

Hunter Transmission Project

Land access and field work

Fact sheet

About the Hunter Transmission Project

The Hunter Transmission Project (HTP) is one of the State's most critical energy projects and will provide energy security for generations to come.

It involves building a new above-ground 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line of around 115 kilometres between Bayswater and Eraring to connect the State's existing 500 kV transmission lines. This will help create a 500 kV ring of transmission infrastructure that will provide the backbone of the State's new electricity grid for generations to come.

Importantly, it will unlock the electricity supply from the Central-West Orana and New England Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) and allow it to be imported to the new electricity grid via Bayswater. From here it will be delivered to consumers in the Hunter, Sydney and Illawarra, where 80% of electricity is consumed.

The HTP is urgent and must be operating by 2027/2028.

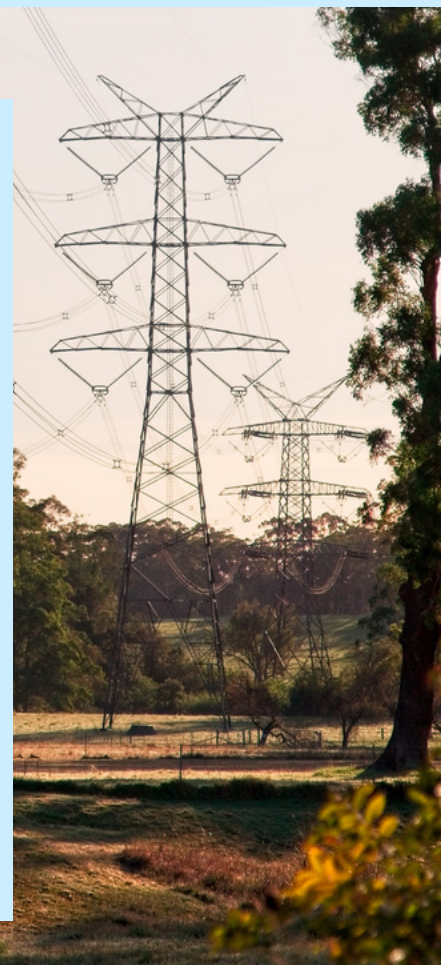
Early field work investigations

We're still in the early stages of planning the project. To inform the design of the HTP, we will undertake various investigations of the preliminary corridor to understand the current environmental conditions and the potential impacts of the project.

The investigations will help us find ways to avoid, minimise or manage potential impacts.

Some examples of the field work we may need to do are: geotechnical investigations, electrical resistivity tests, visual impact inspections, and flora and fauna surveys. One or more of these activities may be required in a particular area.

Field work can take place on public land or on private land by agreement with the owner. This is called a land access agreement.





Land access

If we need to undertake field work on your property, our team will contact you to explain the work we propose to do on your land, including the dates, times and duration of the work. We will then ask you to sign a land access agreement for this purpose.

The land access agreement will be between you and EnergyCo. EnergyCo representatives will seek all necessary permits and approvals before starting any investigations and will comply with the Australian Standards and EnergyCo requirements.

Please note, a land access agreement is different to land acquisition. A land access agreement is negotiated with a landowner when we would like to do an investigation on their property. You can read more about acquisition in our property and easement acquisition fact sheet on our website.



What to expect?

Not all investigations will take place on private property. Some assessments will take place in the corridor, but outside of private land.

If work is required to take place on private land, a land access agreement needs to be in place. Our community team will work with the landowner to understand your expectations and requirements as we undertake the field work proposed on your land.

This will include detailed discussions on:

- the requirements to access the land
- the types of activities we plan to undertake
- duration and timing
- any rehabilitation that may be needed.

After all the necessary permits and approvals are in place, our team will access the investigation area as agreed with the landowner.



Geotechnical investigations

EnergyCo will periodically undertake geotechnical investigations for the HTP to help understand the geological conditions and the environment in the local area. These assessments can take place across different seasons.

These investigations will help us to better understand the current environment and will inform the overall engineering design, project planning and approval process. Drilling is the most common method of geotechnical investigation. It involves test pits and drilling a small diameter borehole where rock chips are brought to the surface by compressed air or water. This is the same method used for drilling water bores. Most investigations are completed in one day.

Each work area is usually about 15 metres by 10 metres in size but can vary depending on the local conditions. There will be some noise associated with these activities.

How are sites monitored?

Inspections and photographs of drill sites occur before, during and after drilling. Erosion and sediment control measures are also implemented in accordance with environmental standards.

The community team will keep the landowner fully informed through the process.

Drilling and groundwater monitoring wells

Boreholes involve drilling a narrow hole into the ground to collect a sample of rock and soil. They're also used to carry out groundwater sampling. Boreholes are typically carried out using a truck-mounted drill rig. The hole is about 10 to 15 centimetres in diameter and about 10 to 20 metres deep.

Once complete, the hole is backfilled, capped and covered and the area is restored to its original condition.

Borehole investigations are carried out by a team of around 5 workers including a lead driller, drilling hand, engineering geologist, cultural heritage representative and EnergyCo supervisor.

Equipment used includes a small truck or track-mounted drilling rig, a small truck or 4WD support vehicle, and light vehicles.



This photograph show a typical drilling set-up.



Electrical resistivity tests (soundings)

Electrical resistivity soundings (ERS) measure how electrical current might flow through the ground.

This is a low impact investigation using a light vehicle and 2 perpendicular traverses (probes) along each test site. Tests will only take place in clear weather conditions as soil moisture impacts on the results.



This photograph show a typical ERS set-up.



HTP community team

We're committed to engaging with landholders and communities as a vital part of our consultative work to better understand local considerations as we refine the design of the HTP preliminary corridor.

We value your input. So if you can help us to better understand local considerations or would like to know more about the HTP, please contact our local community team on the details below.

About EnergyCo

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.

You can read more about EnergyCo on our website: energyco.nsw.gov.au

Contact us



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