

Name	Organisation	Position	Role
	Transgrid	Executive General Manager of Major Projects	ERP Chairperson
	Transgrid	Executive General Manager of Delivery	ERP Member
	Transgrid	Chief Financial Officer	ERP Member
	Transgrid	Executive General Manager Legal Governance and Risk	ERP Member
	Transgrid	Executive General Manager - Network	ERP Member
	Transgrid	Executive General Manager of Corporate and Stakeholder Affairs	ERP Member
	Transgrid	Executive General Manager People Culture and Safety	ERP Member

is commencing his role at Transgrid on 30 January 2023

All members of the Executive Review Panel are voting members. Formal meetings of the Executive Review Panel must have a quorum of 4 voting members, including the Executive Review Panel Chairperson.

The Executive Review Panel Chairperson may elect to nominate an acting Executive Review Panel Chairperson for a particular meeting if unavailable. Members of the Executive Review Panel may each appoint a delegate to participate in a particular meeting if unavailable.

If an Executive Review Panel member is not present at a meeting and a delegate has not been nominated to attend the meeting, the Executive Review Panel member will receive a briefing from the Executive Review Panel Chairperson (or a delegate) on the matters discussed. The absent Executive Review Panel member will be given the opportunity to agree or identify any areas where further discussion with the Executive Review Panel will be required.

Any changes to the composition of the Executive Review Panel must be authorised by the Executive Review Panel Chairperson (or a delegate authorised by the Executive Review Panel Chairperson).

3.2.2. Executive Review Panel responsibilities

The role and responsibilities of the Executive Review Panel will be to review the evaluation work undertaken by the Evaluation Panel.

The Executive Review Panel will:



- (a) provide guidance and support to the Evaluation Panel, including resolving any matters in relation to the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process raised by the Evaluation Panel;
- (b) review and provide feedback on the Evaluation Panel's determination that an ECI Tenderer or a Conforming Tender be excluded from the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process or a Non-Conforming Tender has been included in the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process;
- (c) receive and review progress reports in relation to the Evaluation Panel's evaluation of the Tenders;
- (d) receive and review the Evaluation Panel's final recommendations to:
 - (i) provide feedback to the Evaluation Panel; and
 - (ii) where appropriate, challenge the justification for scoring provided by the Evaluation Panel;
- (e) satisfy itself that:
 - (i) the methodology described in this Evaluation Plan has been followed to determine the Preferred ECI Tenderers (one for each Contract Package);
 - (ii) all ECI Tenderers have been given comprehensive, fair and reasonable consideration and that the reasons for determining a score for each ECI Tenderer are justified and stand up to scrutiny; and
 - (iii) no unresolved material probity issues and/or concerns exist, and the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process has been undertaken to its satisfaction; and
- (f) when satisfied with the above (including the recommended consensus scoring, Preferred ECI Tenderer recommendation and the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process undertaken), endorse the Evaluation Panel's recommendations.

3.3. Evaluation Panel

This section outlines the responsibilities and membership of the Evaluation Panel. The Evaluation Panel will lead the Evaluation Team in evaluating the Tenders to recommend (for the Executive Review Panel's endorsement) the Preferred ECI Tenderers for each Contract Package to proceed to ECI Stage 2.

3.3.1. Evaluation Panel membership

The Evaluation Panel comprises the following members:

Table 3: Evaluation Panel Members

Name	Organisation	Position	Role
	Transgrid	General Manager of Origination	EP Chairperson
	Transgrid	Major Project Delivery Director VNI West	EP Member
	Transgrid	Major Project Delivery Director	EP Member
	Transgrid	Construction and Commissioning Delivery Manager, HumeLink	EP Member
	Transgrid	General Manager of Supply Chain	EP Member
	Transgrid	Commercial Manager, HumeLink	EP Member
	Transgrid	General Counsel	EP Member



All members of the Evaluation Panel are voting members. Formal meetings of the Evaluation Panel must have a quorum of 4 voting members, including the Evaluation Panel Chairperson.

The Evaluation Panel Chairperson may elect to nominate an acting Evaluation Panel Chairperson for a particular meeting if unavailable. Members of the Evaluation Panel may each appoint a delegate to participate in a particular meeting if unavailable.

If an Evaluation Panel member is not present at a meeting or a delegate has not been nominated to attend a meeting, the Evaluation Panel member will receive a briefing from the Evaluation Panel Chairperson (or a delegate) on the matters discussed. Where consensus scoring has been undertaken, the absent Evaluation Panel member will be provided with the opportunity to review the consensus scoring and agree or identify any areas where further discussion with the Evaluation Panel may be required.

An Non-Voting Evaluation Panel Advisor Committee has been established to support the Evaluation Panel with the evaluation of Tenders at the Evaluation Panel meetings.

Table 4: Evaluation Panel Non-Voting Committee

Name	Organisation	Position	Role
	Transgrid	Senior Legal Counsel	EP Advisor (Non-Voting)
	Transgrid Stakeholder and Communications Manager		EP Advisor (Non-Voting)
	Transgrid	Enviro Planning and Approvals Manager	EP Advisor (Non-Voting)
	E3 Advisory	Commercial Advisor	EP Advisor (Non-Voting)
	ConnellGriffin	Transaction Manager	EP Advisor (Non-Voting)
	Fission	Price Advisor	EP Advisor (Non-Voting)

At its discretion, the Evaluation Panel may invite any Sub-Panel Leads, Sub-Panel members and/or authorised individuals to any Evaluation Panel or Executive Review Panel meeting during the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.

Any changes to the composition of the Evaluation Panel must be authorised by the Evaluation Panel Chairperson (or an authorised delegate), in consultation with the Executive Review Panel Chairperson.

3.3.2. Evaluation Panel responsibilities

The Evaluation Panel is to undertake a detailed evaluation of the Tenders and will document the results of the assessment of the Tenders in a single Evaluation Report.

The Evaluation Panel will:

- (a) individually familiarise itself with all Tenders to the extent required for each member to perform its responsibilities as set out below;
- (b) review and score (on a consensus basis) the Tenders against the Evaluation Criteria;
- (c) determine which (if any) Alternative Tenders and/or Options are not to be reviewed;



- (d) direct and manage the Sub-Panel Leads, Sub-Panel members and/or authorised individuals (as required) and review their reports. At the direction of the Evaluation Panel Chairperson, Evaluation Panel members may be appointed as Sub-Panel Leads to lead and oversee the activities of specific Sub-Panel members;
- (e) determine whether an ECI Tenderer or a Conforming Tender should be excluded from the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process or whether a Non-Conforming Tender should be included in the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process;
- (f) participate in structured workshops and negotiations with ECI Tenderers (as required);
- (g) assess, evaluate and score the Tenders (taking into account reports and advice from the Sub-Panel Leads, Sub-Panel members and/or authorised individuals and responses to any clarification questions provided by the ECI Tenderers) in accordance with the methodology set out in this Evaluation Plan;
- (h) oversee the price evaluation by the Price Sub-Panel in accordance with the methodology set out in this Evaluation Plan;
- (i) with consensus from all Evaluation Panel members, identify and recommend the Preferred ECI Tenderer for each Contract Package (one for HumeLink East and one for HumeLink West to proceed to ECI Stage 2;
- (j) support the Evaluation Panel Chairperson with briefings to the Executive Review Panel including obtaining final endorsement from the Executive Review Panel of the Evaluation Panel's recommendations;
- (k) with support from the Transaction Manager, finalise the Evaluation Report;
- (I) support the Executive Review Panel Chairperson with any necessary briefings, including to the MPOG, CEO and Board (as required); and
- (m) participate, as required, in any debrief sessions following the completion of the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.

In addition, the Evaluation Panel will assess the ECI Tenderers and their Tenders and provide recommendations as to the acceptability (or otherwise) of any of the ECI Tenderers to be selected as panel members in Transgrid's Delivery Partner Panel to support the development and delivery of Transgrid's future major projects. The recommendations will be documented in the Evaluation Report.

3.3.3. Evaluation Panel Chairperson

The Evaluation Panel Chairperson has the following additional responsibilities in addition to their responsibilities as an Evaluation Panel member:

- (a) chair Evaluation Panel meetings;
- (b) arrange for the replacement of Evaluation Panel members who are no longer able to participate in the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process;
- (c) arrange for additional members to join the Sub-Panel where additional resources are required to complete the evaluation activities;
- (d) provide regular progress updates to the Executive Review Panel;
- (e) chair meetings with ECI Tenderers (if required) or delegate this to another member of the Evaluation Team;



- (f) authorise the issue of clarification questions to ECI Tenderers via the Transaction Manager, or delegate this to another member of the Evaluation Team;
- (g) approve the addition of any advisors to assist with the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process;
- (h) ensure the following evaluation activities are undertaken in accordance with this Evaluation Plan via the Transaction Manager:
 - (i) maintenance of appropriate records of all Evaluation Panel meetings and meetings with ECI Tenderers (if any); and
 - (ii) establishment and maintenance of appropriate arrangements for the protection of confidential information;
- (i) via the Probity Advisor, ensure the ECI Stage 1 evaluation activities are undertaken in accordance with the probity requirements set out in this Evaluation Plan and the HumeLink Probity Conduct Plan; and
- (j) oversee the finalisation of the Evaluation Report.

3.4. Sub-Panel

This section outlines the responsibilities and membership of the Sub-Panels. The Sub-Panel comprise of subject matter experts who will review specifically allocated elements of the Tender and present their findings to the Evaluation Panel.

3.4.1. Sub-Panel membership

The Sub-Panels collectively consist of the Sub-Panel Leads, Non-Price Sub-Panel members and Price Sub-Panel members.

Sub-Panel members are authorised individuals that have been engaged to assist the Evaluation Panel with the evaluation of each Tender and its Returnable Schedules against specific Evaluation Criteria as allocated to them under this Evaluation Plan, or as otherwise directed by the Evaluation Panel. Sub-Panel members should refer to Appendix C (Returnable Schedule Allocation and Key Review Considerations) of this Evaluation Plan for the Returnable Schedules and Evaluation Criteria that have been allocated to them.

The Sub-Panel will be led by Sub-Panel Leads who are responsible for overseeing the Sub-Panel evaluation activities with respect to the Evaluation Criteria that have been assigned to them.

The Non-Price Sub-Panel supports the Evaluation Panel in the non-price evaluation of Tenders. The membership of the Non-Price Sub-Panel (for each Non-Price Evaluation Criterion) is set out in the table below:

Table 5: Non-Price Sub-Panel Members

Non-Price Evaluation Criterion	Sub-Panel Lead	Non-Price Sub-Panel Members
Evaluation Criterion 1 (Organisation and Key Personnel)		



Non-Price Evaluation Criterion	Sub-Panel Lead	Non-Price Sub-Panel Members
Evaluation Criterion 2 (Technical and Delivery Approach)		Technical Solution GHD)* GHD)* CHANGE OF THE STATE OF
Evaluation Criterion 3 (Critical Resources and Sourcing Security Strategy)		E3 Advisory* Fission*
Evaluation Criterion 4 (Environment and Community Investment)	and (Environment and Sustainability) (Community Investment)	
Evaluation Criterion 5 (Collaboration)		



Non-Price Evaluation Criterion	Sub-Panel Lead	Non-Price Sub-Panel Members
		 Early (E3 Advisory)* Andrew Nguyen (ConnellGriffin)*
Evaluation Criterion 6 (Commercial Alignment)		 Equifax (TBC)* Corrs* E3 Advisory* Fission*

^{*}External advisor

The Price Sub-Panel will support the Evaluation Panel in undertaking the price evaluation of Tenders. The Price Sub-Panel will be provided with access to the price elements of the Tenders via a separate evaluation data room as per section 5.1 (Electronic Evaluation Protocols) of this Evaluation Plan. The membership of the Price Sub-Panel is set out in the table below:

Table 6: Price Sub-Panel Members

Price Evaluation Criterion	Sub-Panel Lead	Price Sub-Panel members
Evaluation Criterion 7 (Price)	Advisory)*	 FISSION* E3 Advisory* Estimate and Resourcing Histogram only – if required)

^{*}External advisor

The Evaluation Panel Chairperson may amend or appoint new Sub-Panel Leads and Sub-Panel members as required to support the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.

The responsibilities of the Sub-Panel are detailed in section 3.4.2 (Sub-Panel responsibilities) below.

3.4.2. Sub-Panel responsibilities

The Sub-Panel Leads and Sub-Panel members will be responsible for assessing Tenders against specific Evaluation Criteria as directed by the Evaluation Panel.

Each Sub-Panel Lead and Sub-Panel member will:



- (a) undertake a detailed review of responses against its respective Evaluation Criteria, highlight respective strengths and weaknesses and utilise inputs from other Sub-Panel members as required;
- (b) provide ongoing updates to the Evaluation Panel throughout the evaluation process including any items requiring clarification;
- (c) provide separate Sub-Panel presentations and briefings to the Evaluation Panel. Sub-Panel presentations and briefings will summarise the findings of the detailed assessment with respect to the relevant Evaluation Criteria. The presentation templates to be used are provided in Appendix D (Sub-Panel Presentation Templates) of this Evaluation Plan; and
- (d) respond to any requests from the Evaluation Panel for clarification, or to provide more detailed briefings, on any matters related to their areas of review.

In addition to the above, the Price Sub-Panel will:

- (a) analyse the pricing for each ECI Tender and facilitate the calculation of any required adjustments to ascertain the full anticipated target cost of each Tender, in accordance with the methodology described in Appendix E (Price Evaluation Approach) of this Evaluation Plan and incorporating technical and commercial input as required;
- (b) analyse the value for money provided by any Options and Pre-Agreed Variations; and
- (c) respond to any requests from the Evaluation Panel for clarification of, or more detailed briefings on, any matter related to the price assessment.

3.5. Transaction Manager

The Transaction Manager is **ConnellGriffin**. The Transaction Manager will support the Evaluation Team by coordinating and facilitating the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process, including:

- (a) managing and facilitating the activities of the Evaluation Team, which includes:
 - (i) managing the receipt and secure distribution of the Tenders; and
 - (ii) managing the sending of any requests for clarification and distribution of responses;
- (b) providing the Evaluation Team with assistance during the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process;
- (c) facilitating the Evaluation Panel and Executive Review Panel meetings;
- (d) preparing drafts of the Evaluation Report; and
- (e) managing all communications with ECI Tenderers on behalf of the Evaluation Team.

3.6. Governance Requirements

3.6.1. Major Projects Oversight Group and Transgrid Chief Executive Officer

Following the Executive Review Panel's endorsement of the Evaluation Panel's findings and recommendations, and prior to announcement of the Preferred ECI Tenderers for HumeLink East and HumeLink West, the Executive Review Panel Chairperson and Evaluation Panel Chairperson (or authorised delegates) will provide a briefing to Major Projects Oversight Group (MPOG) and Transgrid's Chief Executive Officer regarding the outcome of the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.



Endorsement will be sought from the MPOG and Transgrid's Chief Executive Officer of the Evaluation Panel's recommended Preferred ECI Tenderers.

If required, the Executive Review Panel Chairperson and Evaluation Panel Chairperson may provide updates and briefings to Transgrid's MPOG and Chief Executive Officer during the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.

3.6.2. Transgrid Board

Transgrid's Chief Executive Officer will provide a briefing to Transgrid's Board regarding the outcome of the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process. Transgrid's Board members will be informed of the recommended Preferred ECI Tenderers for both HumeLink East and HumeLink West.

If required, the Executive Review Panel Chairperson and Evaluation Panel Chairperson may provide updates and briefings to Transgrid's Board during the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.



4. Probity

This section provides an overview of the probity requirements for the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.

4.1. Probity Overview

The ECI Stage 1 evaluation process will be undertaken in accordance with Appendix A (HumeLink Probity Conduct Plan) and Appendix B (Transgrid Code of Ethics and Conduct) to ensure that the probity principles of integrity, confidentiality and impartiality are maintained at all times.

Should specific probity issues arise during the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process, probity advice or guidance should be sought from the Probity Advisor.

Any Evaluation Team member who has any concerns about the conduct or probity of the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process must promptly bring their concerns to the attention of the Probity Advisor. The Probity Advisor will investigate the matter and make an appropriate recommendation to resolve the issue.

Where a probity issue is not able to be resolved by the Probity Advisor, or agreement cannot be reached with the Evaluation Panel Chairperson on how to proceed, such matter should be escalated to the Executive Review Panel.

4.2. Probity Advisor

The Probity Advisor is not part of the Executive Review Panel, Evaluation Panel and Sub-Panel but will attend all formal meetings (except for Sub-Panel meetings – which are optional for the Probity Advisor, unless specifically requested by the Sub-Panel Lead or the Transaction Manager) and key decision points during the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process. The Probity Advisor is an independent observer of the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process and will not be involved in the actual evaluation of any Tenders.

Under the guidance and direction of the Evaluation Panel Chairperson, the Probity Advisor will review and provide feedback and advice on matters discussed in each ECI Tenderer's Returnable Schedule G2.3 (Probity and Completion). The Probity Advisor will also provide guidance and advice on any probity matters that arise during the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.

In addition to the above, the Probity Advisor will:

- (a) ensure that the procedures adopted for the receipt and evaluation of Tenders are fair and equitable, monitor the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process and provide independent validation of this to Transgrid;
- (b) provide guidance to Transgrid as to how probity issues can be managed;
- (c) attend Evaluation Team meetings where relevant;
- (d) monitor communications and interactions that occur between ECI Tenderers and any representatives of Transgrid in respect of the HumeLink project; and
- (e) prepare a report outlining the work performed, any issues that arose during the process and confirming that the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process and procedures have been followed.



The Probity Advisor's contact details are as follow:
Name:
Organisation: O'Connor Marsden & Associates
Mobile: Marie Mari
Email:
Address: Level 18, 1 Margaret Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Name: Name:
Organisation: O'Connor Marsden & Associates
Mobile:
Email:
Address: Level 18. 1 Margaret Street. Sydney NSW 2000 Australia



5. Evaluation Procedures

This section outlines the evaluation procedures that must be adhered to by the Evaluation Team and any authorised individuals involved in the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process. The evaluation procedures apply to the evaluation of Tenders for both HumeLink East and HumeLink West.

5.1. Secure Evaluation Protocols

5.1.1. Authorised Evaluation Team members

Authorised Evaluation Team members are individuals who have:

- (a) Been selected to participate in the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process. This includes the individuals identified in section 3 (Evaluation Team) and any other individuals appointed to the Evaluation Team in accordance with this Evaluation Plan;
- (b) Attended an establishment meeting conducted by the Transaction Manager; and
- (c) Completed and returned a Statement of Interests and Associations Disclosure Form.

5.1.2. Electronic Evaluation

The procedural requirements for the electronic evaluation of Tenders are set out below:

- (a) To review the Tenders electronically and remotely, each member of the Evaluation Panel and the Sub-Panel will be granted access to an Ansarada electronic data room established to support the evaluation process (HumeLink ECI Stage 1 Evaluation Data Room).
- (b) The Price Sub-Panel will be granted access to a separate Ansarada electronic data room (HumeLink ECI Stage 1 Price Evaluation Data Room) containing price responses only. This will only include the members of the Price Sub-Panel as set out in Table 6 (Price Sub-Panel Members) of this Evaluation Plan.
- (c) The Executive Review Panel and Evaluation Panel will be provided with access to all Returnable Schedules except for Returnable Schedule 7 (Pricing) which will remain limited to the Price Sub-Panel until the commencement of Step 4: Price Evaluation of the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.
- (d) A watermark will appear on each page of each Tender while reviewing the Tenders electronically.
- (e) For the Non-Price Sub-Panels, the print and edit function on the HumeLink ECI Stage 1 Evaluation Data Room will be turned off for standard PDF and MS Office documents. If it is essential for members of the Non-Price Sub-Panel to print or edit Tender submissions, Sub-Panel Leads may request for security changes. The requests will be considered and approved on a case-by-case basis by the Transaction Manager.
- (f) Members of the Non-Price Sub-Panel who will assess 'technical' files that require specific software will be given access to a separate secure folder due to the Ansarada platform's encryptions settings and restrictions.
- (g) The 'download function' on the HumeLink ECI Stage 1 Price Evaluation Data Room will be enabled for the Price Sub-Panel to allow them to undertake their price evaluation activities.
- (h) All confidential information (as listed in section 5.3) must be saved in the designated Microsoft Teams folder accessed through an individuals' Transgrid approved encrypted laptop, and <u>not</u> a network folder, USB/external drives or personal computers. The Transaction Manager will liaise with any Evaluation



Team members who do not have access to a Transgrid encrypted laptop to ensure suitable arrangements that maintain necessary probity and document security requirements.

- (i) Each member of the Evaluation Team will be responsible for the security of confidential information, including the Tenders, while in their possession.
- (j) Evaluation Team members must comply with the following protocols with respect to sharing confidential information:
 - (i) Evaluation information must only be shared with other authorised Evaluation Team members (refer to section 5.1.1).
 - (ii) Documents should be shared by uploading the relevant files to either the:
 - (A) HumeLink ECI Stage 1 Evaluation Data Room and/or HumeLink ECI Stage 1 Price Evaluation Data Room; or
 - (B) designated Microsoft Teams channel folder,
 - and then sharing the relevant link.
 - (iii) Where it is not practicable to comply with sub-clause (ii) above, any files shared via email must be password protected. A general password will be determined by the Transaction Manager and disclosed to all authorised Evaluation Team members.
- (k) A separate password will be established for use by the Price Sub-Panel and used to protect any electronic documents that contain pricing information in relation to the evaluation (including Tenders, and price reports).

5.1.3. Physical Evaluation Protocols

In addition to the electronic evaluation protocols set out in section 5.1, the Evaluation Team must comply with the following physical evaluation protocols:

- (a) Evaluation activities must be undertaken in a secure physical location where confidentiality can be maintained.
- (b) All evaluation material must be kept confidential, and only shared with other authorised Evaluation Team members on a strict 'needs to know' basis. Note: not all Transgrid employees, advisors and contractors are authorised Evaluation Team members.
- (c) All confidential discussions must be held in a secure meeting room.
- (d) All confidential documents must be kept secure e.g. when away from your desk ensure your screen is locked and any physical copies of evaluation information is kept in a secure location).

5.2. Late Responses

A Tender received after the Tender Closing Date and Time will be deemed to be late and will be registered as a Late Tender. A Late Tender will only be admitted for evaluation if Transgrid, at its absolute discretion, determines that the acceptance of such Late Tender would not compromise the integrity and competitiveness of the procurement process.

5.3. Confidential Information

The following items are confidential information for the duration of the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process:



- (a) contents of Tenders;
- (b) confidential clarification questions and responses;
- (c) information produced as part of the evaluation process (e.g. scoresheets, meeting minutes and evaluation reports); and
- (d) other information related to the evaluation process that is not publicly available.

5.4. Conflict of Interest

All individuals involved in the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process will be required to sign a Statement of Interests and Associations Disclosure Form prior to receiving any information related to the Tender. If an individual becomes aware of any actual or potential conflict of interest, the Statement of Interests and Associations Disclosure Form requires this to be disclosed to the Probity Advisor at the first reasonable opportunity. A copy of the statements and actions taken will be kept on file.

Evaluation Team members will also be required to update their Statement of Interests and Associations Disclosure Form during the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process if:

- (a) there is an update to their circumstances that changes their original disclosure; and/or
- (b) new relevant information regarding the ECI Tenderers comes to light.

The Probity Advisor will provide input if a conflict of interest or the perception of a conflict of interest may exist and advise of any actions required to be taken.

The Evaluation Panel Chairperson, in consultation with the Probity Advisor, will approve appropriate mitigation measures in response to any identified conflicts of interests. Identified conflicts of interests and any mitigation measures implemented will be recorded in the probity register.

Evaluation Team members should refer to the HumeLink Probity Conduct Plan and Transgrid Code of Ethics and Conduct for further guidance in relation to any probity related matters.

5.5. Communication

During the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process, members of the Evaluation Team are not permitted to communicate directly with any of the ECI Tenderers. All direct communications with any of the ECI Tenderers shall be through the Transaction Manager, who will maintain a record of all communications. All direct communications with any of the ECI Tenderers must be approved by the Evaluation Panel Chairperson and may be subject to review by the Probity Advisor.

All communications with the ECI Tenderers, which form part of the Information Documents or an ECI Tenderer's response, must be in writing and communicated electronically via the ECI Data Room.

5.6. Request for Clarification Process

The clarification process enables the Evaluation Team to seek explanation or further information on certain aspects of a Tender that may be unclear, ambiguous or inconsistent with the requirements or risk allocation as specified in the ECI RFT. The clarification process may also request ECI Tenderers to remove departures, qualifications and/or change certain aspects of their technical responses so that they better meet the requirements of Transgrid.



A Request for Clarification (**RFC**) will not be used as an opportunity for an ECI Tenderer to submit a wholly revised Tender or substantiality new information that is not related to the clarification enquiry unless the same opportunity is provided to all other ECI Tenderers with the same or similar characteristics.

Appendix G (RFC Process) of this Evaluation Plan provides an overview of the process the Evaluation Team should follow to raise an RFC.

The Evaluation Team can raise an RFC by completing the Request for Clarification Form as provided in Appendix H. All RFCs require the approval of the Evaluation Panel Chairperson (or authorised delegates) prior to being issued to the ECI Tenderer. The request will then be issued to the respective ECI Tenderer(s) via the ECI Data Room. All written communication to and from the ECI Tenderers must be carried out via the ECI Data Room.

5.7. Structured Clarification Workshops

Structured clarification workshops may be held with one or more selected ECI Tenderers following the Tender Closing Date and Time. The main purpose of these structured clarification workshops is to reduce the scope and significance of any outstanding issues, including any technical and commercial departures from the Delivery Contract and Employer's Requirements. Interactions with the ECI Tenderers will be conducted in accordance with the ECI RFT conditions and guided by the probity arrangement as set out in this Evaluation Plan.

Discussions will be specific to each Tender therefore different issues may be discussed with each ECI Tenderer. Specific care will be exercised by Transgrid to ensure that the ECI Tenderers do not use the presentations, interviews and meetings to obtain an unfair advantage.

The Evaluation Panel Chairperson will determine the attendees for the structured clarification workshops (subject to the probity, confidentiality and conflict of interest requirements as set out in this Evaluation Plan). ECI Tenderers will be notified, prior to any structured workshops with members of the Evaluation Panel and including any individuals nominated by the Evaluation Panel, that these workshops must not be electronically recorded by the ECI Tenderers without the express permission of Transgrid and without the knowledge of those in attendance. An attendance record for every structured workshop will be maintained and there will be a limit on the number of participants in every structured workshop.

Following the structured clarification workshops, ECI Tenderers may be required to confirm, in writing, the points discussed and agreed at the workshop and any consequential impact on their Tender.

5.8. Negotiation

The Evaluation Panel may negotiate with ECI Tenderers with a view to resolving outstanding issues that it considers unacceptable. Following the Tender Closing Date and Time, the Evaluation Panel reserves its rights entirely to negotiate with one or more ECI Tenderers and commence negotiations at any time during the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.

The Evaluation Panel may, in its absolute discretion and guided by the probity framework, allow an ECI Tenderer to amend, alter, add to or otherwise change any aspect of its Tender after the Tender Closing Date and Time.



The Evaluation Panel Chairperson will determine the attendees for negotiation meetings (subject to the probity, confidentiality and conflict of interest requirements set out in this Evaluation Plan).

ECI Tenderers will be notified, prior to any negotiation meetings with members of the Evaluation Panel and any individuals nominated by the Evaluation Panel, that these meetings must not be electronically recorded by the ECI Tenderers without the express permission of Transgrid and without the knowledge of all those in attendance. An attendance record for every meeting will be maintained and there will be a limit on the number of participants in every meeting.

5.9. Records

The Transaction Manager is responsible for maintaining the following records:

- (a) The approved Evaluation Plan (including any approved amendments);
- (b) Evaluation Panel meeting agendas;
- (c) Consensus scoring records;
- (d) Sub-Panel evaluation presentations or reports;
- (e) Evaluation Report; and
- (f) Evaluation Panel working papers.

If any individual is required to print any confidential information relating to the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process, locked shredding bins must be used to dispose of the confidential information.



6. Evaluation Methodology

This section outlines the methodology that will be used by the Evaluation Team to evaluate Tenders. The table below outlines the key evaluation steps and activities.

Table 7: Evaluation Steps and Activities

Step	Description
1	Establishment Meetings for the Evaluation Team
2	Tender Opening, Completeness and Conformance Check
3	Non-Price Evaluation
4	Price Evaluation
5	Determine Preferred ECI Tenderer recommendation
6	Finalise Evaluation Report

Further details of each of the above steps are provided in the following sections.

6.1. Step 1: Establishment Meetings

An Establishment Meeting will be held with the relevant members of the Evaluation Team prior to the commencement of the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.

As a minimum, the agenda for the Establishment Meetings will include the following:

- (a) briefing and discussion on probity requirements and issues;
- (b) submission of the Statement of Interests and Associations Disclosure Form, as signed by each member of the Evaluation Team, and any other authorised individuals involved in the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process with access to confidential documentation;
- (c) briefing on the scope of works for the Project;
- (d) briefing and discussion on the evaluation methodology and the Evaluation Criteria for the members to understand in their evaluation, including the process for evaluating Alternative Tenders, Options and Pre-Agreed Variations; and
- (e) confirm the evaluation program, access to documents and security protocols.

Once the Evaluation Team has undertaken the Establishment Meeting and completed the Statement of Interests and Associations, the Transaction Manager will provide access to the HumeLink ECI Stage 1 Evaluation Data Room and/or the HumeLink ECI Stage 1 Price Evaluation Data Room (where applicable). These data rooms will contain the Tenders (after the Tender Closing Date and Time) and other relevant information relating to the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.

6.2. Step 2: Tender Opening, Completeness and Conformance Check

6.2.1. Tender Opening

All Tenders will be electronically submitted by the ECI Tenders using the secure 'submissions tool' provided on the ECI Data Room. There will be no physical submission of Tender documents.



The Transaction Manager will be responsible for the receipt and opening of each Tender. The opening will be recorded by the Transaction Manager on the Tender Opening Form as provided in Appendix I of this Evaluation Plan. The Probity Advisor will be invited to witness the Tender opening process.

6.2.2. Completeness Check

The Tenders will then be reviewed for completeness by the Transaction Manager. The Transaction Manager will undertake a screening of all Tenders for unintentional errors of form, identification and treatment of conflicts of interests, clarity and compliance with the basic requirements and conditions of the ECI RFT.

This Completeness Check will also include a page-by-page check of all files received, a check that the Tender has not exceeded the maximum page limit nominated for each Returnable Schedule, and a check that no pricing information is contained in the non-price sections. The completeness of the Tenders will be recorded using the Completeness Check Form as provided in Appendix J of this Evaluation Plan.

Should pricing information be found, these will be removed or redacted. If an aspect of a Tender contains both commercially sensitive information and technical information relevant to the non-price evaluation, the commercially sensitive information will be redacted and the technical information will be made available to the relevant Evaluation Team members.

Should any Returnable Schedule exceed the maximum page limit, the Transaction Manager will make an initial determination (consulting the probity advisor if required) as to whether it is fair and reasonable for the additional material to be made available to the Evaluation Team. This determination will then be presented and confirmed by the Evaluation Panel at the first Evaluation Panel meeting. If it is determined that some, or all, of the additional material should not be considered in the evaluation process, these documents will be removed from the relevant data room and the Evaluation Team will be instructed to exclude this material from their evaluation.

6.2.3. Conformance Check

In parallel with Step 3 (Non-Price Evaluation), the Evaluation Panel will confirm whether each Tender submitted is a Conforming Tender in accordance with the requirements as set out in section 7.2 (Conforming Tender) of ECI RFT Volume 1 (General Information and ECI Phase Requirements) and complete a Conformance Check Form for each Tender as provided in Appendix K of this Evaluation Plan.

The table below summarises the requirements of a Conforming Tender:

Table 8: Conforming Tender Requirements

Conforming Tender Requirement	Description
ECI Tender Process, Cost Contribution and IP Deed Poll	The deed poll has been completed and duly executed by the ECI Tenderer.
	If the ECI Tenderer is a consortium, each Participant is required to complete and duly execute a deed poll.
Compliance with the requirements of ECI RFT Volume 2 (Returnable Schedules)	All Returnable Schedules of a Conforming Tender must be completed in accordance with the requirements of ECI RFT Volume 2 (Returnable Schedules).
	This includes submitting an offer for both HumeLink East and HumeLink West for a Conforming Tender.



Conforming Tender Requirement	Description
Compliance with Sections 7.3.1 (Required timing of Tenders) and 7.3.2 (Electronic Lodgement) of ECI RFT Volume 1 (General Information and ECI Phase Requirements)	A Conforming Tender shall be submitted via the electronic 'submissions tool' in the HumeLink ECI Data Room prior to the Tender Closing Date and Time. Returnable Schedules shall be uploaded in accordance with the folder structure as provided in the 'submissions tool'. All documents uploaded to the 'submissions tool' are to be formatted in both PDF and editable format (other than scans of signed documents which are only required in PDF) in A4 format or A3 format, excluding the program and financial pro-forma which are to be submitted in the prescribed formats referred to in ECI RFT Volume 2 (Returnable Schedules).
Compliance with Section 7.3.3 (Tender inclusions) of ECI RFT Volume 1 (General Information and ECI Phase Requirements)	A Conforming Tender should, in Transgrid's opinion, provide sufficient detail to address the relevant Evaluation Criteria and comply with the requirements and guidelines identified in the ECI RFT, including those identified in the Returnable Schedules.
Compliance with Section 7.3.4 (Format) of ECI RFT Volume 1 (General Information and ECI Phase Requirements)	A Conforming Tender shall be prepared and submitted in the format as set out in section 7.3.4 (Format) of ECI RFT Volume 1 (General Information and ECI Phase Requirements).
Compliance with Transgrid's requirements of the Project as set out in ECI RFT Volume 3 (Transgrid Base Requirements (ECI Stage 1))	 A Conforming Tender shall comply with Transgrid's requirements for the Project as set out in ECI RFT Volume 3 (including the Delivery Contract and Employer's Requirements) unless the ECI Tenderer has submitted a proposed departure to these requirements that has been: (a) raised with Transgrid during the ECI Interactive Process and Transgrid has provided written confirmation that it has no objections for the inclusion of the proposed departure in the ECI Tenderer's Tender; and (b) submitted in its response to Item 2.A.1(a) in Returnable Schedule 2 (Technical Delivery Solution) and Item 6.7 of Returnable Schedule 6 (Commercial Certainty).
Compliance with the Site Access Schedules	A Conforming Tender shall be consistent with the Site Access Schedules (refer to Schedule 17 of the Delivery Contract), unless otherwise approved in writing by Transgrid.
Consistency with the Baseline Conditions and the Snowy 2.0 TSP Conditions	A Conforming Tender shall be consistent with the Baseline Conditions and the Snowy 2.0 TSP Conditions.
Provision of relevant reports and procedures in relation to addressing potential probity issues	A Conforming Tender shall be accompanied by any reports required under any procedures and arrangement which the ECI Tenderer is required to implement to address potential probity issues (if any).

In accordance with section 9.10 (Non-Conforming Tender) of ECI RFT Volume 1 (General Information and ECI Phase Requirements), Transgrid may, at its absolute discretion:

- (a) exclude any Tender that has been deemed to be non-conforming; and
- (b) may inform an ECI Tenderer that its Tender is deemed to be non-forming or may invite that ECI Tender to submit a conforming ECI Tender within a nominated timeframe.



6.2.4. Tender errors (as opposed to an omission)

If a Tender includes a significant error, as opposed to an omission (e.g. expired compliance certificate provided, formulaic errors, etc.), the Evaluation Panel may, at its discretion, and in consultation with the Probity Advisor, notify the relevant ECI Tenderer and allow such ECI Tenderer to correct the error. The Evaluation Panel shall note the effect of any correction in the Evaluation Report.

Where an ECI Tenderer is notified of a significant error, the Evaluation Panel Chairperson (or a nominated delegate) shall be responsible for communicating the detail and nature of the error to the ECI Tenderer in writing. The Evaluation Panel Chairperson shall determine a timeframe for the ECI Tenderer to provide corrected information. The ECI Tenderer's response shall be limited only to providing the corrected information.

6.2.5. Alternative Tenders

ECI Tenderers must submit a Tender that conforms to the requirements of the ECI RFT, including all addenda issued by Transgrid. In addition to submitting a Conforming Tender, ECI Tenderers may also submit one or more Alternative Tenders where the ECI Tenderer seeks to improve the overall solution and deliver better value for money to Transgrid through a different scope to the scope as set out in the ECI RFT.

In accordance with section 7.6 (Alternative Tenders) of ECI RFT Volume 1 (General Information and ECI Phase Requirements), to submit an Alternative Tender for consideration in the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process the ECI Tenderer must have obtained Transgrid's written approval prior to the Tender Closing Date and Time.

The Transaction Manager will initially review the Tenders to identify whether an ECI Tenderer has submitted an approved Alternative Tender. The Evaluation Panel will review all approved Alternative Tenders or otherwise seek endorsement from the Executive Review Panel if it believes an approved Alternative Tender is not suitable to be included in the evaluation process. The Executive Review Panel has the absolute discretion to exclude any approved Alternative Tender from further assessment as part of the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.

The process and criteria for assessing approved Alternative Tenders will be identical to the evaluation process and criteria for the Conforming Tenders as described under this Evaluation Plan.

6.2.6. Mandatory Options (potential Pre-Agreed Variations)

Transgrid has identified the Mandatory Options (which are potential Pre-Agreed Variations) as set out below that the ECI Tenderers were required to provide information in accordance with Returnable Schedule 8 (Options) as part of their Conforming Tender. These Mandatory Options (potential Pre-Agreed Variations) will be reviewed by the Evaluation Panel and assessed as part of the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.

- Pre-Agreed Variation 1 HumeLink West Amendment to Transmission Line Works between Gugaa to Wagga; and
- Pre-Agreed Variation 2 HumeLink East Amendment to Communication Works at ORS2

The Evaluation Panel may also determine that the assessment of any Mandatory Options may be deferred until post selection of the Preferred ECI Tenderers during ECI Stage 2.

6.2.7. Proposed Options

ECI Tenderers may propose additional scope items as Proposed Options within its Conforming Tender.



In accordance with section 7.5.2 (Proposed Options) of ECI RFT Volume 1 (General Information and ECI Phase Requirements), in order to submit a Proposed Option for consideration in the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process, the ECI Tenderer must have obtained Transgrid's written approval via the HumeLink ECI Data Room prior to the Tender Closing Date and Time.

The Transaction Manager will first review the Tenders to identify whether the ECI Tenderer has submitted an approved Proposed Option. The Evaluation Panel will review all approved Proposed Options. If required, the Evaluation Panel may seek guidance from the Executive Review Panel if it believes an approved Proposed Option is not suitable to be included in the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.

The Executive Review Panel has the absolute discretion to include or exclude any Proposed Option in the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process and the Evaluation Panel may seek input from the Sub-Panel to assist the Executive Review Panel in making this determination.

The Evaluation Panel may also determine that the assessment of any Proposed Option should be deferred to ECI Stage 2.

6.3. Step 3: Non-Price Evaluation

The following section provides an overview of the non-price evaluation process.

6.3.1. Non-Price Sub-Panel Evaluation

Each Non-Price Sub-Panel will undertake a detailed assessment of its allocated Returnable Schedules against the relevant Evaluation Criteria in accordance with the requirements of section 3.4 (Sub-Panel) of this Evaluation Plan.

Each Sub-Panel will prepare briefing material and present its assessment findings and recommendations to the Evaluation Panel.

Following these presentations, the Evaluation Panel may direct the Sub-Panels to undertake further review or investigate specific matters and report on its findings back to the Evaluation Panel. The Evaluation Panel may require additional advisors to evaluate Tenders and produce reports.

The Sub-Panel presentations, briefings and any reports will be used as supporting information for the Evaluation Panel.

6.3.2. Evaluation Panel Non-Price and Consensus Evaluation

The Evaluation Panel will individually familiarise itself with the Tender submissions and review and consider any presentations, briefings and reports prepared by the Sub-Panels.

The Evaluation Panel will meet to discuss each member's individual assessment and agree, for each Tender (and for each Contract Package), consensus scores for each Non-Price Evaluation Criterion in accordance with the framework set out in section 6.3.3 (Non-Price Scoring Framework) of this Evaluation Plan.

Written justification for each result must be recorded for each Non-Price Evaluation Criterion. Consensus scores should also take into consideration additional information that has been received regarding an ECI Tenderer or Tender using:



- (a) any information gathered or brought to the attention of Transgrid from the activities and considerations described in the ECI RFT (for example from the ECI Tenderer's nominated referees);
- (b) any other information that Transgrid, in its absolute discretion, considers relevant to evaluating the Tenders (for example the ECI Tenderer's performance on previous Transgrid's infrastructure projects);
 and
- (c) any information regarding the ECI Tenderer's ability to provide proposed team, resources and equipment given other Transgrid's projects.

Prior to the consensus evaluation for Non-Price Evaluation Criteria, the Evaluation Panel will request briefings by the Sub-Panel (with the exception of the Price Sub-Panel) and any other authorised individuals to summarise and clarify their respective reports.

At the time of consensus evaluation, the Sub-Panel Leads may provide input and further advice to the Evaluation Panel to assist with scoring of the Non-Price Evaluation Criteria.

Following the consensus scoring of Tenders for the Non-Price Evaluation Criteria, the Evaluation Panel will present the findings to the Executive Review Panel.

The results of the consensus scoring for Non-Price Evaluation Criteria may require adjustment over time to reflect the outcomes of any subsequent clarifications, structured workshops and negotiations. Any adjustments to consensus scoring, and a supporting rationale will be clearly documented in the Evaluation Report.

6.3.3. Non-Price Scoring Framework

For each Tender, the Evaluation Panel must numerically score the Non-Price Evaluation Criteria in accordance with the scoring framework set out in Table 9, and document their score with justification for the scores awarded in the scoring spreadsheet in Appendix F (Scoring Spreadsheet Template). The score must be based on the information contained in the Tenders and any other information permissible for consideration in accordance with the ECI RFT and/or this Evaluation Plan.



Table 9: Scoring Framework for the Non-Price Evaluation Criteria

Score	Description	Interpretation
10	Exceptional	Exceeds requirements in all areas and offers value-added features (i.e. considered to reflect best industry standard). All claims are fully substantiated. No identifiable errors, risks, weaknesses, or omissions.
9	Outstanding	Exceeds requirements in some areas and meets all other requirements to a very high standard (i.e. considered to reflect best to upper tier of industry). Claims are generally fully substantiated. No identifiable errors, risks, weaknesses, or omissions.
8	Very Good	Meets requirements to a very good standard (i.e. considered to be at the upper tier of industry). Most claims are fully substantiated. Some minor errors, risks, weaknesses, or omissions, which can be accepted as offered.
7	Good	Meets requirements to a good standard (i.e. considered better than industry average). Most claims are fully substantiated. Some errors, risks, weaknesses, or omissions, which can be corrected/overcome with minimum effort.
6	Adequate	Meets requirements to an adequate standard, and where there are issues, these issues can be corrected/overcome and made acceptable. Some claims are not substantiated. Some errors, risks, weaknesses, or omissions, which are possible to correct/overcome and make acceptable.
5	Marginal	Generally meets requirements, but some requirements are not addressed in sufficient detail, which are difficult to correct/overcome and make acceptable. Only some claims are substantiated. Some errors, risks, weaknesses or omissions, which are difficult to correct/overcome and make acceptable.
<5	Unacceptable	Fails to address the requirements, which are unacceptable. Claims are unsubstantiated. Errors, risks, weaknesses, or omissions which are unacceptable.

6.3.4. Key Project Success Focus Areas

In undertaking its detailed assessment against each non-price Evaluation Criteria, the Evaluation Team should be mindful of the following key project success focus areas:

Key Project Focus Area	Guidance	
Resilience	 The ability for the Contractor to adapt to unexpected situations during delivery in a manner that will mitigate impacts to the Project milestones and Project Objectives. 	
Resourcing	 The ability for the Contractor to sustain the required levels of resourcing of the required skilled resources throughout delivery, in a manner that will achieve the Project milestones. 	



Key Project Focus Area	Guidance	
Flexibility	 The ability for the Contractor to change its solution and approach for the delivery of the Project as required to suit Project changes during delivery. 	

In the instance of a deadlock in the Evaluation Panel's consensus non-price scoring and/or ranking, the Evaluation Panel may consider the extent to which each ECI Tenderer has addressed the above key project success focus areas to assist in the differentiation between the Tenders.

6.3.5. Clarifications, structured workshops and negotiations

As outlined in section 5 (Evaluation Procedures) of this Evaluation Plan, the Evaluation Panel may issue clarifications and engage in structured clarification workshops and negotiations at any time during the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process after the Tender Closing Date and Time.

The outcomes of any clarifications, structured workshops and negotiations will be included in the assessment of the Non-Price Evaluation Criteria.

6.4. Step 4: Price Evaluation

The following section provides an overview of the price evaluation of the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.

The price evaluation will be undertaken in parallel with Step 3 (Non-Price Evaluation). However, the full details of the price information and findings of the price evaluation process will only be revealed to the Executive Review Panel and the Evaluation Panel once the initial consensus non-price scoring has been completed by the Evaluation Panel (as set out in Step 3).

The Evaluation Panel Chairperson may authorise the Price Sub-Panel to provide confidential price briefings to authorised members of the Evaluation Team and/or Transgrid executive prior to the above date. However, the tendered Target Cost of each ECI Tenderer must be kept anonymous until the initial consensus non-price scoring has been completed by the Evaluation Panel.

6.4.1. Price analysis

The Price Sub-Panel will undertake a detailed price assessment for each Tender, in parallel with Step 3 above.

The price evaluation methodology to be undertaken by the Price Sub-Panel is provided in Appendix E (Price Evaluation Approach) of this Evaluation Plan.

Additional clarifications, workshops and/or negotiations may be required to complete this price analysis.

6.4.2. Briefings to Evaluation Panel

Post completion of the consensus scoring for the Non-Price Evaluation Criteria, the Price Sub-Panel will provide separate briefings to the Evaluation Panel for their assessment of the Price Evaluation Criteria. The members of the Evaluation Panel will also obtain access to each ECI Tenderer's Returnable Schedule 7 (Pricing) at this time.



The results of the assessment for Price Evaluation Criteria may require adjustment over time to reflect the outcomes of any subsequent clarifications, structured workshops and negotiations. Any adjustments, and a supporting rationale, should be clearly documented in the Evaluation Report.

6.4.3. Price adjustments

Following the initial price briefing to the Evaluation Panel, the Price Sub-Panel (including with input and support from other Sub-Panel members) will facilitate price adjustments workshops for the pricing for each Tender (including Alternative Tenders). The price adjustment workshops will include calculation of any required adjustments to ascertain the full cost of each Tender, in accordance with the methodology described in Appendix E (Price Evaluation Approach) and utilising technical and commercial input as required. Evaluation Panel members can also participate in the price adjustment workshops at their discretion.

Following the price adjustment workshops, the Price Sub-Panel will provide an updated price briefing to the Evaluation Panel. The Evaluation Panel will then undertake consensus evaluation of each Tender against the Price Evaluation Criteria.

In calculating quantified risk and opportunity adjustments for each Tender, the Price Sub-Panel and Evaluation Panel must ensure that a risk is not unfairly double considered in both the Non-Price and Price Evaluation Criteria. This may require an adjustment to the consensus scoring for each Tender against the Non-Price Evaluation Criteria.

The Evaluation Panel will also review the initial scores for the Non-Price Evaluation Criteria and make adjustments if required to reflect the outcomes of any subsequent clarifications, structured workshops and negotiations. Any adjustments to consensus scoring, and a supporting rationale, must be clearly documented in the Evaluation Report.

6.4.4. Uncompetitive Tenders

The Evaluation Panel may recommend to the Executive Review Panel that a Tender be excluded from the remaining ECI Stage 1 evaluation process where, as result of undertaking its assessment, the Tender is considered to be uncompetitive or is deemed unacceptable for any of the Evaluation Criteria.

The Executive Review Panel must review and provide feedback on the Evaluation Panel's recommendation prior to excluding such Tender.

Where the Evaluation Panel has decided to exclude a Tender for being uncompetitive, the following details should be included in the Evaluation Report:

- (a) details of the lack of competition;
- (b) reasons for that Evaluation Panel's decision; and
- (c) where relevant, references to the relevant section/ discretion in the ECI RFT.

The Evaluation Panel may or may not, in its absolute discretion, inform the relevant ECI Tenderer that its Tender has been excluded for further consideration.

6.5. Step 5: Preferred ECI Tenderer recommendation

Following the assessment of Tenders against the Evaluation Criteria, the Evaluation Panel will determine its consensus recommendation with respect to the Preferred ECI Tenderer for each Contract Package.



This recommendation will be determined by the Evaluation Panel based on the ECI Tenderers that it considers to have demonstrated the highest potential to deliver the best value for money for Transgrid in an accelerated timeframe. This recommendation will be based on:

- (a) due consideration of each Tender (and any Alternative Tender if applicable) in its entirety (inclusive of outcomes of clarifications, workshops and negotiations);
- (b) consideration of the Sub-Panel and advisor briefings and reports;
- (c) consensus scoring by the Evaluation Panel on the Non-Price Evaluation Criteria;
- (d) assessment by the Evaluation Panel of the Price Evaluation Criteria; and
- (e) any other issue deemed relevant (in adherence to this Evaluation Plan) to be included for assessment by the Evaluation Panel.

6.5.1. Delivery Partner Panel Members Recommendation

As outlined in section 4.17 of ECI RFT Volume 1, Transgrid intends to leverage the Strategic Market Engagement for HumeLink to establish a Delivery Partner Panel (comprising of up to three ECI Tenderers ('Panel Members')) capable of supporting the development and delivery of Transgrid's future major projects portfolio. This will provide Transgrid the ability to draw upon the experience and expertise of Panel Members for advice on project-specific risks related to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), constructability and design standardisation, land acquisition and long-lead equipment sourcing strategy, as well as a shortlist of tenderers for future projects.

Transgrid intends that all three ECI Tenderers become members of this Delivery Partner Panel, subject to satisfactory performance during the ECI Stage 1 process. As part of the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process, the evaluation panel will confirm its recommendation with respect to the suitability of each ECI Tenderer to be included as panel members for the Delivery Partner Panel. The key considerations for this assessment will include:

- (a) satisfactory performance against each of the Non-Price Criteria (e.g. score of 5 or over for each Evaluation Criterion or satisfactory strategy to resolve any criterion that scored lower than 4);
- (b) value for money assessment of the schedule of rates for activities undertaken under the Delivery Partner Panel (submitted in response to Returnable Schedule 7); and
- (c) acceptability of the ECI Tenderer's proposed departures to the Delivery Partner Panel Framework and Services Agreement (submitted in response to Item 6.9 of Returnable Schedule 6).

6.6. Step 6: Evaluation Report

On completion of the Evaluation Panel's final scoring, the Evaluation Panel Chairperson will arrange the preparation of a draft Evaluation Report which includes the assessment of Tenders. The draft Evaluation Report will be reviewed by the Evaluation Panel.

The Evaluation Report will provide the basis for the recommendation for the Preferred ECI Tenderer for each Contract Package. The Evaluation Report should include the following:

- (a) details of the Tenders received;
- (b) details of any Alternative Tenders, Options and Pre-Agreed Variations;



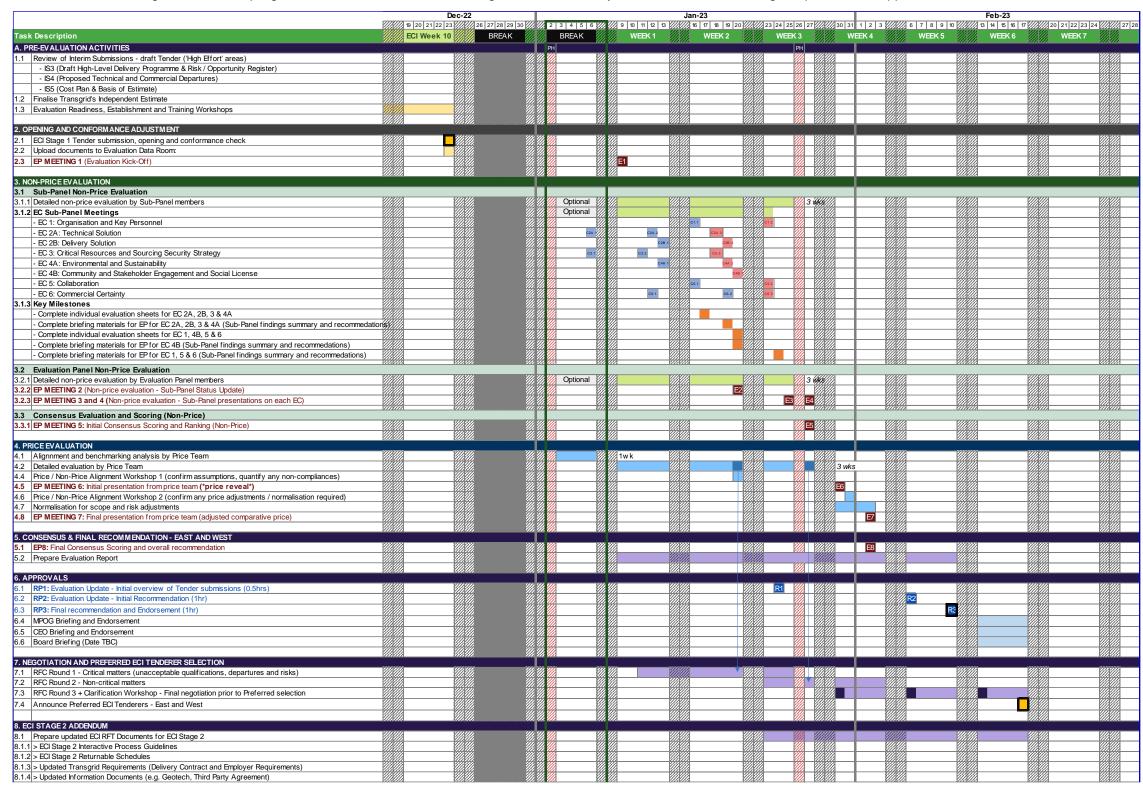
- (c) rationale for the determination of any Tenders as Non-Conforming and its inclusion in or exclusion from (as applicable) further evaluation;
- (d) a description of the evaluation process undertaken, including clarifications raised, referee checks conducted, any ECI Tenderer meetings, presentations and interviews;
- (e) the final consensus scores, value for money assessment and recommended Preferred ECI Tenderer for each Contract Package (including any Alternative Tenders, Options and Pre-Agreed Variations);
- (f) key reasons for the recommendation and benefits where applicable, for Transgrid;
- (g) a list of members on the Sub-Panel and other authorised individuals called upon during the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process and their role;
- (h) any reports or supporting information provided to the Evaluation Panel to assist with the evaluation process by Sub-Panel and any other authorised individuals;
- (i) any changes to the evaluation process where applicable, including justification for those changes and details regarding the endorsement and approval for any amendments;
- (j) probity statement including reference to conflict of interest and other probity requirements; and
- (k) confirmation that the process undertaken in evaluating Tenders was consistent with the Evaluation Plan. In addition, the Probity Advisor will provide a Probity Report of their observations and findings to the Executive Review Panel.



7. Evaluation Program

7.1. Indicative Evaluation Program

The indicative ECI Stage 1 evaluation program is outlined below. Indicative agendas for each key Evaluation Team meeting are provided at Appendix L of this Evaluation Plan.





7.2. Key Evaluation Milestones

The key evaluation milestones are identified in Table 10 below.

Table 10: Key Milestone Dates

Key Milestone	Date
Closing Date and Time for Tenders	1:00PM AEDT on 23 December 2022
Tender Opening and Completeness Check	23 December 2022
ECI Stage 1 Evaluation Period	
EP Meeting 1 - Evaluation Kick-Off	9 January 2023
Non-Price Evaluation	
EP Meeting 2 - Non-Price Evaluation – Non-Price Sub- Panel Presentations on 'High Effort' areas	20 January 2023
EP Meeting 3 – Non-Price Evaluation – Non-Price Sub- Panel Presentations on Evaluation Criteria (Part 1)	25 January 2023
EP Meeting 4 – Non-Price Evaluation – Non-Price Sub- Panel Presentations on Evaluation Criteria (Part 2)	27 January 2023
EP Meeting 5 – Initial Non-Price Consensus Scoring and Ranking	27 January 2023
Price Evaluation	
Risk Workshop 1	20 January 2023
EP Meeting 6 – Price Reveal	30 January 2023
Price Adjustment and Risk Workshop 2	31 January 2023
Price Adjustment and Risk Workshop 3	1 February 2023
EP Meeting 7 – Adjusted Comparative Price	2 February 2023
EP Meeting 8 – Final Consensus Scoring and Overall Recommendation	2 February 2023
Evaluation Report	
Finalisation of Evaluation Report	10 February 2023
Governance	
ERP Meeting 1 – Initial Overview of Tender Submissions	24 January 2023
ERP Meeting 2 – Initial Recommendation	6 February 2023
ERP Meeting 3 – Final Recommendation and Endorsement	10 February 2023
Major Projects Oversight Group - Endorsement	w/c 13 February 2023
Announcement of Preferred ECI Tenderers	17 February 2023

A detailed ECI Stage 1 evaluation program is provided in section 7.1 (Indicative Evaluation Program) of this Evaluation Plan.



8. Definitions

Unless otherwise stated in this section, defined terms used in this Evaluation Plan have the same meaning as identical terms defined in the ECI RFT.

Term	Definition
AEDT	means Australian Eastern Daylight Time.
Completeness Check	means the process as described in section 6.2.2 (Completeness Check) of this Evaluation Plan.
Completeness Check Form	means the form as provided in Appendix J(Completeness Check Form) of this Evaluation Plan.
Conformance Check	means the process as described in section 6.2.3 (Conformance Check) of this Evaluation Plan.
Conformance Check Form	means the form as provided in Appendix K (Conformance Check Form Template) of this Evaluation Plan.
Establishment Meeting	means the meetings, as described in section 6.1 (Step 1: Establishment Meetings) of this Evaluation Plan, that will be held with relevant teams prior to the commencement of the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.
Evaluation Panel (EP)	means the group of individuals established by Transgrid to conduct the ECI Stage 1 evaluation.
Evaluation Panel Chairperson	means the person nominated as the Evaluation Panel Chairperson and named in Table 3 (Evaluation Panel Members) of this Evaluation Plan.
Evaluation Panel Non- Voting Committee	means the individuals named in Table 4 (Evaluation Panel Non-Voting Committee) of this Evaluation Plane.
Evaluation Plan	means the ECI Stage 1 Evaluation Plan (this document) for the Project.
Evaluation Report	means the report that will be prepared and signed by the Evaluation Panel that contains its recommendation on the selection of the Preferred ECI Tenderers to proceed to ECI Stage 2.
Evaluation Team	means the Transgrid team (including its internal and external advisors) engaged to undertake the evaluation activities set out in this Evaluation Plan, and which is further described in section 3 (Evaluation team) of this Evaluation Plan.
Executive Review Panel (ERP)	means the group of individuals established by Transgrid to review and oversee the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process, and ultimately provide endorsement of the findings and recommendations provided by Evaluation Panel in the Evaluation Report.
Executive Review Panel Chairperson	means the person nominated as the Executive Review Panel Chairperson and named in Table 2 (Executive Review Panel Members) of this Evaluation Plan.
HumeLink ECI Data Room	means the dedicated website established for the ECI Phase for the Strategic Market Engagement as described in Section 5.2.2 (ECI Data Room) of ECI RFT Volume 1 (General Information and ECI Phase Requirements).
HumeLink ECI Stage 1 Evaluation Data Room	means the dedicated website established for the non-price evaluation of Tenders during the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.



Term	Definition
HumeLink ECI Stage 1 Price Evaluation Data Room	means the dedicated website established for the price evaluation of Tenders during the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.
Non-Price Evaluation Criteria	means the Evaluation Criteria 1 to 6 referred to in section 2 (Evaluation Criteria) and such other criteria as Transgrid may, in its absolute discretion, consider relevant.
Non-Price Evaluation Criterion	means a criterion of the Non-Price Evaluation Criteria.
Non-Price Sub-Panel	means a subset to the Sub-Panel which supports the Evaluation Panel in the non-price evaluation of the Tenders during the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.
Price Evaluation Criteria	means the Evaluation Criterion 7 referred to in Section 2 (Evaluation Criteria) and such other criteria as Transgrid may, in its absolute discretion, consider relevant.
Price Evaluation Criterion	means a criterion of the Price Evaluation Criteria.
Price Sub-Panel	means a subset to the Sub-Panel which supports the Evaluation Panel in the price evaluation of the Tenders during the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.
Probity Report	means the probity report that details the Probity Advisor's observations and findings with respect to the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.
Request for Clarification (RFC)	means a request for clarification issued to an ECI Tenderer to seek explanation or further information on certain aspects of a Tender that may be unclear, ambiguous or inconsistent with the requirements or risk allocation as specified in the ECI RFT.
Sub-Panel	collectively consists of the Sub-Panel Leads, Non-Price Sub-Panel and Price Sub-Panel.
Sub-Panel Lead	means an individual appointed to lead and oversee the Sub-Panel evaluation activities with respect to the Evaluation Criteria that have been assigned to them
Tender Opening Form	means the form as provided in Appendix I (Tender Opening Form) of this Evaluation Plan.
Transaction Manager	means ConnellGriffin's transaction team members which have been appointed by Transgrid to coordinate and facilitate the ECI Stage 1 evaluation process.
Late Tender	means a Tender received after the Tender Closing Date and Time.



Appendix A HumeLink Probity Conduct Plan



Appendix B Transgrid Code of Ethics and Conduct



Appendix C Returnable Schedule Allocation and Key Review Considerations



Appendix D Sub-Panel Presentation Templates

Sub-Panel presentation templates will be provided on Microsoft Teams channels.



Appendix E Price Evaluation Approach



Appendix F Scoring Spreadsheet Template



Appendix G RFC Process



Appendix H Request for Clarification Form



Appendix I Tender Opening Form



Appendix J Completeness Check Form



Appendix K Conformance Check Form Template



Appendix L Indicative ECI Stage 1 Evaluation Program & Meeting Agendas