

Understanding Planning Approval

Hunter Transmission Project

Fact Sheet | July 2026

The Hunter Transmission Project will deliver a new 110-kilometre 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Bayswater (near Muswellbrook) and Olney (near Eraring), strengthening the NSW electricity network and supporting the transition to renewable energy.

Project status

Following detailed assessment by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has granted planning approval for the Hunter Transmission Project and issued the Conditions of Approval.

The assessment considered environmental and technical studies, community and stakeholder feedback, and advice from councils and government agencies.

The project will now progress through detailed design and pre-construction planning.

Subject to approvals and delivery planning:

- A network operator is expected to be appointed in 2026
- Detailed design and construction planning will continue
- Construction is expected to commence from 2027.



Team members speaking with the community in the Hunter region

What approval means

Planning approval allows the Hunter Transmission Project to move into the next phase of detailed design and delivery. Before construction can begin, the project must meet all Conditions of Approval, including detailed management plans and other pre-construction requirements.



What are Conditions of Approval?

Conditions of Approval are legally binding requirements issued alongside planning approval that control how the project must be designed, built and operated. They require the project to:



Avoid and minimise impacts where possible



Monitor and report on environmental performance



Continue community and stakeholder engagement



Comply with strict environmental and planning requirements.

Independent assessment

The project was independently assessed by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). The assessment considered:

- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) studies
- community and stakeholder submissions
- advice from councils and government agencies
- technical and environmental investigations
- project refinements and amendments.

The Conditions of Approval were granted by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

Key questions

Does planning approval mean construction starts immediately?

No. Before construction can begin, the project must complete detailed design, prepare management plans and meet all pre-construction requirements under the Conditions of Approval.

Who checks the project complies with the Conditions of Approval?

Compliance is regulated by agencies including the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

EnergyCo, the network operator and contractors must all comply with the Conditions of Approval.

Will the community still be consulted?

Yes. Engagement with landholders, communities and stakeholders will continue throughout detailed design, planning and construction.

Can the project still change?

Some elements may continue to be refined through detailed design, including:

- Access arrangements
- Work areas
- Construction methods.

Any material changes outside the approved project would require further assessment and approval.



Project information at community sessions



Team members speaking with the community in the Hunter region

Supporting NSW's energy future

The Hunter Transmission Project will help keep the lights on in NSW as ageing coal-fired power stations retire. By strengthening the state's electricity network, the project will connect renewable energy zones to the grid, improve reliability and increase the amount of electricity that can be transferred to where it is needed most. This will help support homes, businesses and communities across NSW as the energy system continues to evolve.

Because of its important role in supporting NSW's energy future, Hunter Transmission Project has been declared critical State significant infrastructure (CSSI), recognising its importance to the State's energy network and future electricity supply.

Project refinements and community feedback helped reduce impacts on private landholders, with approximately 89% of the corridor now following mining, energy and government-owned land where possible.



How to stay informed

All project documentation, including links to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Submissions Report, Amendment Report and Conditions of Approval, is available on the Hunter Transmission Project website.



Scan the QR code to access the Hunter Transmission Project webpage.

You can also sign up to receive project updates and e-newsletters. Visit energyco.nsw.gov.au/http



Contact us

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

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 energyco.nsw.gov.au/http



Scan the QR code for more information.

If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call us on **1800 645 972**.