Transgrid

People. Power. Possibilities.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Waratah Super Battery non-contestable revenue proposal

Contents

Introduction

1.1. Purpose

This Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) supports Transgrid's project to deliver network augmentation works associated with the Waratah Super Battery project.

It identifies the key stakeholders with an interest in the works, highlights key stakeholder issues and concerns, and the key messages, tools and techniques we will use to engage with stakeholders throughout preparation of our proposal.

Also included is a program of communication and engagement activities, which we will review and update over time, in alignment with key project milestones.

This Strategy aligns with the WSB Regulatory Engagement Strategy, which details the approach for communicating and engaging with community stakeholders and landowners, throughout the planning, approvals and construction phase of the overall WSB project.

2. Project background

2.1. Project objectives and scope

The aim of the WSB project is to increase power transfer capacity on transmission lines that connect generation in the northern and southern regions of NSW to the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong region.

The battery will operate as part of a broader System Integrity Protection Scheme (SIPS). The SIPS is designed to monitor transmission lines and enable the battery to act as a 'shock absorber' in the event of any sudden fault on the transmission system.

The WSB project includes both contestable and non-contestable works.

2.2. WSB Project - contestable component

The WSB project will be delivered on the NSW Central Coast, on the site of Transgrid's existing Munmorah substation, and site of the former Munmorah Power Station at 301 Scenic Drive, Colongra. The project site is located approximately one kilometre east of the Central Coast Highway, about three kilometres from the neighbouring suburb of Doyalson and about five kilometres from Budgewoi (see Figure 1 over page).

The Munmorah Power Station closed in June 2012 after operating for approximately 50 years. It has a total area of approximately 730 hectares. The location of the WSB at Munmorah has an area of approximately 15 hectares and was previously used as the coal stockpile area for the power station. The site is largely cleared and disturbed from its previous use for the power station.

Transgrid is not building the WSB. Akaysha Energy has been appointed to build the WSB. Transgrid will operate the WSB once it is completed.

Further information: https://www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/projects/waratah-super-battery

Figure 1: Approximate location of the WSB project on the former Munmorah Power Station site.

Figure 2: Artist's impression of WSB

2.3. WSB Project location – Non-contestable (Transgrid) component

The non-contestable components of the project, which Transgrid has been directed by the Minister to undertake, involve augmentation works and SIPS control. This is to allow existing generation to transmit more energy to meet demand in the Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong regions, following the reduction in supply within that region due to the potential early retirement of the Eraring power station. These non-contestable works will form an integral part of our existing transmission network once operational.

2.3.1. Transmission Lines Augmentation

The non-contestable transmission lines scope of works, or transmission line augmentations, require the uprating (i.e., capacity increase) on three existing transmission lines as set out in Table 1 below. Transmission Line Augmentations will have the greatest landowners and community impact of Transgrid's portion of the works.

Transmission line	Uprating requirement	Delivery date
Line 39 Bannaby to Sydney West	Increasing capacity from 85°C to 120°C	1 Nov 2024
Line 3L/4 Yass to Marulan	Increase capacity from 68°C to 85°C	1 August 2025
Line 5 Yass to Marulan	Increase capacity from 68°C to 85°C	1 August 2025

Table 1 Transmission line uprating works

Increasing the operating temperature of these transmission lines means that the conductor will sag more at these higher operating temperatures, reducing conductor clearances in some sections of the transmission lines below the safe clearances set out in AS/NZS 7000. The scope of works required to achieve the transmission line uprating while maintaining minimum safe conductor clearances has been assessed through engineering analysis of the transmission lines and is summarised in Table 2 below.

Transmission Line	New structure install	D string and V string install	Tower strengthening	Construction timing*
Line 39 Bannaby to Sydney West	3	32	11	April 2024 to August 2024
Line 3L/4 Yass to Marulan	15	117	52	May 2024 to May 2025
Line 5 Yass to Marulan	12	150	45	March 2024 to November 2024

Table 2 Scope of transmission line works and num ber of impacted landowners

*Subject to change

2.3.2. Replacement towers

Towers will be replaced in 17 locations.

Line	Region	Structure number	Type
TL 3L/4	Yass Sub to Collector Sub	4	SUSPENSION
TL 3L/4	Yass Sub to Collector Sub	6	SUSPENSION
TL 3L/4	Collector Sub to Marulan Sub	65	SUSPENSION
TL 3L/4	Collector Sub to Marulan Sub	113	SUSPENSION
TL 3L/4	Collector Sub to Marulan Sub	143	SUSPENSION
TL 3L/4	Collector Sub to Marulan Sub	158	TENSION
TL 3L/4	Collector Sub to Marulan Sub	176	TENSION
TL 3L/4	Collector Sub to Marulan Sub	182	SUSPENSION
TL 3L/4	Collector Sub to Marulan Sub	201	SUSPENSION
TL 3L/4	Collector Sub to Marulan Sub	210	SUSPENSION
TL 5	Yass to Marulan	156	TENSION
TL 5	Yass to Marulan	169	TENSION
TL 5	Yass to Marulan	223	SUSP
TL 5	Yass to Marulan	240	TENSION
TL 5	Yass to Marulan	271	SUSP
TL 39	Picton	423	SUSP
TL 39	Luddenham / Greendale	495	SUSP

Table 3 Locations of tower replacements

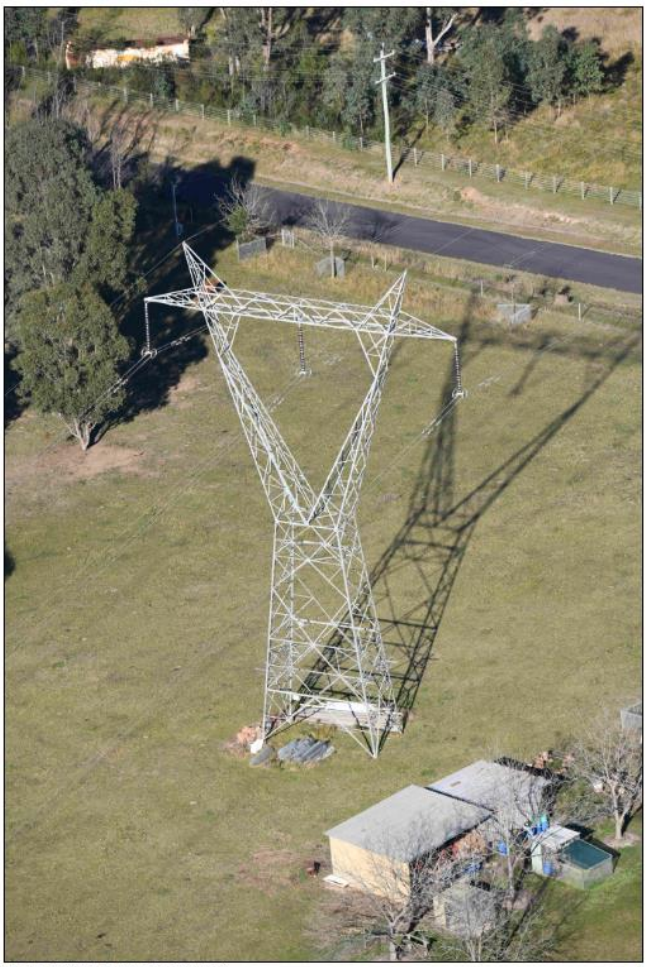
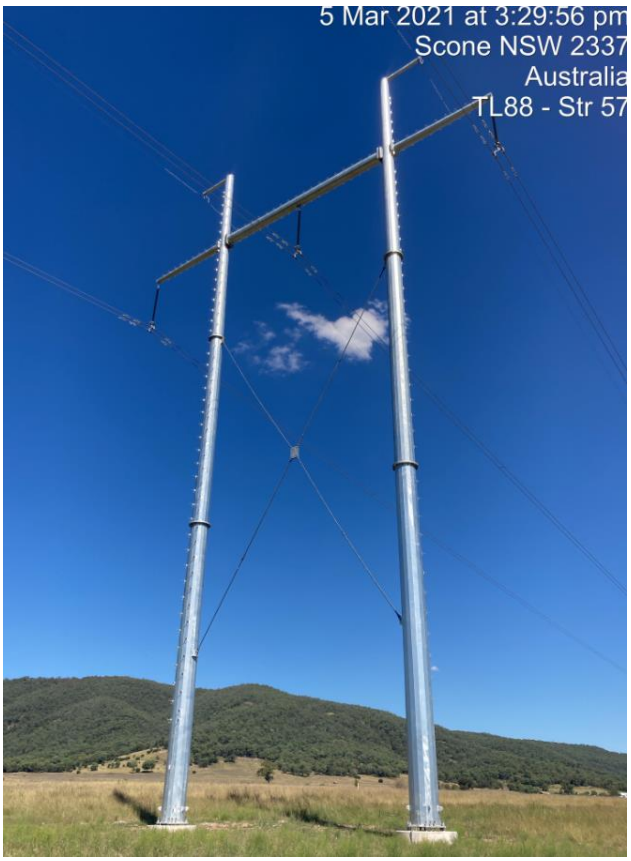
Current	Replacement towers
 TL39-STR495-FACE_BBY-03.jpg	 

Figure 3: Current towers and replacement towers

Environmental and ecology surveys will be conducted from June 2023.

Transgrid will have construction resources onsite from September 2023 through to April 2025. This program will likely be pushed forward with environmental surveys conducted in June 2023.

2.4. Transmission Line Augmentation Works – Line locations

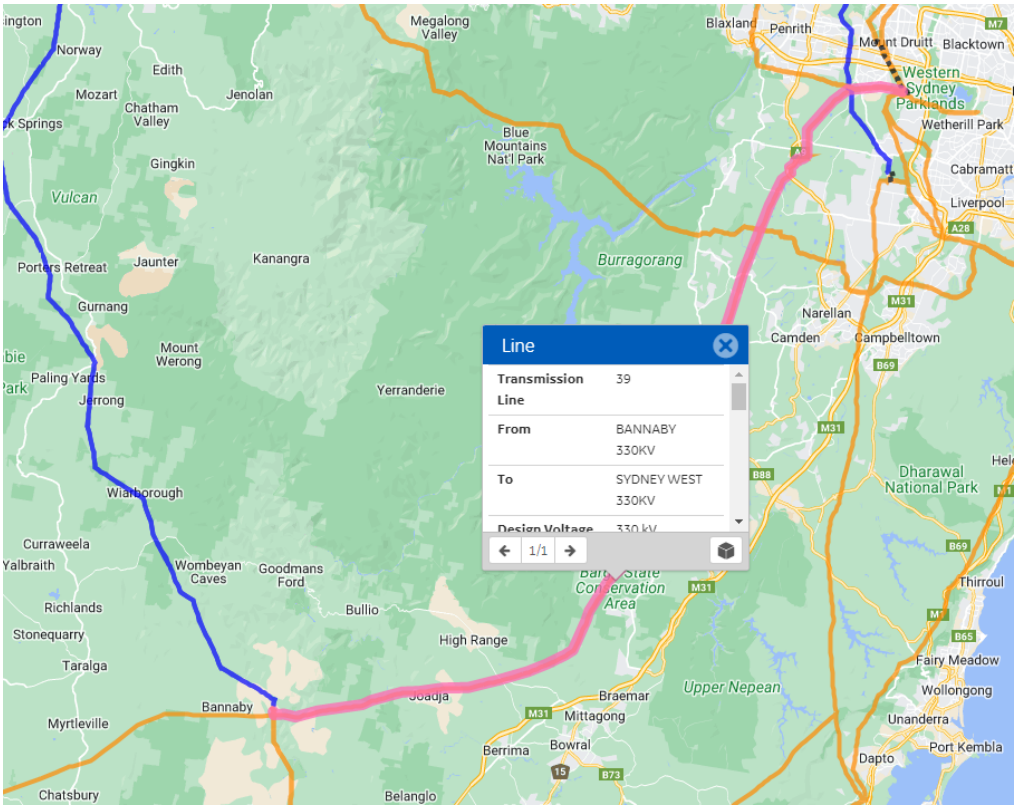


Figure 3: Transmission Line 39 – Sydney West to Bannaby

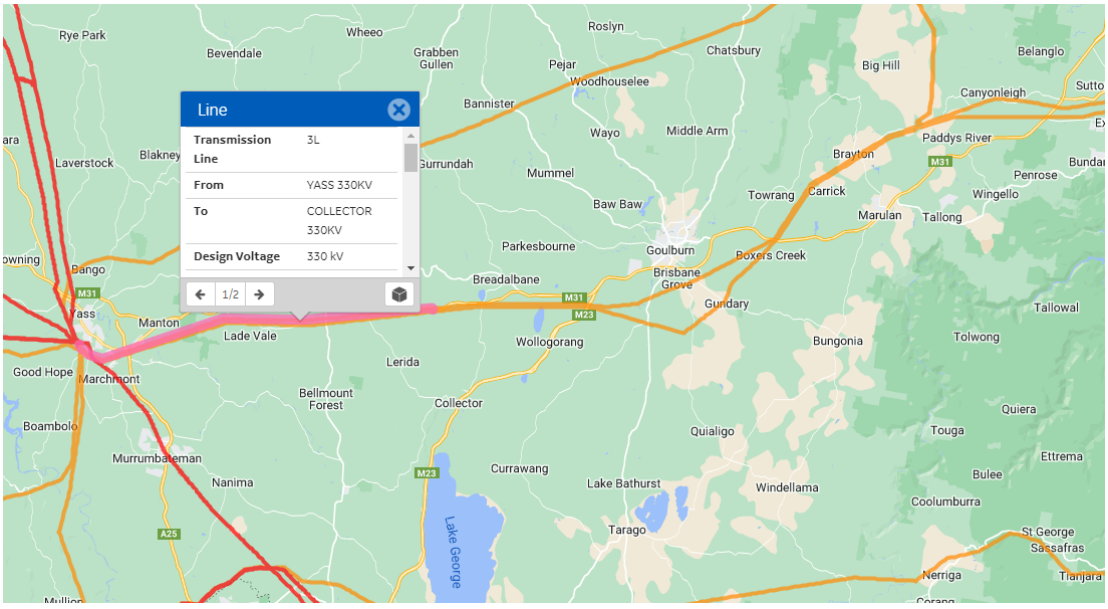


Figure 4: Transmission Line 3L: Yass to Collector

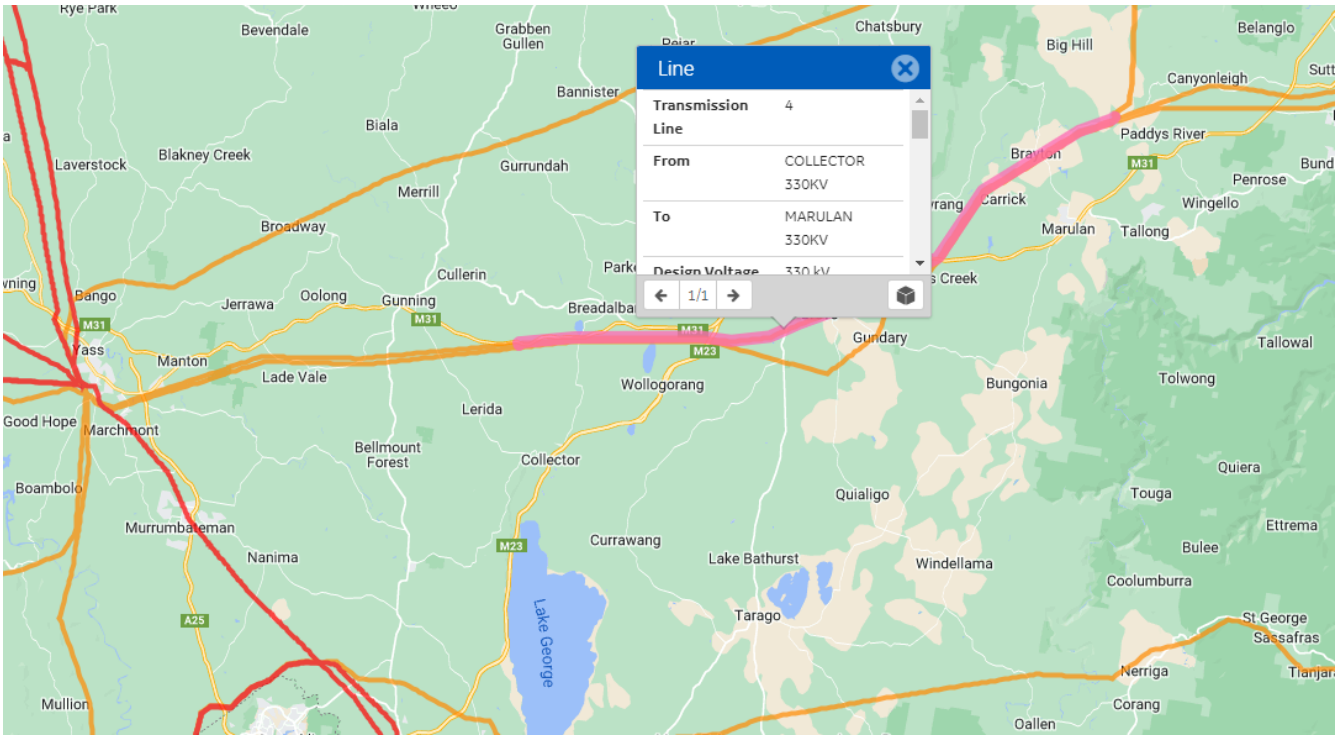


Figure 5: Transmission Line 4 – Collector to Marulan

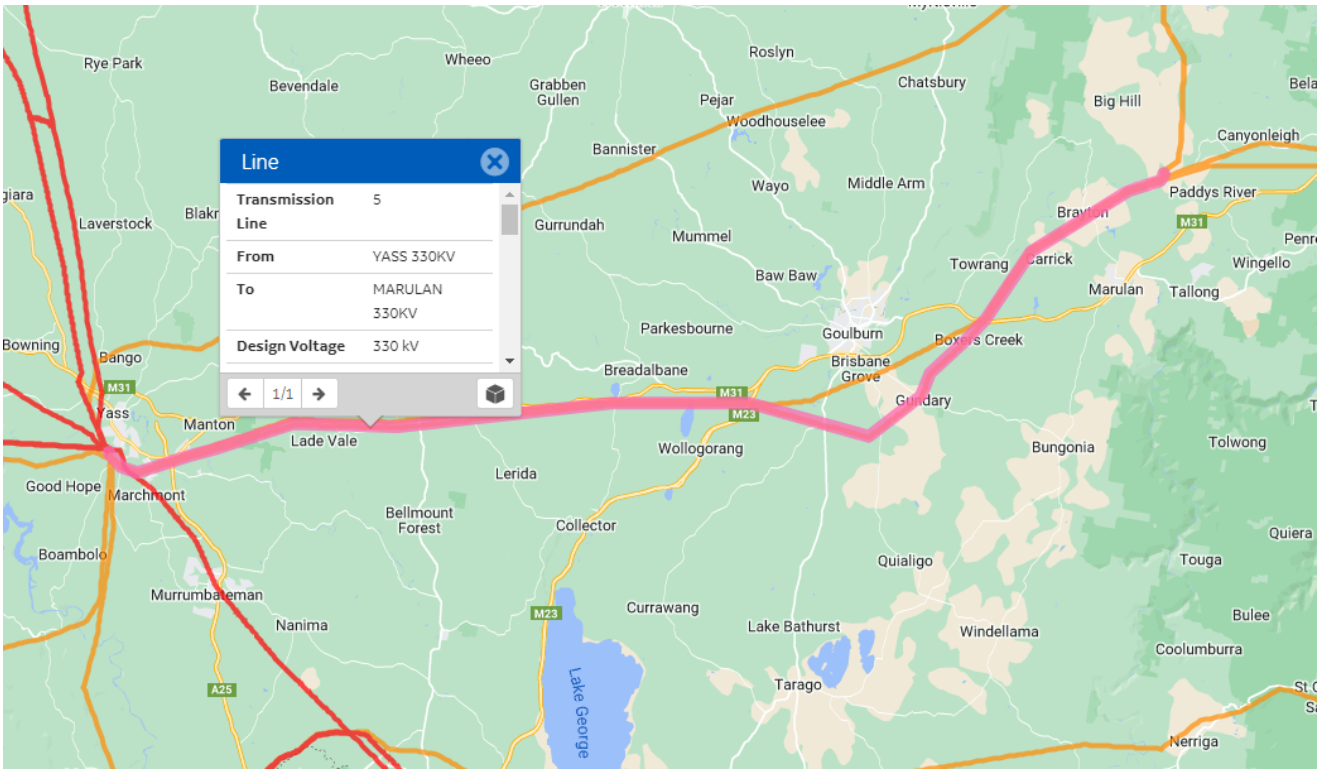


Figure 6: Transmission Line 5 – Yass to Marulan

2.4.1. Substation works

There will be uprating (i.e. capacity increase) equipment installed at 13 southern substations by 1 Aug 2025. The substation works are not expected to have any large-scale impact on significant numbers of landowners and community members as works will be localised and carried out within substations.

Northern substations Work period - February 2024 to December 2024	**Southern substations** Work period - July 2024 to May 2025
Liddell	Yass
Newcastle	Collector
Tomago	Marulan
Muswellbrook	Bannaby
Tamworth	Sydney West
Armidale	Macarthur
Dumaresq	Upper Tumut
Sapphire	Lower Tumut

Table 3: Substation works and timings

2.4.2. Controls and communications

There will be Installation of control and communications system by 1 Nov 2024. This is expected to have minimal impact on landowners and the community as the works will be undertaken within Transgrid's substations.

3. Engagement approach

3.1. Best practice frameworks

The International Association of Public Participation's (IAP2) Public Participation Spectrum (shown in Figure 3) provides a guiding framework for engaging the public, endorsed by Transgrid as the best-practice approach to community and stakeholder engagement. The IAP2 guidelines and practices adhere to open, transparent and inclusive engagement processes. The Spectrum is widely used and well recognised as a guideline for formulating a best-practice approach to stakeholder and community engagement.

In addition to the IAP2 spectrum, our engagement approach is guided by the AER's *Better Resets Handbook.* The Handbook sets out the AER's expectations of how network businesses should engage with

consumers and how outcomes of that engagement should be reflected in proposals. These expectations are principles-based and cover the nature of engagement, the breadth and depth of engagement, and clearly evidenced impact of engagement.

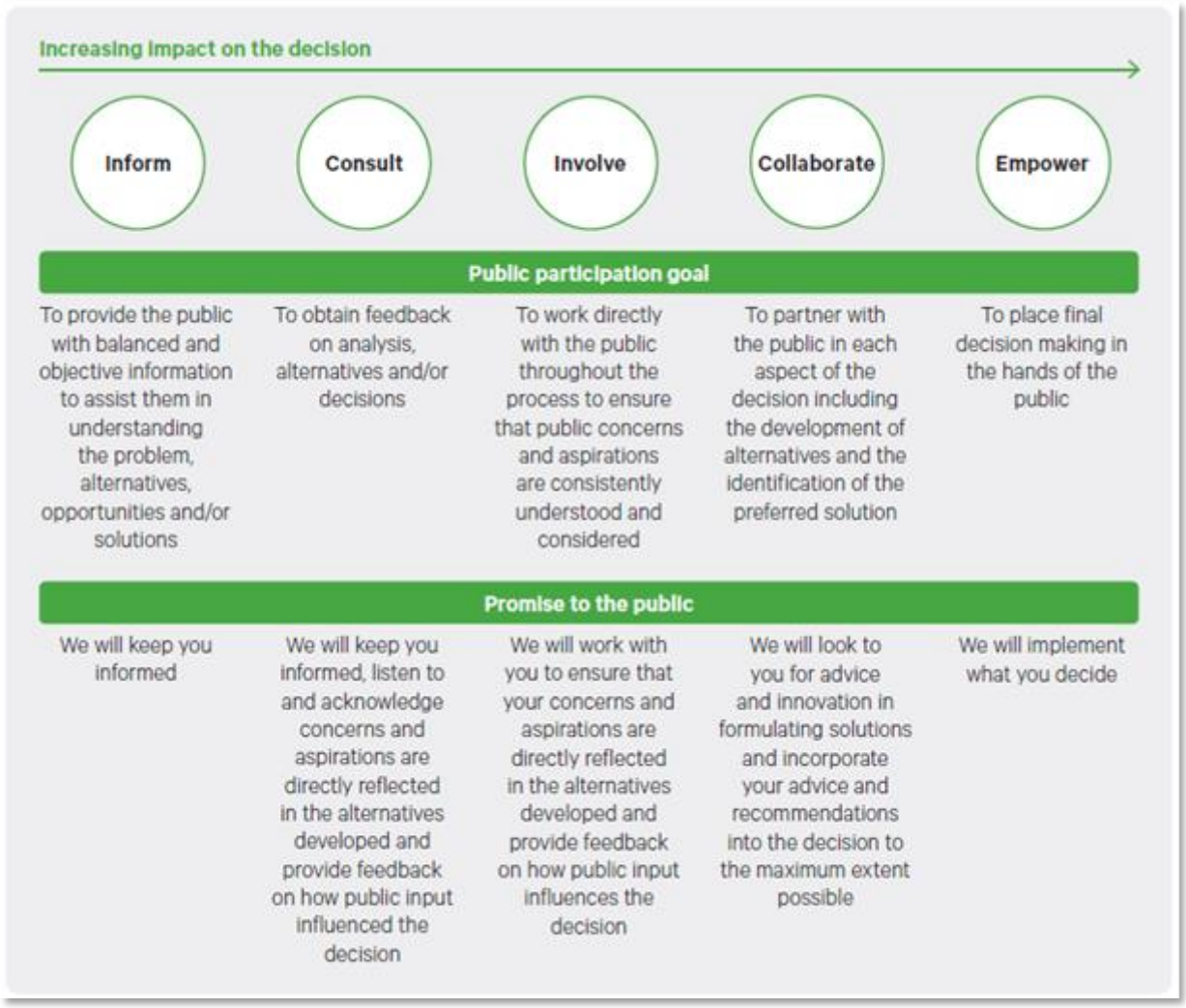


Figure 7: IAP2 public participation spectrum.

3.2. Engagement principles

The following principles will guide our approach for communicating and engaging with stakeholders in the preparation of the WSB non-contestable Revenue Proposal:

Genuine – we will engage early and often, ensuring time for feedback to be considered and integrated into the project and decision-making processes.

Inclusive – we will provide ongoing engagement opportunities, using various methods, to facilitate meaningful involvement in issues and the project.

Accessible – we will avoid jargon and use plain English to ensure communications materials are clear, concise and easy to understand, and we will provide information materials in a timely manner.

Responsive – we will work with stakeholders to regularly review and refine our engagement approach and processes.

Transparent – we will engage openly, honestly and transparently and we will demonstrate how we have considered stakeholder feedback, the decisions we make and why.

4. Communications

4.1. Communication tools

The following communication and engagement tools have been identified by stakeholder analysis, current practice. These tools will be regularly reviewed to ensure they are effective.

Method	Purpose and frequency
Media release	Pre-prepared release and holding statements on key issues / opportunities to promote project progress and support timely issues management. Released as agreed with media team
Project fact sheets	Plain-English explanations of technical process through project development and delivery. Published online when website is live
Website	Project website page designed to provide general information about the project and facilitate feedback process
Social media	Provide regular project progress updates and news to the general community. Updates as agreed with media team
Briefings	Key stakeholders will be offered regular briefings on the project status and its potential impacts, providing a mechanism for feedback and collaboration. Meetings to occur as required and at a minimum quarterly
Calls, letters and emails	Targeted communication with landowners, stakeholders and the community to provide an additional mechanism for gathering feedback and sharing updates, as required
On-property meetings	One-on-one meetings with impacted landowners act as a mechanism for which feedback can be provided to the project team
Property maps	Targeted mapping to support conversations about property features and/or upcoming works
1800 number and email	Continuous and ad hoc contact information that allows communication with the project team, as well as facilitating community feedback. Transgrid's general community number 1800 222 537 and email community@transgrid.com.au to be used

Table 4: Engagement Communication Methods

5. Stakeholder analysis

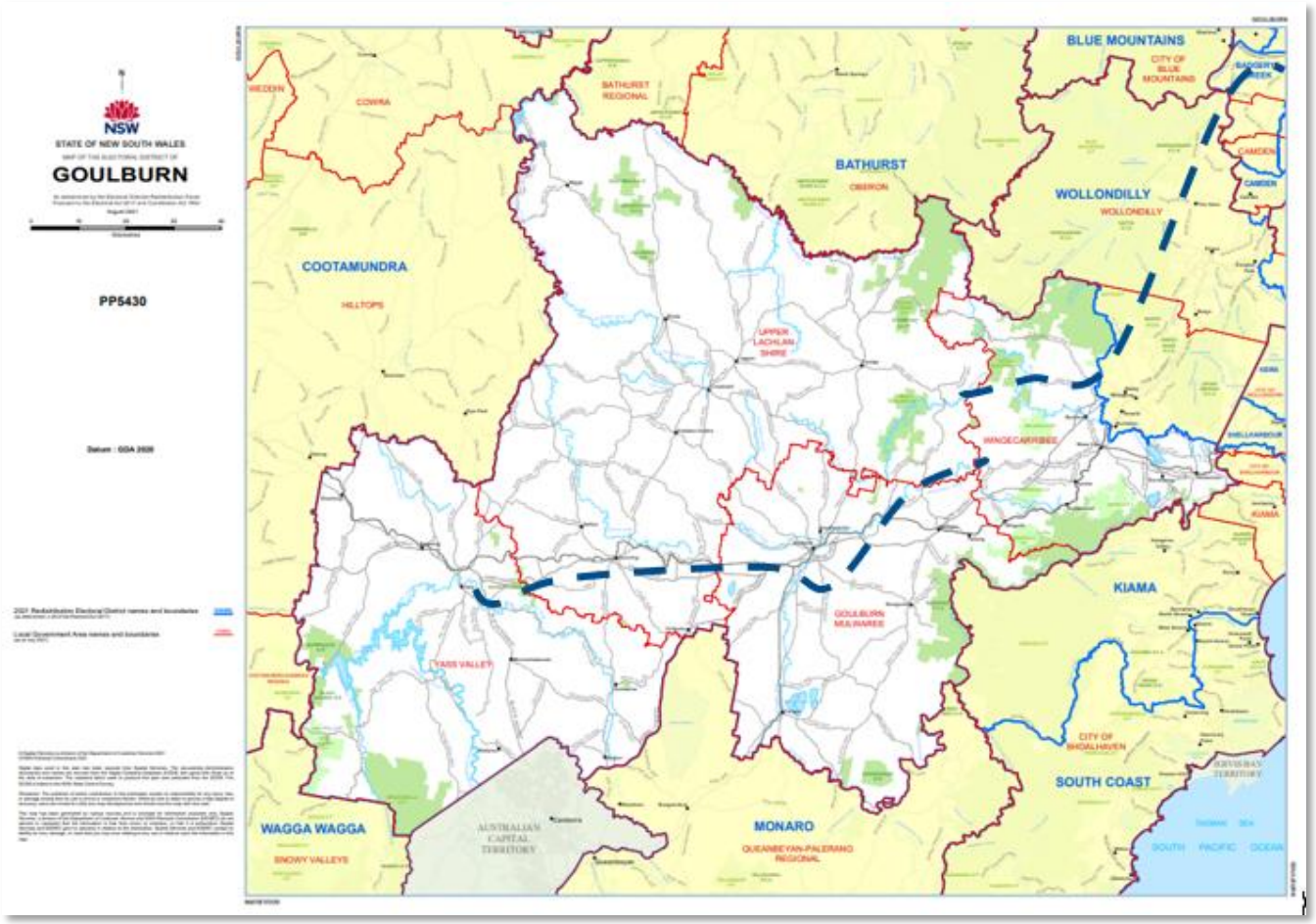
5.1. Community and Stakeholder identification

Table 5: Summary of key project stakeholders

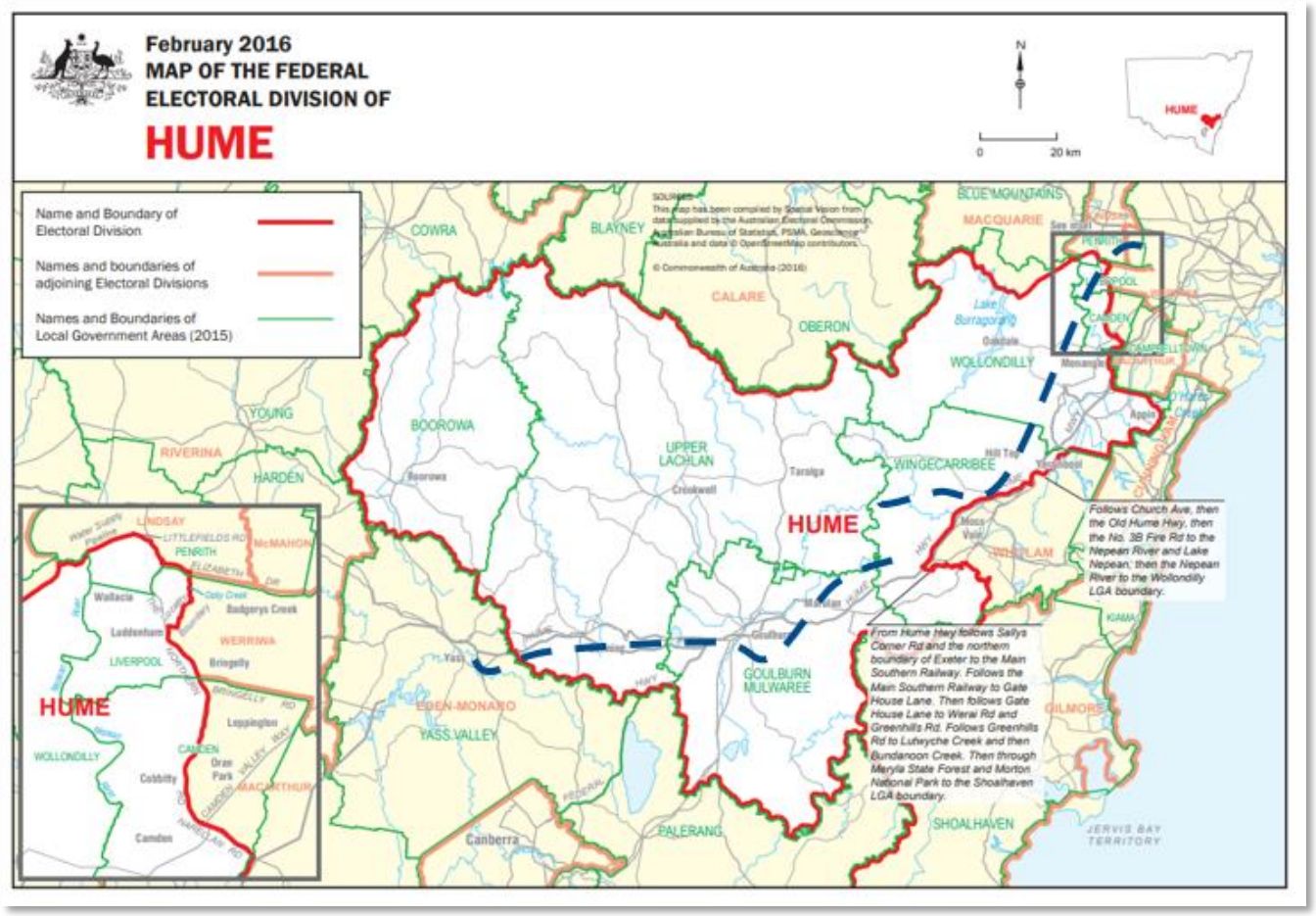
Stakeholder group	Description	Level of interest/ influence	Public participation goal
Directly impacted Landowners along TLs 39, 3L, 4 and 5	Those with existing transmission lines on their property impacted by augmentation works. Includes private landowners, council, state government land and National Parks.	High	Inform and consult
Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALCs)	Traditional owners of the land upon which Project works will be undertaken	High	Inform and consult
Local Government	Penrith Council (Line 39) Liverpool Council (Line 39) Wollondilly Council (Line 39) Wingecarribbee Council (Line 39) Goulburn Mulwaree Council (Line 3L/4/5) Upper Lachlan Council (Line 3L/4/5) Yass Valley Council (Line 3L/4/5)	Medium	Inform
State Members	**WSB transmission line augmentation works** Member for Goulburn - Mrs Wendy Tuckerman MP (Lib) Member for Wollondilly - Mrs (Judy) Judith Anne Hannan, MP (Ind) Member for Badgerys Creek - Mrs Tanya Davies (Lib) **WSB** Member for Swansea, Yasmin Catley Member for Wyong, David Harris Member for Lake Macquarie, Greg Piper	Medium	Inform
Federal Members	Member for Hume - Hon Angus Taylor MP (Lib) Member for Eden Monaro (Hon Kristy McBain MP Member for McMahon (Hon Chris Bowen) Member for Lindsay (Melissa McIntosh)	Low	Inform
State Government bodies	EnergyCo	Medium to high	Inform, consult and involve

Stakeholder group	Description	Level of interest/ influence	Public participation goal
	Environment Protection Authority NSW Department of Planning and Environment		
Air Services	CASA, Airservices, any identified airports within a 15km radius and Western Sydney Parkland Authority and Goulburn Airport	Low	Inform
Consumer representatives and advocacy groups	Energy Ombudsman Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC)	Medium	Inform
Transgrid Advisory Council (TAC)	Industry participants – managed by TG stakeholder engagement	Medium	Inform and consult
Federal Government departments and bodies	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner	Low to medium	Inform
Service providers	Akaysha Energy (WSB contestable portion)	Medium	Inform and consult
Media	Local and mainstream newspapers, radio and television. Social channels.	Medium	Inform

Electoral boundaries – State Govt.



State electoral boundaries and transmission line augmentation locations (blue dash)



Federal electoral boundaries and transmission line augmentation locations (blue dash)

6. Project key messages / FAQs

Question	Key messages
Who is Transgrid? What is their role?	Transgrid operates and manages the high-voltage transmission grid in NSW and the ACT. We operate a safe, reliable and efficient high-voltage grid that connects electricity generators to one in three Australians. We are building the future grid to enable greater renewable integration and drive down wholesale electricity prices. Transgrid is a privately owned company that manages publicly owned network assets on behalf of the people of NSW. In Oct 2022 Transgrid was awarded a Network Operator contract for the Waratah Super Battery, while Akaysha Energy was also awarded the contract to construct the project.
What is the Waratah Super Battery? What are the project benefits?	The Waratah Super Battery Energy Storage System is a project designed to provide reserve transmission capacity and stability, rather than additional electricity storage capacity. It will allow consumers to access more energy from existing electricity generators while maintaining network security. The project was announced following Origin Energy's decision to bring forward closure of the Eraring Power Station to 2025 The WSB is the largest committed battery energy storage system in the Southern

<table>
<tr><th>Question</th><th>Key messages</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Hemisphere which will help keep the lights on at homes and businesses during the state's great transition to clean energy.
The project will be delivered on the NSW Central Coast, on the site of Transgrid's existing Munmorah substation.
It will be completed in 2025</td></tr>
<tr><td>What is the Network Augmentation for WSB</td><td>Transgrid will deliver $150 million in upgrades to our existing transmission lines and substations and a $30 million System Integrity Protection Scheme (SIPS) to control the super battery's activation as required.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Will the line on my property look any different?</td><td>There will be changes to towers and 17 replacement structures installed on some properties -see table below. The new strcutre will have a different design due to … Easement sizes will remain the same as the voltage of the lines will not change. The works will enable the WSB project and strengthen the network, making it safer and more reliable.
<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Transmission line</th><th colspan="3">Scope quantity</th></tr>
<tr><th>New structure install</th><th>D string and V string install</th><th>Tower strengthening</th></tr>
<tr><td>Line 39 Bannaby to Sydney West</td><td>3</td><td>32</td><td>11</td></tr>
<tr><td>Line 3L/4 Yass to Marulan</td><td>15</td><td>117</td><td>52</td></tr>
<tr><td>Line 5 Yass to Marulan</td><td>12</td><td>150</td><td>45</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>When will the project start and when will it be completed?</td><td>The Augmentation works Environmental surveys conducted from June 2023.
Transgrid will have construction resources onsite from September 2023 through to April 2025.
Transgrid is on track to ensure the super battery, SIPS control and network upgrades are completed by mid-2025 in advance of Eraring's earliest closure date.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Are you building new transmission lines</td><td>No, this is a brownfield project where we are modifying existing substations, towers and lines. No new transmission line routes are planned.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Is this related to Humelink?</td><td>No. These works are separate to the Humelink project. If you would like information on Humelink visit our website.</td></tr>
<tr><td>What is the approval process for the WSB works?</td><td>The NSW Minister for Planning declared the project as Critical State Significant Infrastructure under the Environment Planning & Assessment Act 1979 (NSW).
The NSW Department of Planning and Environment granted final planning approvals for the project In Feb 2023</td></tr>
<tr><td>How do I give my feedback or get further information about the project?</td><td>Please email us via community@transgrid.com.au or call our community hotline on 1800 222 537 visit our webpage for project updates and to subscribe to receive the latest news</td></tr>
</table>

Table 6: Issues, concerns and opportunities identified through consultation and engagement to date.

Area of Interest/ who	Issues / Concerns / Opportunities	Actions in response / key messages
Project justification and need Directly impacted landowners Local members Local government	Concerned that: Project cost to local community outweighs benefits Costs borne by local landowners whereas benefits accrue to the broader community	The WSB is the largest committed battery energy storage system in the Southern Hemisphere which will help keep the lights on at homes and businesses during the state's great transition to clean energy. Transmission line works will occur within existing easements and on existing lines. No new lines required. Provide project information via multiple channels. Establish dedicated project website with detailed project information including on project benefits. Provide FAQs, regular project briefings and newsletters with detailed project information to address specific areas of concern.
Visual impact of any new towers and lines Directly impacted landowners Local members Local government	Concerned about a range of visual impact issues including: the height and material of replacement towers the impact on their property value look of new towers and conductors	There will be 17 towers new structures installed. Easement sizes will remain the same as the voltage of the lines will not change. The works will enable the WSB project and strengthen the network, making it safer and more reliable. The majority of the tower works will be tower strengthening. There will be some new towers along the line at select locations.
Consultation process Directly impacted landowners Local members Local government	Directly impacted landowners have limited say in what is designed and constructed	There is limited scope to consult given we are utilising existing lines. Impacts to landscape in long term will be relatively minor. We will work with you to minimise impacts during construction. Works will enable and safer more reliable network.
Construction impacts Directly impacted landowners Local members	Construction may impact my farming, business and privacy Landowner/community unaware of	Carrying our comms activities as per this CSEP. Timely site visits, phone calls, emails with landowners including those

Area of Interest/ who	Issues / Concerns / Opportunities	Actions in response / key messages
Local government	works. Inadequate notification period. Misunderstanding of works to be performed, timing of works and potential impacts Leaving gates open so livestock escape Damage to crops / irrigated paddocks Vehicles/plant becoming bogged Works impacting farming operations - cropping/harvesting/irrigation/movement of livestock Leaving building/constructing materials behind Landowner/community misunderstanding as to whether works or part of major projects e.g. Humelink. Landowners not knowing who to contact to resolve issues quickly	identified in Access Requirements Discussions and communications as required with landowners about timings of site inspections, deliveries, storage areas, plant to be used, works and potential impacts. Community engagement team ensuring communication are reviewed by project manager and site supervisor for clarity and accuracy. Prior engagement with landowners about stocked areas. Work crew diligent on ground (SHEWMS) and shutting gates Prior engagement with landowners about access routes and cropped areas. Prior engagement with landowners about access routes and site conditions. Assessing plant and work vehicles to be used/moved when performing works. All communications to contain appropriate site contact as well as TransGrid Community Relations email and 1800 number.
Impacts on land use Directly impacted landowners Local members Local government LALCs	Key concerns raised include the Project's impact on: cultural heritage biosecurity bushfire risk industrialisation of the local region land clearing and degradation agricultural land use activities (e.g. disruption of aerial spraying, use of access tracks and vehicle access)	Keep the community updated on our investigations into issues of concern. Ongoing engagement with LALC Provide information on our environmental assessment and approval process, and how the community / stakeholders can provide input and escalate concerns. Provide information on project benefits Collaborate with representative groups Refine messaging on project impacts so it is clear and accessible Advocate on behalf of the landowner where appropriate

7. Engagement Action Plan

The following Engagement Action Plan details engagement and communication activities to be carried out by Transgrid as the project continues the plan will be updated as the project progresses and as project milestones are confirmed.

Date	Activity	Key messages	Stakeholders	Communication tools	Responsibility
October 2022	Project announcement – media release	NSW Minister for Energy directs Transgrid as Network Operator to carry out the Waratah Super Battery Priority Transmission Infrastructure Project. Transgrid will deliver $150 million in upgrades to our existing transmission lines and substations and a $30 million System Integrity Protection Scheme (SIPS) to control the super battery's activation as required.	All – public announcement	Media release Social media	Transgrid media (complete)
February 2023	Planning approval-media release	Transgrid has welcomed NSW Government planning approval for the largest committed battery energy storage system in the Southern Hemisphere which will help keep the lights on at homes and businesses during the state's great transition to clean energy.	All – public announcement	Media release Social media	Transgrid media (complete)
May 2023	Initial contact with key stakeholders re augmentation works	Establish contact, provide summary of WSB, augmentation works and potential impacts, offer briefing. Contact details if enquiries.	MPs Local council	Email Phone call Govt contacts FAQs Project fact sheet	Community Engagement Lead -draft Project Manager - review Environmental Manager - review Government Relations – send comms
May 2023	Initial contact with directly impacted stakeholders and	Introduce WSB project augmentation line works Brownfield development with no change to easements. Tower strengthening, some new	Directly impacted landowners	Letters (x2) - Two letters – one for those with no tower replacement	Community Engagement Lead -draft

Date	Activity	Key messages	Stakeholders	Communication tools	Responsibility
	landowners	structures in select locations (17). Inform environmental site surveys and inspections carried out in coming weeks. High level timings Attain / confirm contact details		and another for tower replacemet Direct phone calls prior to going onsite. Project website TG Call Centre and TG community email. Project fact sheet FAQs	Project Manager - review Environmental Manager - review
June 2023	Environmental site surveys	Attain ecology and environmental information. Answer high level questions. Refer landowners to FAQs, online comms and TG contacts	Directly impacted landowners TL39 first followed by 3L, 4 and 5.	Direct phone calls prior to going onsite. FAQs TG Call Centre and TG community email	Environmental Manager – manage surveys and phone calls
July 2023 - completion of detailed design	Letter to landowners	Letter describing works and visual impacts at properties, particularly those with tower modifications. There will be changes to towers and new structures installed on some properties -see table below. Easement sizes will remain the same as the voltage of the lines will not change. The works will enable the WSB project and strengthen the network, making it safer and more reliable. Offer site meeting prior to go through any changes, construction impacts.	Directly impacted landowners	Letter Pictures/ photos of changes to tower if applicable Direct phone calls prior to going onsite. Project website Call Centre and TG community email. Project fact sheet FAQs	Community Engagement Lead Project Manager (review)
August 2023 – approx.one month	Letter to landowners	Site inspections complete, notification of upcoming works and likely program.	Directly impacted landowners	Letter Direct phone calls	Community Engagement

Date	Activity	Key messages	Stakeholders	Communication tools	Responsibility
weeks prior to start of site works				prior to going onsite. Website Call Centre and TG community email. FAQs Project fact sheet	Project Manager (review)
September 2023	Media release Public announcement	Inform/ promote project start	All – public announcement	Media release Social media channel Website	Media team
September 2023	Contractor mobilisation on site	Site works at property. Construction impacts and mitigation measures Resolve issues as they arise	Directly impacted landowners	Direct phone calls prior to going onsite. Emails. Onsite meetings Website Call Centre and TG community email. FAQs Project fact sheet	Project Manager / Site Manager – contractor Community Engagement team
September 2023 to 2025	Construction	Site works at property. Construction impacts and mitigation measures Resolve issues as they arise	Directly impacted landowners	As above	Project Manager / Site Manager – contractor Community Engagement team
2025	Project completion	Project completion	All stakeholders	Media Letters to landowners	Community Engagement team Govt relations

Date	Activity	Key messages	Stakeholders	Communication tools	Responsibility
					Media team