

Hunter Transmission Project

Project Update | A Year in Review

December 2025

As 2025 comes to a close, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has spoken with us this year — whether you asked a question at a market stall, joined a webinar, met with us one-on-one, or spent time reading the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Thank you for being part of the conversation

The Hunter Transmission Project is a significant piece of NSW's future energy network. It's designed to connect new renewable energy zones, strengthen the existing grid and support a reliable, affordable electricity supply for homes and businesses across the region. We know a project of this scale brings big questions and strong feelings, and that people care deeply about their communities, land and local environment.

We've heard many different perspectives throughout the year, and we value them all. Each conversation and piece of local insight plays an important role in helping us refine, assess and design the project with your input.

We're grateful for your time and honesty throughout the year, and we look forward to continuing these conversations in 2026.

This project update gives a snapshot of the year and what comes next:



What we did in 2025 – a year of listening, refining and preparing



How your feedback is shaping the project



Where we are now in the planning approval process



Where you can find us in 2026



How to stay in touch with the team



What we did in 2025: a year of listening, refining and preparing

Before the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was exhibited from 27 August to 24 September 2025, we spent much of the year preparing the detailed studies, refining the design and working closely with communities across the Hunter and Central Coast. The EIS is the key document that explains what the project might mean for people, land, roads, the environment and local communities – and it's important because it gives everyone a clear, formal opportunity to understand the proposal and have their say.

2025 marked a significant period of preparation and engagement. We focused on early engagement, fieldwork, technical studies, map updates, design refinements and sharing information earlier and more clearly.

This snapshot shows just how much work happened in the lead-up to exhibition – shaped by your questions, feedback and local knowledge.

What we achieved in early 2025



Publicised corridor refinements

Provided early visibility of corridor refinements through e-newsletters, direct updates and landholder conversations.



Launched interactive map

Released an updated interactive map to support early feedback and improve community understanding of the corridor.



In-person community engagement

Held drop-in sessions across Cooranbong, Cessnock and Singleton to capture early community issues and opportunities.



Engagement with Aboriginal communities

Conducted early cultural heritage engagement with Registered Aboriginal Parties, including Aboriginal Focus Group meetings and an online briefing to support review of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

What we achieved in early–mid 2025



Carried out field studies

Delivered major field investigations across biodiversity, cultural heritage, noise, traffic and landscape, with regular updates to landholders.



Fact sheets, webinars and briefings

Shared emerging technical findings through refreshed fact sheets, webinars and stakeholder briefings.



SIA Survey commences

Ran the Social Impact Assessment survey (February–June), gathering insights on community values and potential project impacts.



Worked with landowners

Held neighbourhood conversations and additional landowner meetings to refine access, constraints and mitigation opportunities.



Reviewed access and design

Walked the full corridor with shortlisted contractors to refine constructability, access and design constraints.



Publicised technical refinements

Updated fact sheets, visualisations and the interactive map to reflect late-stage design refinements and technical inputs.



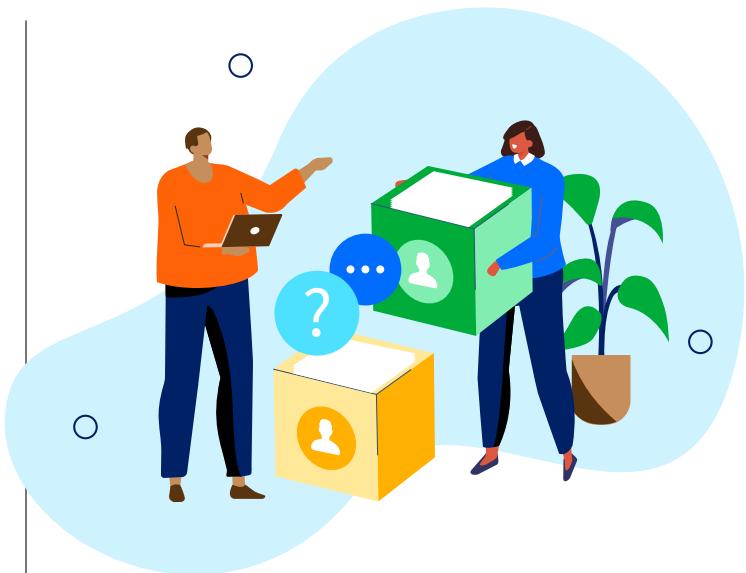
Regional Reference Group expanded

Expanded the Regional Reference Group across the Hunter and Central Coast to strengthen representation and local input.



Requested feedback on ACH findings

Re-engaged Registered Aboriginal Parties through an online session (August) to present refined Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment mitigation measures and seek final feedback.



What we achieved during the EIS Exhibition period



Intensive community engagement

Delivered 14 community events (7 information sessions, 4 pop-ups, 3 webinars) to support understanding of the Environmental Impact Statement and encourage submissions.



EIS resources made available online

Engaged 210 attendees and supported broad online participation through the digital Environmental Impact Statement, interactive map and project website.



Held briefings and meetings

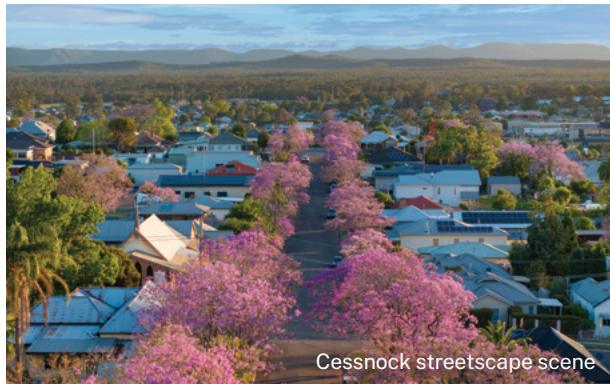
Delivered 55 stakeholder briefings and more than 40 landowner meetings to explain the Environmental Impact Statement, answer questions and clarify potential impacts.



Email updates and letters mailed out

Distributed 2,000+ e-newsletter updates and 1,000 neighbour letters, responded to 43 direct enquiries, and received 188 formal submissions.





Cessnock streetscape scene



Existing 500 kV transmission line



Representative town scene from the Singleton region



Millfield community engagement session

Your feedback is helping us shape a better project

Throughout 2025, you shared your ideas, concerns, questions and local knowledge. Every conversation—whether at a market stall, a drop-in session, a phone call or a quick chat at the fence—has helped guide our work.

Here's how your voices are making a real difference.

Environment and biodiversity

You told us... to protect wildlife, vegetation and sensitive areas.

We're improving by... refining the alignment to better balance environmental considerations, adjusting access tracks, and carrying out more detailed biodiversity surveys.

Traffic and access

You told us... that construction traffic and local access are major concerns.

We're improving by... updating traffic modelling, using more existing roads, planning targeted upgrades, and working closely with councils and Transport for NSW.

Visual and bushfire impacts

You told us... that visibility of towers and bushfire risk need careful consideration.

We're improving by... reviewing tower locations to reduce visual impacts and strengthening bushfire controls with input from the Rural Fire Service and local communities.

Clearer information

You told us... that the EIS is complex and hard to navigate.

We're improving by... launching the Digital EIS with address search, updating the interactive map, and providing simpler fact sheets and topic webinars.

More ways to engage

You told us... that you want more opportunities to speak with the project team.

We're improving by... holding more events and pop-ups in the local community, and online webinars for those unable to make it in person.

What technical studies told us in 2025

Bushfire: Low risk with proposed controls.

Biodiversity: Avoiding sensitive areas and applying targeted mitigation measures.

Traffic: Local road surveys completed and updated traffic modelling undertaken.

Cultural heritage: Collaborative surveys with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), with avoidance measures applied where feasible.

Visual: Transmission tower locations refined to reduce visual prominence.

Noise and Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)

(EMF): Assessed against New South Wales and international guidelines.

**All findings are documented in the EIS.*



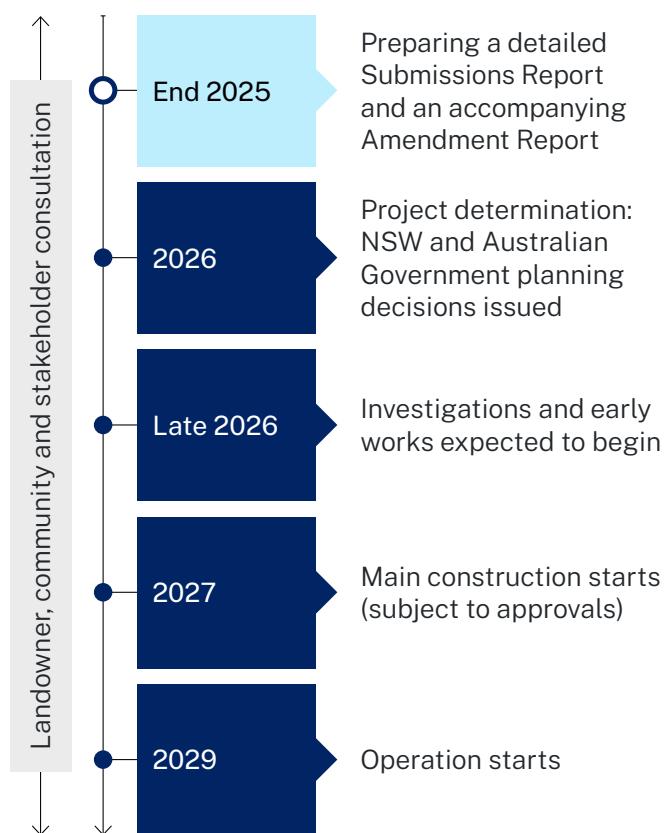
Aboriginal stone artefacts



Ecologist Mark Stables in Corrabare State Forest doing a survey

Where we are now in the planning approval process

Here's where the project sits in the planning process.



Note: All dates are estimates and may change as the project progresses.

Holiday closure

The Hunter Transmission Project community team will be taking a short break over the holiday period, from **Friday 19 December 2025 until Monday 12 January 2026**. If you get in touch during this time, please know we'll reply as soon as we're back online. We hope you enjoy a safe, relaxing and joyful holiday season, and we look forward to reconnecting with you in the new year.

Connecting with Communities in 2026

We'll be at local markets, fairs and regional events throughout 2026. You can find details on upcoming community events at: energyco.nsw.gov.au/our-projects/hunter-transmission-project#community

About EnergyCo

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is a statutory authority responsible for leading the delivery of Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) as part of the NSW Government's Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.

EnergyCo is working closely with communities, investors and industry to deliver the state's first five REZs.

For more information about EnergyCo, visit our website at energyco.nsw.gov.au/about-energyco.

Contact us

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Share your feedback

EnergyCo wants to hear what you think about our plans. If you have questions or want to give feedback, please get in touch with our team. You can find more information on our website by scanning the QR code or by visiting energyco.nsw.gov.au.