

Upcoming field work and survey investigations

December 2025 and January 2026

The Hunter Transmission Project (the project) is a new 110 km overhead 500 kV transmission line between Bayswater and Eraring in the Hunter. Think of it as a super-highway for electricity — moving renewable energy quickly and efficiently from where it's generated to where people live and work. This new link will complete the northern part of NSW's 500 kV "backbone" — connecting the Hunter and Illawarra. By strengthening the grid, the project will unlock renewable energy from the Central-West Orana and New England Renewable Energy Zones, reduce reliance on ageing coal-fired power stations, and provide cleaner, more reliable and affordable energy for NSW.

The project is currently in the planning and approvals stage. Its environmental impact statement (EIS) has been publicly exhibited, and community feedback is now being carefully considered as part of the assessment process.

What we're doing

As part of planning for the project, EnergyCo's contractors will be conducting environmental and ecology surveys throughout December 2025 and January 2026. These include targeted surveys for bats, owls, frogs, as well as heritage assessments. These checks help us better understand local conditions so the project can be designed in a way that protects the environment and supports local land use. In addition, EnergyCo contractors will be carrying out geotechnical investigations along the Hunter Transmission Project study area. These investigations involve studying soil and ground conditions to inform the safe and sustainable design of the future infrastructure.

While the EIS is an important step, it is not the end of the planning process. Some surveys could not be completed earlier due to seasonal conditions or land access, and route refinements may arise from discussions with landowners. The results of this work will inform any updates or amendments to the EIS and ensure the project reflects both technical findings and community feedback.

When and where

We are planning to carry out surveys in your area. These surveys depend on things like weather, temperature, and when certain animals are active. Some surveys may need to happen at night to observe animals that are only active after dark. While we aim to stick to the proposed dates, but sometimes we may need to adjust the timing to follow environmental guidelines and make sure the results are accurate. If we need to access your property, we will always give you at least 24 to 48 hours' notice. Access for residents, school buses, deliveries and emergency services will always be maintained.

Work hours

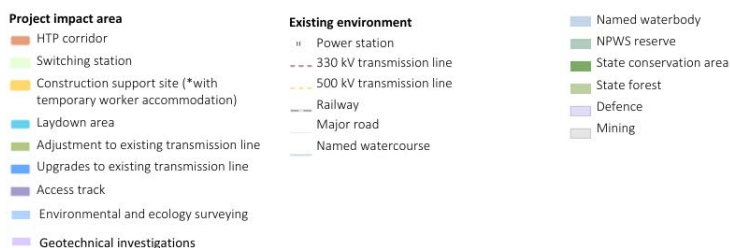
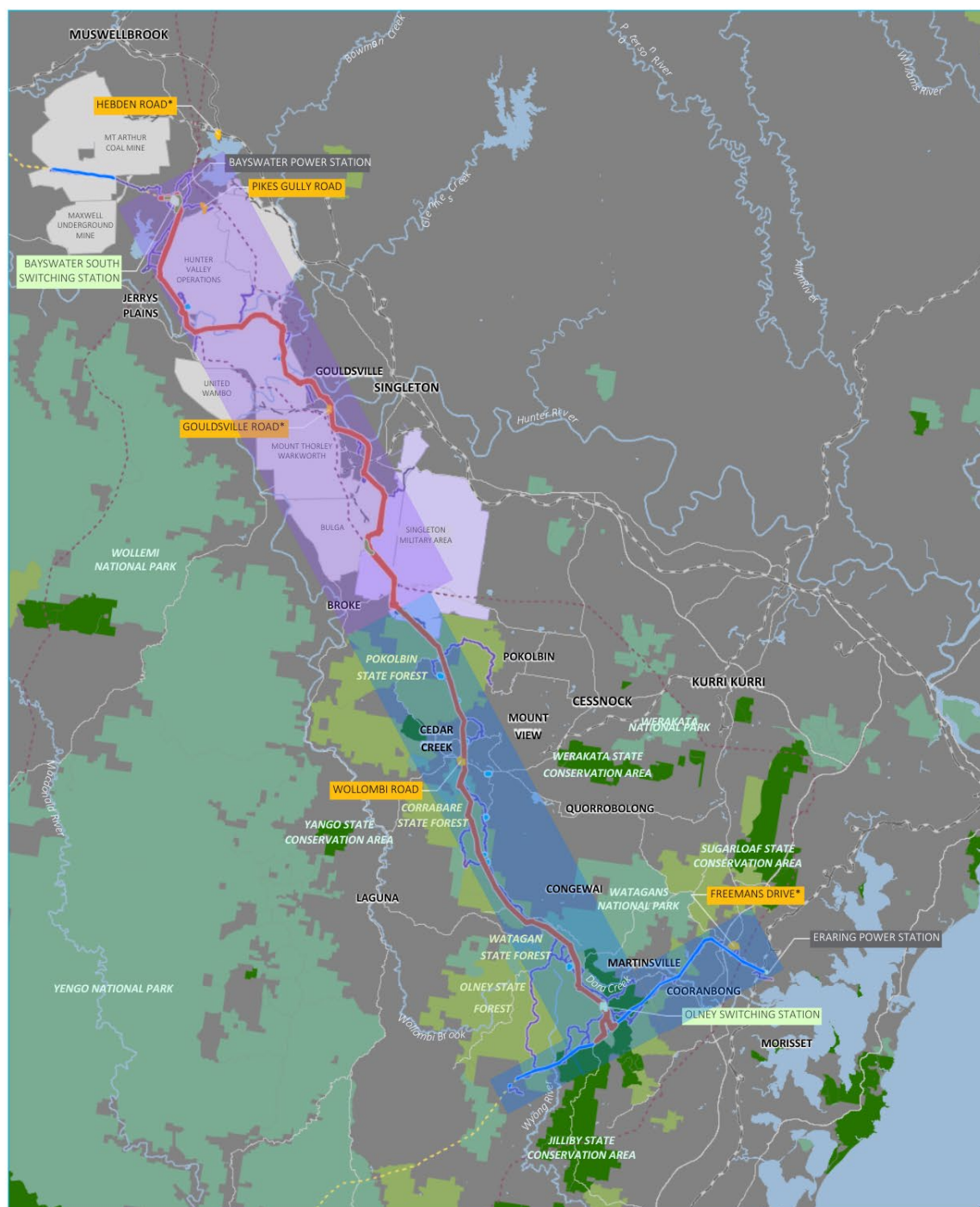
- Standard survey hours: **7 am–6 pm, Monday to Saturday**
- No work will occur on Sundays or public holidays.
- Dates may shift to ensure accurate results and safe working conditions.

Upcoming surveys (December 2025 and January 2026)

Activity	Locations	Dates	Survey purpose	What you might see
Ecology surveying (owls and bats)	Proposed study corridor in Millfield, near Watagan State Forest and private properties. If access to your property is required for these survey activities, a member of our community team will be in touch with you directly.	Monday 1 December to Friday 19 December 2025 and Monday 19 January to Saturday 31 January 2026	Survey teams will be driving and walking along the proposed study corridor to conduct owl monitoring. This involves playing recorded owl calls and listening for responses to identify presence and activity.	Teams walking through bushland or forest, vehicles parked nearby, binoculars, cameras, spotlights or acoustic devices. Night-time work may occur.
Geotechnical investigations and cadastral surveying	Proposed study corridor in Mining land and private properties. If access to your property is required for these survey activities, a member of our community team will be in touch with you directly.	Monday 1 December to Friday 19 December 2025 and Monday 19 January to Saturday 31 January 2026	Survey teams will be conducting geotechnical investigations to assess ground conditions. This involves drilling at selected locations to collect soil and rock samples that will inform future planning and design.	You may notice a drill rig (typically a truck and trailer setup) accompanied by two support light vehicles. There will be 3–4 workers on site, wearing high-visibility clothing and operating drilling equipment.
Fauna surveying	Proposed study corridor in Watagan State Forest, Pokolbin State Forest and Olney State Forest.	Monday 19 January to Saturday 31 January 2026	Camera monitoring for identifying fauna species	Teams placing motion activated camera in locations to identify active fauna in areas.
Ecology surveying (frogs)	Proposed study corridor in Watagan State Forest, Pokolbin State Forest and Olney State Forest. If access to your property is required for these survey activities, a member of our community team will be in touch with you directly.	Monday 19 January to Saturday 31 January 2026	Survey team driving and walking the proposed study corridor to identify frogs and listening to frog calls. The team require recent rainfall so these surveys will be weather dependant.	Small teams walking through forested areas. Vehicles may be parked nearby, and staff will be equipped with torches, acoustic monitoring devices, and field guides. Surveyors will be wearing high-visibility clothing and may pause for extended periods to listen for frog calls. Night-time work may occur.
Aboriginal heritage surveys	Proposed study corridor between Bayswater Power Station and Eraring Power Station. If access to your property is required for these survey activities, a member of our community team will be in touch with you directly.	Monday 19 January to Saturday 31 January 2026	Identifying and recording Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) involved in walkovers, test pits and salvage so they can be protected in project planning.	Small survey teams on foot or in light vehicles, staff in high-visibility clothing, hand tools, and traffic signage in some areas.

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Surveying species

Some animals, like koalas and gang-gang cockatoos, can only be identified at certain times of year or at night when they are active. Seasonal surveys give accurate information about where these species live and feed, helping the project team understand the environment and manage potential impacts.

What happens if something is found during surveys?

If surveys find a vulnerable species, sensitive habitat or an Aboriginal cultural item, our role is to protect and manage it in line with NSW legislation and best practice.

What we will do:

- Record and assess what is found.
- Identify ways to reduce impacts where possible.
- Comply with legislation to protect cultural heritage and threatened species.

This ensures the project is delivered responsibly while respecting culture and the environment.

Temporary beekeeping site closures



Some existing beekeeping sites in state forests are temporarily unavailable during construction.

These will be reopened once construction is complete, in consultation with Forestry Corporation and the Department of Primary Industries.

How we're managing impacts

- **Non-invasive surveys** – no clearing of vegetation or permanent changes.
- **Property access** – where access is needed, landowners will receive **24–48 hours' notice**.
- **Safety** – survey teams will work under approved safety protocols and stop work in unsafe weather.
- **Environment** – surveys are timed to meet environmental guidelines and minimise disturbance to local species and habitats.

EnergyCo is the NSW Government statutory authority delivering the Hunter Transmission Project, a critical part of transitioning to a cleaner future under the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.

Contact the Community Team

If you have questions or concerns, our Community Team is here to help.

Email: htp@energyco.nsw.gov.au

Phone: 1800 645 972 (9am–5pm, Monday–Friday)

Website: energyco.nsw.gov.au/htp

Scan the QR code for access to the website:

