

Historic heritage assessment

Hunter Transmission Project environmental impact statement

March 2025

The Hunter Transmission Project aims to balance infrastructure development with the preservation of historic heritage. As part of the environmental impact statement, the historic heritage impact assessment will examine the potential impacts to historic heritage from the project and outline the proposed measures to reduce those impacts.

What is an environmental impact statement?

As the Hunter Transmission Project (HTP) is a critical State significant infrastructure project, it requires an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the NSW planning system.

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.

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.





How we assess historic heritage



Desktop research

Reviewing historic maps, heritage registers and past studies to identify important historical sites



Field surveys

Confirming heritage findings and document their heritage values



Assessing significance

Determining if heritage sites have world, national, state or local significance



Impact assessment

Evaluating how the project might affect heritage sites and to what extent



Mitigation planning

Developing strategies to avoid, minimise or mitigate these impacts

Early historic heritage findings

We're sharing some early findings on how construction and operation of the HTP could impact historic heritage, along with potential mitigation measures to manage these impacts. Further details on the impacts to historic heritage will be included in the HTP's EIS.

There are no State heritage items or items listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List, National Heritage List or Register of the National Estate in the project area.



Major impact

Our assessment has identified 1 heritage item that could experience major impact from the HTP. The Wishing Well on Martinsville Hill Road will need to be removed for access road upgrades.

Before this happens, we will conduct an archaeological excavation and recording to document its significance.



Minor to moderate impacts

The assessment has identified 11 heritage items that may experience minor impacts and 1 heritage item that may experience a moderate impact.

These impacts mostly involve changes to areas around the heritage items due to upgrading access tracks and associated construction activities. There may also be some indirect impacts like temporary visual changes from nearby construction or minor vegetation trimming.

Potential minor impacts to historic sites and remains:

- Vere township site
- Vere school
- Oakley Estate
- Warringah Stud
- Belmont historic site in Muswellbrook
- Beer Homestead
- Edderton Homestead, Stafford and Clifford homestead (ruins)
- Eraring Power Station
- Former Union Church
- Stone house and barn

Potential moderate impacts to historic remains:

- Blacksmith's shop and forge remains – Vere township



Posts possibly associated with the Blacksmith's shop and forge



Existing transmission line

Minimising and managing historic heritage impacts

The project will follow a Historic Heritage Management Plan. During construction of the HTP, key mitigation measures include:



Protective barriers around heritage sites



Careful management of ground disturbance



Photographic recording before works



Monitoring by archaeologists



Procedures for unexpected discoveries



Existing transmission line

Key planning milestones

July 2022	The HTP was declared as critical State significant infrastructure by the Minister for Planning.
May 2024	A scoping report was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).
Aug 2024	Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) were issued from DPHI.
We are here	
2024 to mid-2025	The environmental impact statement (EIS) is prepared, undertaking technical assessments of the project's impacts and opportunities.
Mid-2025	EnergyCo lodges the EIS. DPHI places the EIS on public exhibition for a minimum of 4 weeks.
Mid/late 2025	EnergyCo will prepare a submissions report responding to the issues raised and lodge it with DPHI.
2026	NSW Government and Australian Government Ministers make final decisions.

About the HTP

The Hunter Transmission Project is one of the State's most critical energy infrastructure projects. It involves building a new overhead 500kV transmission line of around 110 kilometres between Bayswater in the Upper Hunter and Olney in the Lower Hunter to connect the State's existing 500 kV transmission lines.

This will fix a missing link in the electricity network and help unlock the supply of electricity from the Central-West Orana and New England Renewable Energy Zones.

Have your say

Share your feedback on historic heritage by completing our quick survey.



Scan the QR code for details.



Contact us

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.

 htp@energyco.nsw.gov.au

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

 energyco.nsw.gov.au/htp

 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**.