

Hunter Transmission Project

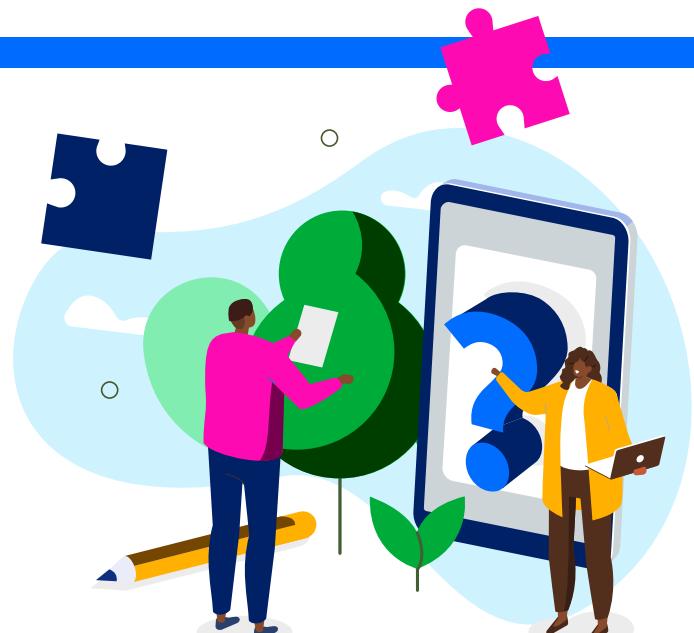
Project Update

Project Update | January 2026

The Hunter Transmission Project is a significant piece of NSW's future energy network. It's designed to connect new renewable energy zones, strengthen the existing grid and support a reliable, affordable electricity supply for homes and businesses across the region.

At a glance

-  The project is now in the government **assessment** stage
-  **Community feedback** from the EIS has been used to prepare the Submissions Report and Amendment Report, which are being submitted to government in early 2026. EnergyCo thanks community members, landholders, councils and stakeholders who provided feedback.
-  **No construction** is happening while approvals are being assessed
-  Governments will **decide** during 2026 whether the project is approved and what Conditions of Approval will apply.



-  If approved, **early works** (such as site investigations, surveys and access preparation) could begin in late 2026, with main construction (including building transmission towers and installing transmission lines) from 2027 and the line operating by late 2029.



What's happening right now



No construction or early works are occurring while the project is being assessed



Reviewing environmental and technical studies



Considering community feedback from the EIS



Undertaking limited site investigations and surveys (where permitted)



Finalising government approvals

Where the project is up to

More than 180 submissions were received during the exhibition of the Hunter Transmission Project Environmental Impact Statement from a broad range of stakeholders, including individuals, councils and government agencies.

Based on this feedback, EnergyCo has prepared two key documents – the Submissions Report and Amendment Report – which respond to what people told us and update the technical and environmental studies.

These documents will be submitted to government in early 2026. They will then be reviewed by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), with Australian Government assessment applying where relevant.

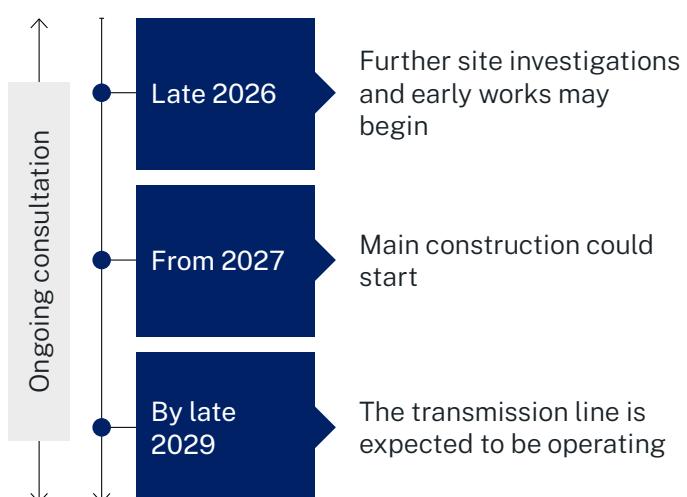
During this time, the NSW Government will decide whether the project is approved and, if so, what Conditions of Approval will apply. No construction takes place during this stage.

Where we are now in the planning approval process

Through NSW and Australian Federal Government assessments, Conditions of Approval will be set that control how the project is designed, built and managed to protect the environment, landholders and the community.

If the project is approved

The project is currently in the government assessment stage. The timeframes below show what would occur if the project is approved:



Note: Timeframes are indicative only and subject to the outcome of government approvals, Conditions of Approval and procurement processes.



A key regional road within the HTP

A project shaped by the community

Since 2023, the Hunter Transmission Project has been updated through a series of public reports known as the Hunter Series. These reports show how community feedback and technical studies have shaped the project at each stage.

Hunter Series reports

- [Hunter Transmission Project Overview \(Nov 2023\)](#)
- [Preliminary Corridor Feedback Summary \(Dec 2023\)](#)
- [Shaping the Hunter Transmission Project \(May 2024\)](#)
- [Refining the Hunter Transmission Project \(Dec 2024\)](#)
- [Assessing the Hunter Transmission Project \(Dec 2025\)](#)

Together, these reports explain what was studied, what people told us, and how the project changed in response.

Alongside these community updates, formal planning documents – including the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting technical reports – are now being assessed by government as part of the approvals process.



Existing 500 kV transmission lines

What approval would mean for the community

If the Hunter Transmission Project is approved, it will be subject to Conditions of Approval set by the NSW and Australian Governments.

These conditions legally control how the project must be designed, built and operated to protect people, property and the environment.

They cover things such as:

- protecting the environment, heritage and biodiversity
- managing noise, visual impacts and other amenity issues
- controlling traffic, access and construction activities
- how landholders and affected people must be consulted and treated
- how impacts must be avoided, reduced or managed

EnergyCo will provide information to help communities understand what these conditions mean in practice as the project moves into the next stage.

What the next stage will involve

As the project moves from planning into delivery:

- a network operator will be appointed to build and operate the transmission line
- a main construction contractor will be selected
- detailed planning for access, safety and timing will continue
- Aboriginal cultural heritage protection plans will be progressed

EnergyCo will manage this transition, so community contacts, enquiries and commitments are handed over smoothly, with no gaps in support.

Communities will be clearly advised on who to contact and how to stay informed. EnergyCo will continue to support communities during the approvals process and through the transition to the network operator.

Community pop-up sessions

The Hunter Transmission Project community team will be out across the Hunter at local events and markets over the coming months. You are welcome to drop by to ask questions, see the latest maps and visuals, or speak with the team.

Cessnock Markets

Sunday 15 February, 9am to 1pm, The Valley Brewhouse, Wine Country Dr, Nulkaba

Upper Hunter Markets

Sunday 22 March, 9am to 1pm, Muswellbrook Indoor Sports Centre, Muswellbrook

The Valley Markets

Sunday 19 April, 8am to 1pm, Townhead Park, Singleton

Pokolbin Markets

Sunday 17 May, 8am to 2pm, 691 Hermitage Road, Pokolbin



Visit our website at energyco.nsw.gov.au/htp to view our upcoming engagement activities.



A regional transport corridor informing traffic and access planning

**Have questions?
You don't have
to wait.**

Our community team is here to talk things through.



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**.



Example of existing infrastructure comparable to the HTP