

Noise and Vibration

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 planning before construction can begin.

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.

Noise and vibration management

Planning approval has been granted for the Hunter Transmission Project, including approval for noise and vibration management during construction and operation. The assessment considered:



Construction activities, support sites and traffic



Potential vibration impacts at nearby properties



Operational noise from transmission lines and switching stations.

Background noise monitoring informed mitigation measures where required. Conditions of Approval require noise and vibration management measures during construction and operation.

How impacts were assessed

The assessment considered potential construction and operational noise and vibration impacts across the study area and informed the project design, mitigation measures and Conditions of Approval. This included:



Background noise monitoring across the study area, including homes, schools and community facilities



Predictive modelling of construction and operational noise and vibration



Assessment against applicable NSW noise and vibration criteria and EPA guidelines for major projects.

Where potential impacts were identified, mitigation and management measures were developed and incorporated into the project design and assessment.

What was updated through the assessment process

Following public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), additional assessment work was carried out and documented in the Submissions Report and Amendment Report before planning approval and Conditions of Approval were granted for the Hunter Transmission Project. The updated assessment considered:

- Refinements to access track locations and intersection upgrades
- Changes to construction support site layouts and temporary worker accommodation
- Corridor refinements in some locations
- Updated assumptions about construction plant, equipment and work methods
- Revised construction traffic volumes on some local roads.

Where refinements altered the location, scale or timing of activities, potential noise and vibration impacts were reassessed to ensure they remained within applicable criteria. Mitigation measures were reviewed and updated where required.



Studies assessed Broke Road near Mount Thorley

The Submissions Report and Amendment Report confirmed the overall approach to noise and vibration management remains consistent with the EIS and that impacts can be managed in accordance with the Conditions of Approval.

Conditions of Approval also include requirements for construction hours, noise management, community communication and ongoing monitoring during construction. These measures are intended to minimise disruption to nearby residents, schools, businesses and community facilities where feasible.

What does this mean for nearby properties?

For most properties, noise and vibration impacts are expected to occur only when works are taking place nearby. As construction progresses along the corridor, impacts will move with the active work areas and are not expected to be ongoing or permanent.

Conditions of Approval require noise and vibration impacts to be managed through approved mitigation and environmental management measures during construction.

If you have concerns about potential noise or vibration impacts, you can contact the Hunter Transmission Project community team for more information.



Construction traffic and aircraft noise

Planning approval included updated construction traffic modelling, revised access routes and workforce accommodation arrangements. On major highways, increases in traffic noise are expected to be minor, relative to existing traffic volumes. On some local roads with lower traffic volumes, increases may be more noticeable during construction.

Helicopters may be used during conductor stringing in remote or heavily vegetated areas to improve safety and reduce the need for additional ground access. Aircraft noise would be temporary and localised to areas near flight paths. Conditions of Approval require traffic, access and noise management measures to minimise impacts during construction.

Construction noise and vibration

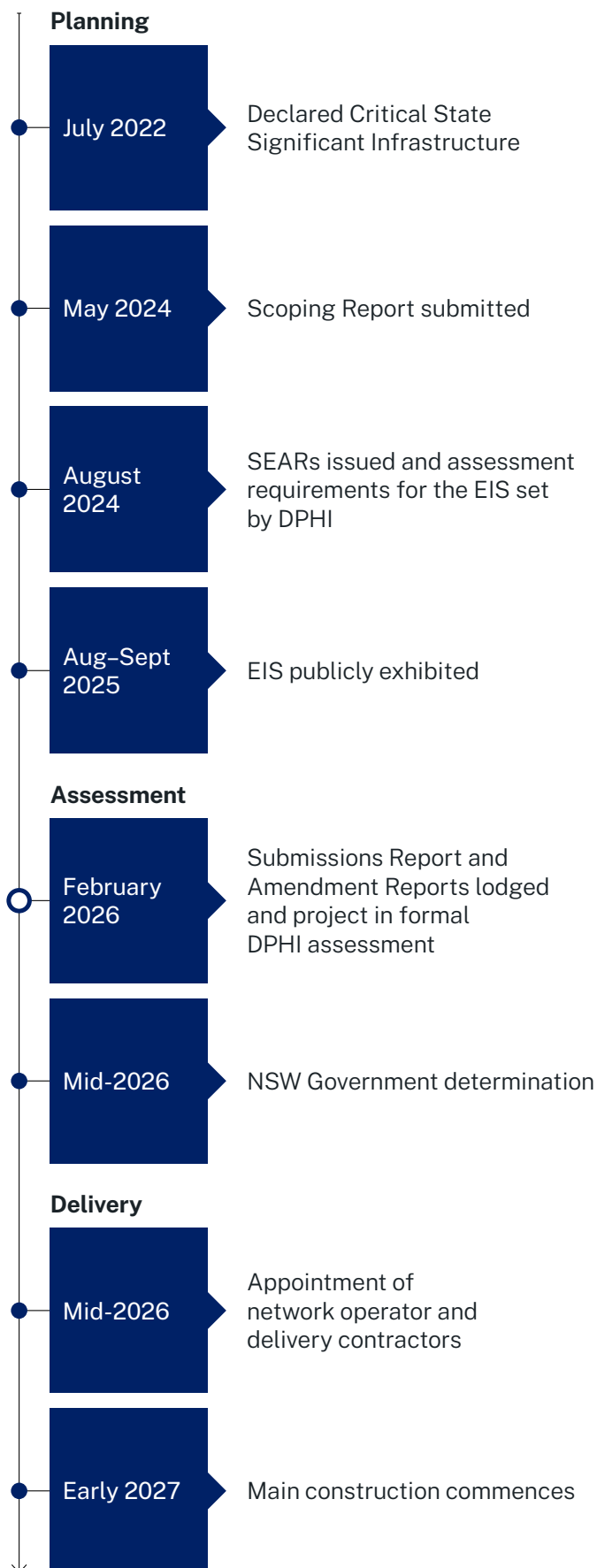
Construction activities will generate temporary noise and vibration near active work areas. Impacts will vary depending on the type and location of works and will move progressively along the corridor as construction advances. Construction hours were assessed in line with standard NSW construction hours. Some activities may be required outside these hours for safety or traffic management reasons and would be managed in accordance with the Conditions of Approval.

Noise and vibration impacts are expected to be short-term and generally limited to properties closest to active work areas. Conditions of Approval require detailed noise and vibration management measures to be implemented during construction.



Conductor stringing by helicopter is safer

Key milestones



*Timeframes are indicative and subject to planning approvals and project delivery requirements.

Operational noise

Operational noise from the transmission line is expected to be very low under normal conditions.

During light rain or mist, a small number of nearby properties may hear a low humming or crackling sound, known as corona noise.

The assessment confirmed operational noise can be managed in accordance with applicable NSW noise criteria and the Conditions of Approval.

Management and mitigation

Conditions of Approval require a Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan before construction begins.

Measures will include scheduling works where appropriate, using quieter equipment where feasible, monitoring noise and vibration, and notifying nearby landowners and communities in advance of works.

Post-construction monitoring will confirm operational noise levels. Where required, targeted mitigation measures and a complaints process will be implemented during construction.

What happens next

Planning approval has been granted for the Hunter Transmission Project, with Conditions of Approval now in place.

The project will now progress through detailed design, pre-construction planning and delivery preparation. Before construction can commence, a range of management plans and additional approvals required under the Conditions of Approval must be prepared and approved.

In 2024, Transgrid was identified as the preferred network operator for the Hunter Transmission Project. Subject to final approvals and contractual arrangements, a network operator is expected to be formally appointed in 2026.

EnergyCo, Transgrid and future delivery partners will continue working with communities, councils, landholders and stakeholders as the project progresses.



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.

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



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



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

 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**.