

Explore the environmental impact statement

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.



Use this guide to:



Understand what the EIS includes and why it's needed



See what laws apply to the project approval



Track key planning milestones



Find your way around the EIS documents



Access tools and resources including maps and fact sheets



Find out how to view the EIS and make a submission.



Understand the legal framework behind the EIS

As a CSSI project, the Hunter Transmission Project must go through a comprehensive State and Australian Government environmental assessment process.

CSSI projects are large and complex, and can have major economic, environmental and social impacts. This process also ensures the community can have their say before any final decision is made.

Australian and State government approval required

The *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (EP&A Regulation) form the legal framework for environmental assessment and planning approval in NSW. As part of this process, and in line with the *Australian Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), the Hunter Transmission Project must prepare an EIS.

Under a bilateral agreement between the NSW and Australian Governments, the EIS meets the assessment requirements of both levels of government. The Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) will also assess the project for potential impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) under the EPBC Act.

The Hunter Transmission Project EIS will first be assessed by the NSW Government and then referred to the Australian Government for its assessment.

Key planning milestones



How to navigate the EIS

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is made up of 25 chapters each covering a different topic or area of assessment.

Use the list below to find the chapter that covers your area of interest and refer to the relevant technical report for more detailed information.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Gives an overview of the project and explains what's in the EIS

Chapter 2: Strategic context

Explains why the project is needed, including the key State and Australian Government policies that support the Hunter Transmission Project.

It also outlines the regional context for the Hunter Transmission Project.

Chapter 3: Alternatives and options

Outlines the different route options that were considered and why the proposed route was chosen.

Chapter 4: Project description

Outlines the key components of the project.

It includes details of the built features of the project, construction activities required to build the project and maps of the construction areas, as well as the operational and maintenance aspects of the project.

Chapter 5: Statutory context

Provides the statutory context of the project, including an outline of the relevant legislation applicable to the project.

Chapter 6: Engagement

Summarises the engagement activities that have been carried out with communities and stakeholders and summarises feedback received to date.

It also outlines how feedback has informed the project and future engagement plans.

Chapter 7: Approach to impact assessment

Explains how potential impacts have been assessed as part of the EIS.

Chapter 8: Biodiversity

Identifies potential biodiversity impacts of the project and proposed mitigation measures.

It describes existing vegetation and threatened species (flora and fauna) within the project impact area, and the potential impacts of the project on biodiversity values.

Chapter 9: Aboriginal heritage

Outlines the assessment of potential impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage and the steps taken to protect important places and cultural values.

Describes the proposed approach to respectfully avoid, minimise and mitigate potential impacts during construction and operation of the project.

Chapter 10: Landscape and visual

Describes the existing landscape character and visual amenity of the area and assesses potential impacts during construction and operation of the project.

It provides a detailed description of the methodologies used to assess potential impacts of the proposed transmission infrastructure, and proposed mitigation measures.

Chapter 11: Traffic and transport

Identifies where impacts to traffic and transport may occur and recommends road upgrades, safety measures and mitigation strategies to reduce disruption during construction and operation.

Chapter 12: Land use and property

Describes current land uses in the project impact area, assesses potential impacts, and explains how the project has been designed to minimise disruption to land use and property.

Chapter 13: Agriculture

Assesses potential impacts on agricultural land and operations and outlines measures to mitigate impacts and protect ongoing land use.

Chapter 14: Social

Summarises potential social impacts and benefits, including effects on community, livelihoods, decision making systems, way of life, accessibility, health and wellbeing, and culture.

Outlines strategies to minimise negative impacts and enhance social outcomes.



Existing Eraring to Kemps Creek (Sydney) 500 kV transmission line

Chapter 15: Historic heritage

Outlines how items and places of heritage value have been identified and assessed, and how potential impacts will be managed.

Chapter 16: Noise and vibration

Describes how noise and vibration were assessed and explains how impacts will be avoided or reduced to protect nearby communities and the environment.

Chapter 17: Surface water

Describes how potential impacts to surface water from construction and operation were assessed and outlines potential impacts from the project. Explains how potential impacts like erosion or water quality changes would be avoided or managed.

Chapter 18: Groundwater

Assesses how the project may affect groundwater and outlines strategies to avoid or reduce impacts to groundwater flow and quality.

Chapter 19: Flooding

Assesses flood risks from the project and outlines strategies to make sure the project doesn't increase the chance or severity of flooding.

Chapter 20: Soils and contamination

Assesses the risk of contamination and outlines plans to monitor and manage any potential impacts.

Chapter 21: Hazards and risks

Identifies potential risks during construction and operation, such as bushfire, aviation safety, and electric and magnetic fields. Outlines plans to avoid or reduce these risks.

Chapter 22: Other matters

Additional topics include economics, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions. This section helps ensure that the project's economic contribution and broader environmental and climate responsibilities are outlined.

Chapter 23: Cumulative impacts

Provides an assessment of the potential of the project to generate cumulative impacts in the Hunter region.

Chapter 24: Environmental management

Provides a description of the proposed approach to environmental management for the project.

Chapter 25: Justification of the project

Provides an overview of the conclusions from the EIS and discusses the project's justification on balance of environmental, social and economic considerations.



Have your say

Public Exhibition

The EIS exhibition period gives the community the opportunity to review the EIS, ask questions, and provide feedback directly to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). The EIS exhibition process is managed by DPHI, and submissions must be lodged directly with the Department during the exhibition period. DPHI sets the exhibition timeframe, which must be a minimum of 28 calendar days.

During the exhibition period, you can view the EIS (including the supporting specialist studies) online via the NSW Major Projects Planning Portal, or in person at a community information session in the Hunter region. You can then provide your feedback directly to DPHI.

As required under DPHI guidelines, EnergyCo will prepare a Submissions Report to formally respond to all submissions received during the exhibition period. Both the submissions and the Submissions Report will be published on the NSW Planning Portal. After the exhibition closes, EnergyCo will prepare a Submissions Report and, if required, an Amendment Report. The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) will then begin its assessment of the environmental impact statement (EIS), considering the reports, all submissions and any proposed changes. The NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces will make the final decision on whether to approve the project and set any Conditions of Approval.

How to make a submission

Local residents, councils, stakeholders, community groups and organisations are encouraged to review the EIS during the public exhibition period (27 August -24 September 2025) and share their feedback by making a submission to DPHI. Submissions can be made individually or on behalf of a group, either online via the Major Projects Planning Portal or by post directly to the Department.



Online

1. Visit the Major Projects Planning Portal: planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects
2. Create a Major Projects account by clicking the 'Sign in' button
3. Search for the Hunter Transmission Project
4. Click the 'Make a submission' button:
 - a. Select whether you will be making a personal submission or on behalf of an organisation
 - b. Disclose any reportable political donations
 - c. Decide whether to include your personal information in your submission
 - d. Make a brief statement on whether you support or object to the proposal
 - e. Fill in the online submission form (typed or uploaded as a PDF)
 - f. Agree to the terms and conditions and submit

For additional support, visit the NSW DPHI 'Make a Submission' page: planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/have-your-say

Post

In your submission, you must include:

1. Your name and address (provide this information in a separate cover letter if you want your personal details withheld from publication)
2. The application name: Hunter Transmission Project
3. The application number: SSI-70610456
4. A brief statement on whether you support or object to the proposal
5. The reasons why you support or object to the proposal
6. A declaration of any reportable political donations made in the past two years (more information: [Donations and Gift Disclosure](#))

To post your submission:

Address both your submission and mailing envelope to the nominated contact person or team listed on the project page.

For the Hunter Transmission Project, this is:

Director –Energy Assessments,
Planning and Assessment, Department of Planning,
Housing and Infrastructure,
Application number: SSI-70610456
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

Submission criteria

- A submission on the Hunter Transmission Project must include the Application number SSI-70610456.
- A submission must include your full name and address.
- You can request to have your name withheld
- A submission must be signed
- A submission must include a statement on whether you support, object, or are providing comments on the issues raised in the EIS
- A group submission signed by one person is considered a single submission
- Where relevant, provide reasons and/or supporting information for any conclusions made in the submission
- Submissions can be made by an individual or a group. If there is new information that should be considered, provide supporting documents
- An effective submission considers the purpose of environmental impact assessment and refers to a relevant issue or key matter in the EIS



EIS supporting resources

During the exhibition period a range of Hunter Transmission Project resources will be available for you to view.

You can access these at scheduled online and in-person events. All resources are also accessible in digital format for access at a time convenient to you.

Fact sheets

We've prepared easy-to-read fact sheets that explain the key topics in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Each fact sheet outlines what was assessed, the potential impacts, and the measures in place to avoid, reduce, or manage impacts, as well as opportunities to improve outcomes.

You can view and download the fact sheets on our website: energyco.nsw.gov.au/http

Community information sessions

A series of in-person and online events during the public exhibition period, where you can speak directly with the project team and ask questions about the EIS.

Session details are available on our website at energyco.nsw.gov.au/http or by contacting the project team on 1800 645 972 or htp@energyco.nsw.gov.au.

Interactive map

Our interactive map shows key features of the Hunter Transmission Project, including the location of the proposed transmission corridor and new switching stations. The map is available to view online at Hunter Transmission Project interactive map: caportal.com.au/energyco/rez

Digital EIS

A user friendly and interactive digital platform where you can view the key findings of the EIS, with maps, multimedia, and links to the full EIS on the NSW Planning Portal.

The Hunter Transmission Project Digital EIS is available at energyco.nsw.gov.au/http.

Contact the Hunter Transmission Project Team

You can 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/http.





What's next?

Project determination and approval

At the end of the exhibition period, all submissions will be published on the NSW Planning Portal. EnergyCo will prepare a Submissions Report responding to the issues raised, which will also be made publicly available on the Planning Portal. If changes are needed after submissions or further assessment, EnergyCo may prepare an Amendment Report to explain the updates.

Following consideration of the EIS, Submissions Report, and any Amendment Report, the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) will complete its final assessment. The NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces will then decide whether to approve the project and set any Conditions of Approval.

Once the NSW decision is made, the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) will review the determination and decide whether to grant Commonwealth approval, including any conditions set by the Australian Minister for the Environment and Water.

Next steps (pending government approval)

If planning approvals are granted by both the NSW and Australian Governments, construction of the Hunter Transmission Project is expected to begin in 2027 and

be completed by the end of 2029. The project must be built and operated in accordance with the conditions set out in the planning approvals.

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**.