

Traffic and transport

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 early 2027.

Traffic management

Conditions of Approval include requirements for managing traffic and transport during construction. The assessment considered:



Traffic volumes and intersection performance on key roads



Property access and construction vehicle movements, including oversized overmass (OSOM) transport



Potential impacts on public transport, walking, cycling and rail services

Conditions of Approval require detailed traffic management plans to be approved before construction begins.

Hunter Transmission Project – Amended Alignment (2026)



What was considered during assessment

Following exhibition of the EIS in 2025, community and agency feedback was reviewed as part of the planning assessment process. The assessment considered:

- Expected construction vehicle movements
- Construction access routes
- Traffic and intersection performance during construction
- Measures to manage impacts on road users and the community

This informed the Conditions of Approval issued for the project. Detailed traffic and transport management plans must be approved before construction begins.

Road capacity – what this means for local roads

During peak construction there may be more traffic on some roads.

Traffic management measures will be implemented to support safe operation of the road network during construction.

There may be temporary increases in traffic during peak construction periods at some intersections and on some local roads.



Golden Highway, Mount Thorley

Intersections

Following exhibition of the EIS in 2025, the traffic and transport assessment was updated through the Submissions Report and Amendment Report to consider community and agency feedback.

The updated assessment found there may be temporary increases in traffic during peak construction periods on parts of the New England Highway, Golden Highway and nearby local roads within the Singleton and Cessnock local government areas.

This informed the Conditions of Approval issued for the project. Detailed traffic and transport management plans must be prepared and approved before construction begins.



Roadworks during construction

How impacts will be managed

To manage these impacts, the project will implement:



Peak-hour restrictions on construction vehicles



Variable message signs to advise of potential delays



Intersection management measures where required



Advance warning signage and temporary speed adjustments



Vegetation trimming to improve sight distances

Road upgrades and property access

To support safe access to work areas during construction, road upgrades are proposed along:

- Oakley Lane (Broke area)
- Pokolbin Mountains Road (Pokolbin / Mount View area)
- Mount Baker Road (Millfield)
- Mount View Road (Mount View area)
- Hayes Road (Millfield)

Upgrades may include localised road widening and passing bays, which allow vehicles to safely pass each other while maintaining access for other road users.

Where required, traffic controllers will manage temporary one-way conditions, with measures in place to maintain property access, provide advance notice of works and manage peak-hour and intersection movements in consultation with Transport for NSW and relevant councils.

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.

What to expect during construction

During construction, there will be:



Increased heavy vehicle movements



Short-term lane closures or detours



Managed intersection upgrades

Advance notice will be provided before any significant traffic changes occur. Traffic management will be implemented in consultation with councils and Transport for NSW.



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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