

Social 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.

Building a stronger, cleaner future for the Hunter

The Hunter Transmission Project will deliver major, long-term advantages for the Hunter region and NSW by strengthening the State's electricity network, improving energy security, and enabling the transition to renewable energy. It will unlock clean generation from the Central-West Orana and New England Renewable Energy Zones, driving new opportunities for regional jobs, skills growth, and business investment. Once operational, it will contribute to a more affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy system for decades to come.

As part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) has been undertaken in line with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's Social Impact Assessment Guideline. The SIA examines how the project may shape communities during both construction and operation covering potential impacts on livelihoods, decision making systems, way of life, accessibility, health and wellbeing, and culture.— and sets out strategies to maximise social and economic benefits while minimising potential impacts.

Engagement activities and feedback

EnergyCo has worked closely with communities, landowners, Councils and other stakeholders to ensure the project is designed and delivered in a way that reflects local priorities. Feedback confirmed strong support for the project's role in boosting the economy and delivering renewable energy and identified opportunities to further enhance outcomes through effective engagement, tailored community support and protection of local values. This input has directly shaped the SIA and the measures proposed to deliver the greatest possible benefits.



Impacts and benefits across the region

Impacts

The Hunter Transmission Project will inevitably create some localised impacts during its delivery. These will be most directly experienced by landowners whose properties are acquired or used under temporary leases, neighbouring properties that may notice increased activity or changes in access, and communities situated near construction support sites or along the transmission line corridor. These impacts may include temporary increases in traffic, dust, noise, and other short-term disruptions associated with construction activity.

EnergyCo is committed to managing these carefully through property-specific management plans, strict environmental controls, and proactive engagement with local communities. The aim is to minimise disruption, maintain community amenity, and ensure any concerns raised by residents are addressed quickly and respectfully.

Benefits

Alongside these impacts, the project will deliver significant and lasting benefits for the Hunter region and the State as a whole. It will create new jobs and training opportunities, enabling local workers and young people to gain valuable skills that support long-term career pathways.

Local and Aboriginal-owned businesses will have opportunities to participate in the project's supply chain, building capability and generating ongoing economic activity within the region. The project will also drive investment in infrastructure, services, and business capacity, helping to strengthen the Hunter's economic base for the future.

Beyond the region, the project will deliver a more resilient, reliable and cleaner energy network, supporting the State's transition to renewable energy while underpinning economic growth and environmental outcomes for the wider NSW community.

Guided by the SIA, EnergyCo is committed to minimising disruption, supporting landowners, and keeping communities informed. Worker accommodation plans will help protect local housing, while training, jobs and supply chain opportunities will strengthen the region. Environmental plans will manage short-term impacts, and the project's lasting legacy will be stronger local economies, greater Aboriginal participation, and a cleaner, more reliable energy system for NSW.



Managing social impacts

EnergyCo is committed to managing potential social impacts and ensuring the Hunter Transmission Project delivers the greatest possible benefits for the community.

The project will deliver long-term benefits by putting in place measures that support landowners, grow local industry participation, increase Aboriginal employment, and invest in regional skills, jobs and infrastructure to strengthen the Hunter's economy.

At the same time, EnergyCo will implement measures to manage short-term impacts during construction. This will include environmental management plans to limit noise, dust, traffic and other temporary disruptions. Specific strategies will also be developed, including a Social Impact Management Plan to guide the delivery of positive outcomes, a Community Communication Strategy to keep people informed and engaged, and a Landowner Engagement Strategy to provide tailored support for affected landowners.

To maximise opportunities, EnergyCo will also implement a Local Business and Employment Strategy to encourage regional participation in the supply chain, an Industry and Aboriginal Participation Plan to support training, jobs and business involvement, and temporary worker accommodation management plans to reduce pressure on local housing and services. Together, these measures will protect community wellbeing, strengthen local economies, and ensure the project leaves a lasting positive legacy for the Hunter region.



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 14** and Technical Report 3 for the Social Impact Assessment 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



Make a submission

You can provide feedback on the Hunter Transmission Project Environmental Impact Statement (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 (can request to be withheld)
- 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)

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 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**.