

Landscape and visual impacts

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 in early 2027.

Visual impacts

Planning approval has been granted for the Hunter Transmission Project, including approval for landscape and visual impact management during construction and operation. Key visual impacts considered included:



Visibility of towers and powerlines from public roads and communities



Views from private properties



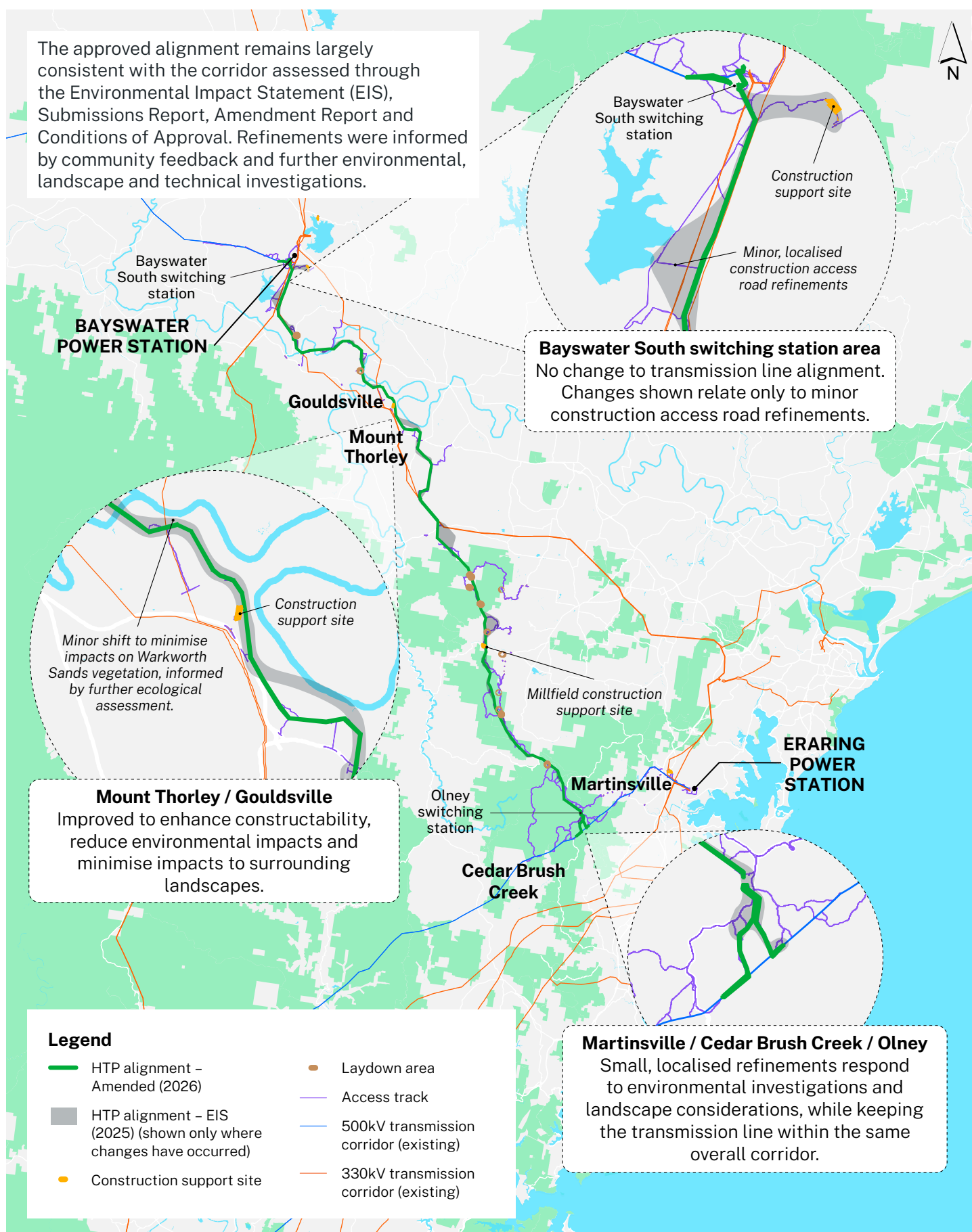
Daytime and night-time visual impacts



Temporary construction impacts.

Conditions of Approval include requirements to minimise visual impacts where feasible through detailed design and construction planning.

Alignment refinements following assessment



What is “landscape character”?



“Landscape character” is a term used in environmental assessments to describe the overall look and feel of an area, shaped by landforms, vegetation, land use and built features such as roads, farms and infrastructure.

For the Hunter Transmission Project, landscape and visual assessments considered how towers and powerlines may be seen across different landscape settings including rural valleys, ridgelines, farmland and forested areas.

The planning assessment and Conditions of Approval confirmed:

- operational landscape and visual impacts remain generally consistent with those identified in the EIS
- some dwellings are no longer within the visual study area following project refinements
- no high visual impacts for private dwellings were identified during operation.

What was considered during assessment

Following exhibition of the EIS, community and agency feedback, further technical investigations and detailed assessment informed refinements to the project and final Conditions of Approval.

The assessment included:

- Refined sections of the alignment
- Views from public roads and private properties
- Construction and night-time visibility
- Measures to minimise visual impacts where feasible.

The assessment confirmed that most landscape and visual impacts remain consistent with those identified in the EIS.

Refinements to the alignment and further assessment reduced impacts in some locations, with some dwellings no longer within the visual study area.



Existing transmission infrastructure near Martinsville Road

Views and visual impacts

Views from public roads, towns and surrounding communities

As part of the planning assessment for the Hunter Transmission Project, views from public roads, towns and surrounding areas were carefully considered.

The assessment looked at:

- how towers and powerlines may be seen within the landscape
- views from different locations across the project area
- temporary visibility during construction activities.

Temporary construction activity and lighting may be visible from some rural roads while works are underway.

Views from private properties

Private dwellings near refined sections of the alignment were reassessed during planning.

The assessment found:

- some dwellings are no longer within the visual study area following project refinements
- visual impacts vary depending on location, surrounding landscape and proximity to infrastructure
- a small number of dwellings may experience moderate operational visual impacts.

Conditions of Approval include requirements to minimise visual impacts where feasible through detailed design and construction planning.

How impacts will be managed

The Conditions of Approval require detailed landscape and visual management measures to be developed before construction begins. This may include:



Careful positioning of towers and infrastructure where feasible



Retaining existing vegetation where possible



Additional planting or screening in some locations



Managing lighting at construction and work sites to reduce night-time visibility where appropriate.

The Conditions of Approval also include requirements for ongoing landscape and visual impact management during detailed design, construction and operation of the project.

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, landowners, 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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Scan the QR code for more information.

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