

# Construction support sites and worker accommodation

## 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.



Switching station workers

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.

## Key locations and facilities to support safe and efficient project delivery

This fact sheet outlines the proposed locations and functions of construction support sites and laydown areas for the Hunter Transmission Project, along with the type of equipment, materials, and workforce required to build it.

Construction support sites are essential for delivering the project safely and efficiently. Knowing where these sites will be and what they will be used for helps the community understand:



**Where construction activity will be concentrated**



**Worker accommodation will reduce travel times for staff, improving safety and efficiency while helping to lessen traffic and community impacts.**



**What steps are being taken to manage vehicle movements, noise, and disruption near homes and businesses.**



## Construction support sites

Five temporary construction support sites are proposed to help store materials, house equipment, provide temporary worker accommodation and coordinate work within the project impact area.

Locations:

- Hebden Road, Muswellbrook – with helicopter/helipad facilities; includes temporary workforce accommodation.
- Pikes Gully Road, Howick – with helicopter/helipad facilities; construction support/laydown.
- Wollombi Road, Millfield – construction support/laydown.
- Gouldsville Road, Gouldsville – with helicopter/helipad facilities; includes temporary workforce accommodation.
- Freemans Drive, Cooranbong – with helicopter/helipad facilities; includes temporary workforce accommodation.

## Typical activities and facilities

Construction support sites provide the essential facilities to safely and efficiently deliver the project. These sites may include:

- processing facilities such as mini/mobile concrete batching plants, and aggregate crushing, grinding and screening
- aviation support with helicopter landing pads and support facilities where required
- utilities and storage including power, water, equipment/materials, chemicals, gas and diesel generators
- traffic and access such as parking areas and site access roads
- maintenance areas for vehicles, equipment servicing, waste management and firefighting equipment.

## Worker accommodation

To minimise daily travel and reduce traffic on local roads, three temporary worker accommodation facilities are proposed, providing accommodation for approximately 780 workers during construction.

Locations and capacity:

- Hebden Road, Muswellbrook – up to 300 workers
- Gouldsville Road, Gouldsville – up to 180 workers
- Freemans Drive, Cooranbong – up to 300 workers



Example of tower construction in progress

How the accommodation will operate:

- operates 24/7 during construction, with on-site food and recreation facilities, waste treatment and first aid/medical support
- shuttle buses used to transport the majority of workers to and from work areas (mainly at shift change) to help reduce traffic on local roads
- routine support activities include deliveries, waste removal and light vehicle movements.

## Laydown areas

Laydown areas are temporary work areas in addition to construction support sites. Laydown areas will be established to store materials, equipment, and prefabricated components close to work locations along the transmission line route. These smaller areas will:

- support staging works and reduce vehicle movements
- keep construction efficient by minimising frequent trips to and from main support sites
- be located on flat, cleared ground near the construction corridor
- be sited close to tower installation or other active work fronts
- avoid impacts on residents, sensitive environments, and farmland.

## Indicative locations

Twelve indicative laydown areas have been assessed in the EIS. These sites will be located close to tower installation and other active work fronts, rather than near construction compounds. Exact locations will be confirmed during the detailed design and construction planning stage. By strategically locating and managing



Workers

laydown areas, EnergyCo will minimise disruption to the community and support the safe, efficient delivery of the Hunter Transmission Project.

## Timeframes

Construction support sites, worker accommodation, and laydown areas will operate only during the construction phase of the Hunter Transmission Project, expected between 2027 and 2029. They will be removed and sites rehabilitated once works are complete.

## Managing impacts

EnergyCo understands that temporary sites can create noise, dust, traffic, and visual impacts. These will be managed by:

- limiting work to approved hours (except for worker accommodation, which will operate 24 hours a day)
- using various traffic management controls to keep local roads safe
- upgrading access points to sites where needed to ensure safe entry and exit for heavy vehicles and buses
- installing erosion, sediment, and dust controls
- using lighting that minimises spill onto nearby properties.

All activities will follow the project's Environmental Management Strategy (EMS). This strategy will set out the framework for how environmental, safety and community impacts will be managed during construction, including detailed subplans for traffic, noise, dust, erosion, waste and site rehabilitation, as well as compliance with all relevant safety regulations. When construction is complete, all temporary facilities will be dismantled and sites restored to agreed final land uses in consultation with landowners.



## 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 4** for construction support site details, on the NSW Planning Portal.
- Contact the project team at any time, including during the public exhibition period:
  - **Email:** [htp@energyco.nsw.gov.au](mailto:htp@energyco.nsw.gov.au)
  - **Call:** 1800 645 972 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)
  - **Visit:** [energyco.nsw.gov.au/htp](https://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



### Online

Visit the NSW Planning Portal at [planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/have-your-say](https://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](https://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.



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1800 645 972 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)



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