

**Penny Sharpe**

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy  
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage  
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

**Media Release****Communities to influence design of Hunter Transmission Project****Monday, 20 November 2023**

Communities in the Hunter are being invited to share input and feedback on the proposed route for the Hunter Transmission Project as the NSW Government accelerates the shift to renewable energy.

The Hunter Transmission Project will be instrumental in transporting electricity from the New England and Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zones to homes and businesses in the Hunter, Sydney and the Illawarra, as coal-fired power stations retire and more clean, affordable energy comes online.

After extensive investigations, the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) has identified a 115-kilometre proposed corridor between Bayswater and Eraring. Importantly, the corridor maximises use of government land and co-location with industrial and existing infrastructure.

EnergyCo believes the proposed route strikes a reasonable balance between different land uses and minimises the use of privately-owned land.

Landowners who host transmission infrastructure will receive increased payments under the state's Strategic Benefit Payments scheme.

The proposed route is now on public exhibition until Monday, 18th December 2023. It is an important opportunity for the community to seek information and have their say on the design of the final route.

EnergyCo will continue working with local communities over the next 18 months to get the details right and ensure construction of the Hunter Transmission Project maximises benefits to the region. The project is expected to be operational in 2027-28.

In addition to securing a reliable supply of clean electricity for the Hunter and other big population centres, the Hunter Transmission Project will provide a significant boost to the local economy. The NSW Government is committed to harnessing the Hunter's diverse skills base during delivery of this project, and maximising benefits for local businesses.

The public can provide feedback online or in person. For details about the project and consultation, visit [energyco.nsw.gov.au/http](http://energyco.nsw.gov.au/http)

**Quote attributable to Minister for Energy Penny Sharpe:**

"We need community input to get the design right. Feedback will influence the location of the corridor, and we want to resolve as much detail as possible with communities and potentially affected landowners in these early stages.

"The Hunter Transmission Project is critical to ensuring the future energy security of NSW, achieving our net zero targets and providing more affordable energy as coal-fired power stations close.

"It's also important to the economic future of the Hunter region and will boost local jobs and businesses."

**MEDIA: Levi Joule | Minister Sharpe | 0481 112 074**