

# Hunter Transmission Project

Preliminary corridor public exhibition – feedback report summary  
December 2023

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

## HTP at a glance



A new above-ground 500 kV double circuit transmission line of around 115 kilometres



New supporting infrastructure such as substation upgrades



Will connect Bayswater to Eraring, strengthening the State's core electricity grid



Will unlock electricity supply from the Central-West Orana and New England Renewable Energy Zones



Urgent and must be operational by early 2028



Will supply clean energy to the Hunter, Sydney and Illawarra where 80% of NSW's electricity is consumed

## Early engagement

Our early engagement on the HTP preliminary corridor has focused on explaining the project to the community, answering questions, and listening to feedback from all stakeholders.

As we plan the delivery of this critical new transmission line, we want to minimise the impacts on people and the environment as much as possible.

The public exhibition of the HTP preliminary corridor was an additional non-statutory process to involve the community in the early planning phase of the HTP.

We invited public submissions between 20 November and 18 December 2023.

We used a range of methods to encourage participation in the public exhibition.

## How we asked for feedback

We invited the community to make a submission, complete a survey, call and email the HTP community team to provide feedback, and/or attend an information session.

We held 6 drop-in sessions in 3 communities for landowners and the general community to discuss the project with the HTP team. We also held online briefings with stakeholders including environmental groups and recreational users.

This is a summary feedback report and in February 2024 we'll publish a detailed feedback report.

## Participation at a glance

As of 20 December 2023



### 200+ people

We held 6 drop-in sessions in 3 communities and more than 200 people attended.



### 60+ meetings

Our team met with a range of stakeholders including landowners, local businesses, the local Aboriginal community, environment groups and recreational user groups.



### 292 submissions

We received 250 submissions and 42 surveys during the exhibition period.



### 200+ conversations

Our HTP community team responded to more than 200 emails and phone calls from a range of stakeholders.



### 10,000+ households

We contacted more than 10,000 households by mail-out and letterbox drops, to inform local communities about the project and how to get involved.

# What we heard

Feedback we received on the HTP preliminary corridor during the public exhibition period will help to inform the final design of the project and consultation will continue during 2024. Here's a summary of some of the key themes raised through consultation.

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## Visual amenity



Preserving views of the natural landscape must be a priority because this holds important social value within the Hunter community.

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## Bush fire hazards



We need to fully investigate and better explain how the new transmission line will influence the risk of bush fires, especially in specific regions such as Cedar Creek, Millfield and Cooranbong.

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## Impact to private land



Landowners are worried about the effects of compulsory land acquisition. This includes potentially reduced income, decreased land value, and changes to how land can be used for farming as well as cultural and social values.

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## Roads and traffic



Several roads will need to be restored or upgraded before construction starts. Participants also highlighted concerns about potential traffic disruption during the construction phase.

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## Environment and biodiversity



Minimising impacts on ecological communities, flora and fauna such as koalas, quolls, Regent Honeyeaters and wallabies. Clearing of vegetation is another key concern for the local community.

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## Aboriginal Cultural Heritage



Protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage was raised through the consultation. Avoiding important areas that hold knowledge, lore, practices, people, objects and places that are valued and culturally meaningful is important to the community.

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## Renewable energy



The community had questions about the reliability of renewable energy and wanted to understand more about the need to transition to clean energy.

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## Social benefits



Contributions to the region need to provide a social benefit. Examples are jobs, business opportunities, training and education, and enhancing the environment.

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## Route selection



The location of the preliminary corridor and final alignment was questioned, particularly why existing easements are not used for the HTP.

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## Consultation



Community members want more detailed information about the HTP. People also requested more advertising, increased engagement activities and greater access to the project team.

# Next steps

This is just the start of our engagement process for the HTP. During 2024 we'll work through the community feedback so we can deliver the best outcomes for all stakeholders.

**In February 2024, we'll publish a detailed feedback report.**

While this early engagement has been an additional non-statutory process and we won't be responding to individual submissions, we'll use the feedback we received to:

- refine the design of the HTP
- inform our decision on the final corridor
- improve our community engagement on the project
- identify matters requiring further investigations, surveys or studies
- minimise the project impacts on people and the environment
- maximise the project benefits for the Hunter community.

## Key dates

- **November 2023**  
Seek public feedback on the HTP preliminary corridor
- **February 2024**  
Publish a feedback report and start the environmental approvals process, including preparation of a detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the HTP
- **February to late 2024**  
Involve the community in refining the design and assessing the impacts of the HTP
- **Late 2024**  
Seek public feedback on the EIS
- **Early 2025**  
Investigate issues raised in submissions to the EIS and publish a submissions report
- **Mid to late 2025**  
Environmental approvals
- **Early 2026**  
Start construction
- **Late 2027/early 2028**  
Start operation

For more information visit  
[energyco.nsw.gov.au/htp](https://energyco.nsw.gov.au/htp)