

Bushfire Management

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.



Vegetation clearing helps reduce bushfire risk

Managing bushfire risks

There has never been a fire in Australia caused by a 500 kV transmission line. Independent reviews confirm that well-maintained overhead lines above 220 kV pose an extremely low bushfire risk. While bushfires can affect transmission lines, risks can be managed. Lines can be turned off almost instantly to reduce impacts, and their design allows for regular inspection and safe maintenance.

For the Hunter Transmission Project, bushfire safety is a priority. Bushfires can threaten lives, homes, livelihoods, ecosystems, and essential services.

Our role as project proponent is to deliver infrastructure that minimises the risk of starting a bushfire, can withstand bushfire conditions, and supports emergency services when needed.

Bushfire safety in the project design

Because much of the corridor is bushfire-prone, the project design includes built-in protections such as:



Towers made from non-combustible materials



Conductors suspended at least 13.5 metres above ground, with a 10-metre clearance from vegetation



Route planning to avoid the highest-risk areas where possible



Best-practice bushfire protection standards informed by a Formal Safety Assessment.

How bushfire risks will be managed during the project

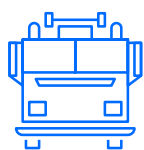
During construction and delivery, the project will:



Use non-combustible materials and maintain safe vegetation clearances



Apply strict safety controls in bushfire-prone areas



Coordinate with the NSW Rural Fire Service and other agencies to provide safe access, hazard information, and real-time support during bushfire events.

Once the project is completed, the transmission line will be handed over to a licensed network operator, who will take responsibility for bushfire safety throughout the life of the asset.



Existing transmission line

Ongoing management by the network operator

The licensed operator will:



Maintain vegetation within easements and asset protection zones



Conduct regular aerial inspections to identify and remove hazard trees



Trim, slash, or mulch vegetation and manage regrowth



Inspect and maintain infrastructure to reduce the risk of faults



Apply controls to limit high-risk activities within easements.



Pokolbin State Forest



Existing transmission line

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 21** and Technical Report 14 for bushfire risk 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

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



Ridgetop in the Corrabare State Forest

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**.