

# Hunter Transmission Project

## Guide to the environmental impact statement (EIS)

Autumn 2024

### What is an environmental impact statement?

As the HTP is a State significant infrastructure project, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under the NSW planning system, specifically the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The EIS must assess the potential environmental, economic and community impacts of the HTP as well as the opportunities.

It will also include ways to avoid, minimise and/or mitigate potential impacts, while enhancing opportunities like benefit sharing.

The EIS will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for assessment. Once the EIS is lodged there will be a public exhibition period and interested members of the community will be able to provide formal feedback on the proposed development directly to the department. This is likely to be in late 2024.

Consultation with stakeholders and the community will continue through the development of the EIS. We'll continue to provide updates on how you can be involved.

### HTP at a glance



A new overhead 500 kV double circuit transmission line of around 100 kilometres



Will connect Bayswater to Eraring



New supporting infrastructure, including 2 substations



Will unlock electricity supply from the Central-West Orana and New England Renewable Energy Zones (REZs)



Critical as NSW's remaining coal-fired power stations close, and must be operational by 2028



Will supply clean energy to the Hunter, Sydney and Illawarra where 80% of NSW's electricity is consumed



Must go through a comprehensive environmental impact assessment, including preparing an EIS



### There are several ways the community can be involved and provide feedback on the HTP.

Throughout the EIS process we'll host community drop-in sessions and workshops across the region. Details of upcoming events can be found on our website. You can also provide feedback directly at [htp@energyco.nsw.gov.au](mailto:htp@energyco.nsw.gov.au) or 1800 645 972.

Feedback will be used to refine the project through the development of the EIS. To find out more visit [energyco.nsw.gov.au/htp](https://energyco.nsw.gov.au/htp).

## What are the key technical studies involved in the EIS?



**An Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment** must investigate any activity that might damage Aboriginal objects or places and report on the potential harm. If harm can't be avoided, the assessment must propose ways to lessen the impact. These reports provide guidance for protecting these sites before, during and after the activity.



**A biodiversity assessment** establishes the current biodiversity values of an area and the potential impacts of a project to avoid, minimise and offset impacts.



**A landscape character and visual amenity assessment** considers the visual impacts of the project. The studies will involve artist's impressions of the proposed transmission infrastructure.



**A traffic and transport assessment** will detail the traffic and transport impacts during construction and operation of the project. Assessments will include temporary and permanent traffic changes, heavy vehicle movements, traffic volumes and road capacity, property access and road maintenance.



**A hazards and risks assessment** will investigate potential hazards and risks as well as proposed mitigation measures. Topics could include bushfire, electromagnetic fields, aviation and other identified issues.



**A social impact assessment** evaluates the potential social impacts of the project, including changes to way of life, community, culture, health and wellbeing. Measures to manage and reduce social impacts will be included.

## Project timeline



### July 2022 to October 2023

Investigations to identify where the HTP should be located including consultation with local councils, members of parliament and government agencies



### Late 2023

Seek community feedback on the HTP preliminary corridor



### May 2024

Present revised corridor to the community and start environmental assessment process



### During 2024

Develop detailed HTP design, assess impacts and prepare EIS



### Mid 2024

Report back to the community for mid-year project update



### Late 2024

Public exhibition of the EIS



### Early 2025

Publish report on community feedback received on the EIS



### Mid to late 2025

Ministers make final decisions



### 2026

Start construction



### 2028

Start operation

Ongoing community engagement

## About EnergyCo

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

You can read more about EnergyCo on our website: [energyco.nsw.gov.au](https://energyco.nsw.gov.au)

## Contact us



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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.