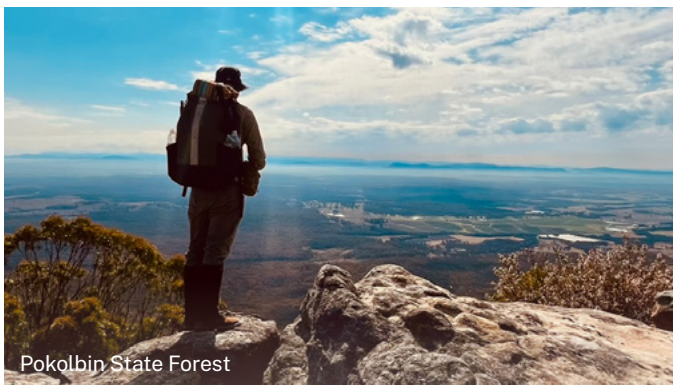


Landscape character and visual impact

Hunter Transmission Project

Environmental Impact Statement | Fact Sheet | September 2025

The Hunter Transmission Project (the project) is a key part of securing NSW's energy future. It will deliver a new 110-kilometre overhead 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Bayswater (near Muswellbrook) to Olney (near Eraring), connecting into the State's 500 kV network.



This link will unlock renewable generation from the Central-West Orana and New England Renewable Energy Zones, allowing it to flow into the electricity grid where and when it is needed. By strengthening this part of the network, the project will help keep power affordable and ensure reliable supply as coal-fired power stations retire.

What is an environmental impact statement?

The environmental impact statement (EIS) is a detailed report EnergyCo must prepare so government can assess whether the Hunter Transmission Project should proceed. As critical State significant infrastructure, NSW law requires an EIS to assess potential effects on the environment, communities, and the economy — and explain how negative impacts will be avoided, reduced, or managed, and how benefits will be maximised. The EIS is placed on public exhibition so the community, government agencies, and other stakeholders can review the findings, ask questions and provide feedback. This process ensures transparency, considers all views and helps the government decide whether the project should proceed. Final approval rests with the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and the Australian Minister for the Environment and Water.

About the Visual Impact Assessment

As part of preparing the EIS, EnergyCo carried out a Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment to understand how the Hunter Transmission Project could change the way the area looked and felt –both during construction and once it was operating.

The project examined 12 different landscape zones, along with key public viewpoints and private properties, to assess where the project might be visible and how noticeable it could be.

This work included on-the-ground inspections, mapping, and creating realistic images to show how the transmission lines and towers would appear in the landscape.

The findings helped guide our design decisions and identify ways to reduce visual changes, such as keeping existing vegetation for screening, carefully placing structures so they blended with the surroundings and limiting night-time lighting.

Visual impacts

During construction, people may notice activities such as vegetation clearing, earthworks, large equipment, and the installation of towers and power lines. These activities will be most visible in rural and forested settings. At night, construction lighting may also be noticeable around construction support sites where worker accommodation will be located.

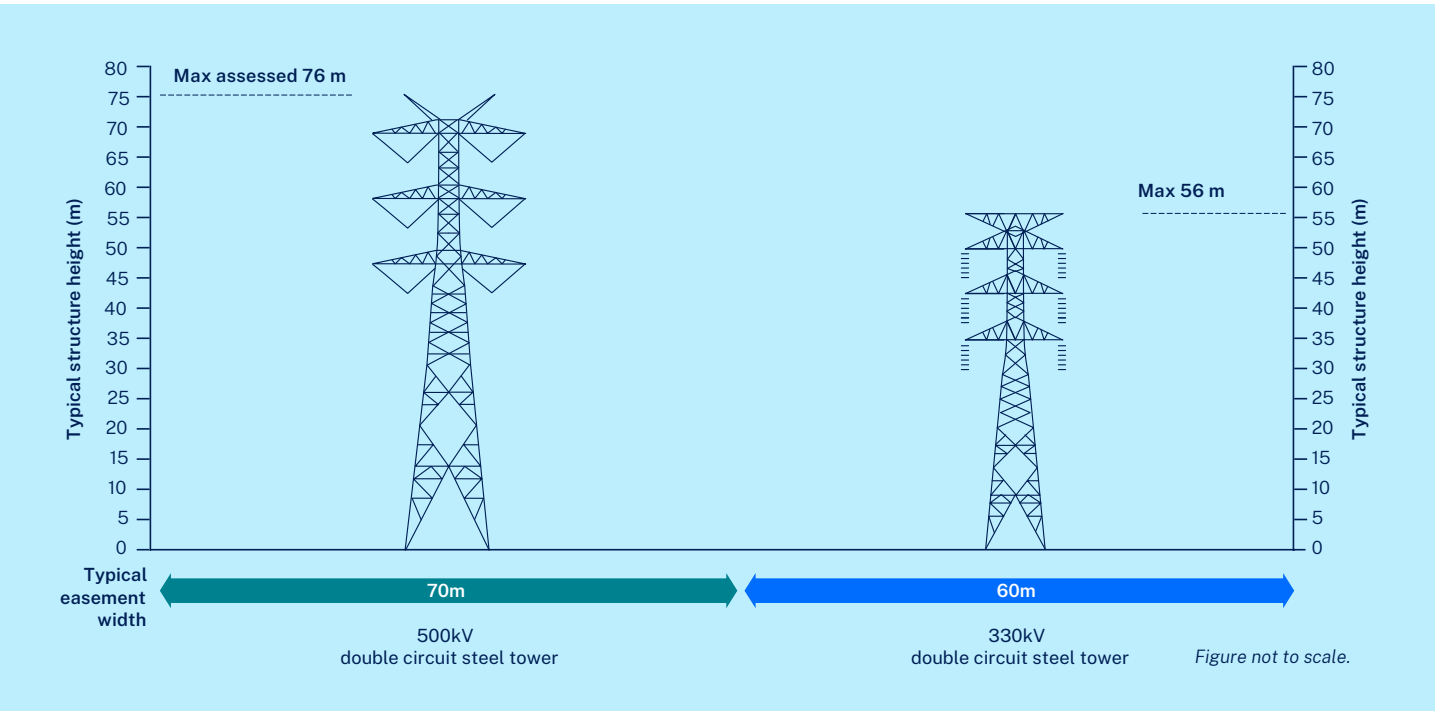
The route was carefully chosen to reduce impacts on communities and private properties by following existing energy and mining corridors in the north and traversing State Forests through the centre and south. Wherever possible, topography and vegetation have been used to screen works from public view.

This means that most towns and villages will not experience direct views of the new infrastructure.

Temporary construction-related changes will be more noticeable in valleys and forested landscapes that currently do not contain large-scale energy infrastructure. These areas are expected to experience greater visual change during the day due to the contrast between construction activity and their otherwise natural settings. At night, some forested areas and worker accommodation sites may notice lighting effects.

Once the project is operating, most areas will see little change. In rural and forested valleys where no transmission lines currently exist, the new towers may be more visible during the day. At night, the only permanent lighting will be low-level lights at the Olney switching station, with very little change elsewhere.

From public viewpoints such as highways and local roads, visual impacts are expected to be low. A small number of locations may experience more noticeable changes. Some private properties may also have views of the new infrastructure, but only a very small proportion are expected to experience moderate impacts. Where changes are noticeable, mitigation measures such as vegetation screening will be offered.





Cessnock Road – 180-degree panorama – existing environment



Cessnock Road – Photomontage with indicative structure locations – moderate impact

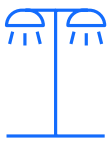
How the project will reduce potential visual impacts

Before construction begins, a Landscape Character and Visual Impact Management Plan will be prepared. This plan will set out practical steps to help reduce how noticeable the project is in the landscape.

These may include:



Keeping existing vegetation where possible to soften views of towers and powerlines



Designing lighting to avoid unnecessary glare and limit night-time visibility



Offering planting or other screening measures for private properties where views may be most affected



Locating towers and other structures to consider the surrounding landscape, where this can help reduce their prominence.

Stay informed and have your say

The Hunter Transmission Project EIS is on public exhibition from 27 August to 24 September 2025. You can:

- Read the full EIS, including **Chapter 10** for Landscape character and visual impact assessment, mitigation measures, and management plans, on the NSW Planning Portal.
- Contact the project team at any time, including during the public exhibition period:
 - **Email:** htp@energyco.nsw.gov.au
 - **Call:** 1800 645 972 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)
 - **Visit:** energyco.nsw.gov.au/htp



Existing transmission tower behind a ridgeline



Pokolbin State Forest

Make a submission

You can provide feedback on the Hunter Transmission Project EIS during the exhibition period.

By post

Send to: Director –Energy Assessments, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

Your submission should include:

- Your name and address (this can be withheld on request)
- Application name: Hunter Transmission Project
- Application number: SSI-70610456
- A short statement on whether you support, object, or want to comment on the proposal
- Reasons or supporting information for your views

Online

Visit the NSW Planning Portal at planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/have-your-say → search 'Hunter Transmission Project' → click 'Make a submission'

For more details, visit the NSW Planning Portal at planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/have-your-say

Contact us

EnergyCo is the NSW Government statutory authority responsible for delivering the HTP as a critical part of transitioning to a cleaner future under the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.

 htp@energyco.nsw.gov.au

 1800 645 972 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

 energyco.nsw.gov.au/htp

 Scan the QR code for more information.



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call us on **1800 645 972**.

