



The Energy
Charter

Better Practice Social Licence Guideline

Phase 2 - November 2025

Accountability Progress Review

AusNet | November 2025 Progress Update

Short-term highlights

Community infrastructure investment

To address long-standing mobile blackspots in western Victoria, AusNet is investing over \$3 million to build new communication towers in Lexton, Smeaton, and Coimadai to deliver improved 4G and 5G coverage to support residents, businesses, and emergency services. This funding is guaranteed regardless of project approval.

Community Benefit Sharing

AusNet has invested \$200,000 from its Community Benefit Sharing Program to support a community-led initiative to build a new playground in Waubra. The play space is designed to cater to toddlers through to pre-teens, and being located on the Pyrenees Highway, will also serve as a welcoming rest stop for travelling families, boosting local visitor spend. This project is guaranteed regardless of project approval.

Sustainable procurement

In mid-2025 AusNet engaged a consultant to assist with developing a three-year plan for sustainable procurement. The plan outlines a series of initiatives for the progressive uplift of AusNet's sustainable procurement practice.

Protecting soil from compaction

AusNet has implemented a practice, minimising the number of people and vehicles accessing properties for survey work in the development stage of its transmission connection projects.

WRL Environment Effects Statement (EES)

WRL has completed 40 business days of exhibition, where stakeholders and community had the opportunity to review the EES online or in person, and make a submission to the Department of Transport and Planning. An independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC), appointed by the Victorian Government, is now assessing the environmental impacts of the project. This includes reviewing the exhibited materials and considering all public submissions. The IAC public hearing commenced on Monday 27 October 2025 and will continue through to early March 2026.

Challenges

Legislative changes

Recent legislative change in Victoria (*National Electricity (Victoria) Amendment (VicGrid Stage 2 Reform) Bill 2025*) has created concerns and questions by landholders and communities that we are working to address.

Future Focus

Engagement with landholders regarding use of scrap materials and equipment

WRL has commenced discussions with individual landholders who choose to engage with the project about their potential use of scrap material and equipment. These conversations will further progress once a delivery partner is appointed. In addition, AusNet will continue to have active conversations with landholders in the pre-commencement phase regarding reuse or upcycling of materials on site for its transmission connection projects.

Alignment with VicGrid's Draft Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines

We are currently reviewing and responding to the VicGrid proposed new guidelines and looking at how we, and our delivery partners, may need to prepare for the new expectations when the guidelines are finalised.



Marinus Link| November 2025 Progress Update

Short-term highlights

- Financial Close – [Marinus Link financed: contractors given notice to proceed](#) [Marinus Link](#)
- Final Investment Decision – [Marinus Link welcomes a positive Final Investment Decision](#) [Marinus Link](#)
- Preferred major civils and construction contractor announced - [Preferred contractor named for major works in North West Tasmania and Gippsland](#) [Marinus Link](#)
- Progression of landholder Easement and Lease Option Deeds and focus on continued access for pre-construction survey activities.
- Engagement program undertaken August to October with key stakeholders in NW Tasmania and Gippsland, Victoria, to support the development of a benefits sharing framework.
- Grants and sponsorships - Our FY 25/26 Round 1 Community Grants and Sponsorship Program opened and closed with assessments currently underway.
- Project readiness – working with TasVic Greenlink on matters including final design, landholder engagement, industry opportunities and community initiatives.
- Marinus Link signed an MOU with TAFE Gippsland and is considering an MOU with Tradeswomen Australia through their 'Powering her Pathway' program and a Co-Operative Agreement with Federation University.
- Stakeholder relationships continue, with many presentations, engagement sessions and direct updates provided to the Gippsland Stakeholder Liaison Group and North West Transmissions Development Stakeholder Liaison Group.
- Promoting industry opportunities – partnering with Industry Capability Network, Marinus Link recent opened registrations to three industry briefings titled 'Meet the Contractors' – [Marinus Link: Meet the Contractors industry briefings](#)

Challenges

- Owner and Contractor developments as the project transitions to delivery.
- External communications highlighting emerging and impacting design changes.
- Continued communications and negotiations with directly impacted landholders.
- Cumulative impacts of both related and unrelated projects.

Future Focus

- Pre-construction focussed engagement
- Localised workforce development opportunities
- FY25/26 Community Grants and Sponsorships Program
- Continued development of the benefits sharing framework
- Further progression on stakeholder relationships
- MLPL Reconciliation Action Plan development



Powerlink | November 2025 Progress Update

Short-term highlights

- We finalised our Community Benefits and Social Value Framework, which identifies areas of investment and activity that provide pathways to driving a balanced, prudent and impactful distribution of resources and opportunity.
- We strengthened our engagement with Central Queensland communities by hosting our first Regional Transmission Network Forum in Gladstone and inaugural local engagement pop-ups in Biloela, Bouldercombe, Gladstone and Rockhampton in August.
- For the first time we produced regional Transmission Update brochures in November across all regions of our network – Southern Queensland, Central Queensland, and North and Far North Queensland. This collateral is boosting our transparency and information sharing with local communities and other stakeholders.
- Work has officially commenced to uplift our existing stakeholder relationship management platform to improve data integration, accessibility and consistency of records management across the business.
- We participated in the Electrical Safety Office's 'Electrical Safety Fortnight' activities in September to promote community safety, including an in-field presentation on powerline safety to local businesses traversed by a Powerlink easement in western Brisbane to discuss urban encroachment risks and promote co-existence.
- We completed major works on our Bayview Heights to White Rock Underground Cable Replacement Project, presenting opportunities to engage on undergrounding activities in an effective and transparent manner.
- We are sharing up to \$450,000 to support community initiatives in 18 local government areas under our 2025 Community Grants Program. Funding will be provided to community groups, clubs and not-for-profit organisations.
- CopperString's Supplier Capability Development Program is helping to build the capability of local and Indigenous businesses. 204 participants from 139 businesses attended workshops in Hughenden, Cloncurry, Richmond, Mt Isa and Julia Creek.
- We appointed an External Complaints and Resolution Manager to help streamline and mature our dispute resolution processes.

Challenges

- There is confusion in some communities about what Powerlink's role is in connecting new generation and storage projects. While our scope is only on the transmission connection, some believe Powerlink is also responsible for developing and siting the generation or storage infrastructure. Further education is needed.
- We continue to operate in a higher cost environment, with the cost of delivering our transmission services increasing in response to complex global and local factors. We remain committed to prudent and appropriate expenditure to manage costs as effectively as possible.
- We understand our stakeholders want us to better communicate our future plans. We are focused on improving our transparency about what is coming, how it is progressing, and sharing information on any changes to our plans.

Future Focus

- Work is continuing on Powerlink's first Social Impact Assessment (SIA), examining the regional impacts and opportunities from major project development in Central Queensland. Round two engagement activities will be completed in November.
- We are finalising a new Transmission Line Land Access Standard to complement our existing Land Access Protocol, to better streamline our approach to property access and landholder engagement.
- Following a review of the AgCarE Natural Capital Framework developed by AgForce, we are now assessing its potential application in transmission easement planning, landholder engagement and sustainability outcomes.
- We are exploring a biosecurity washdown investment program to improve access in strategic locations to vehicle and equipment cleandown facilities.



TasNetworks | November 2025 Progress Update

Short-term highlights

- The permit application for North West Transmission Developments (NWTD) was displayed for public comment in October 2025. A total of 28 submissions were received – two of those were in support and submitted by affected landholders. The project team is providing further information to government assessment managers in response.
- June 2025: the new compensation Strategic Benefit Payment (SBP) terms were finalised by the State Government and confirmed with Landholders. The SBP was revisited in July by the government due to an election commitment to negotiate further with a peak farming group, TasFarmers. The revised SBP was finalised in October 2025 as \$200K per km plus CPI from 2022 to be paid over 20 years; and a minimum impact payment of 100 metres for smaller easement requirements.
- August 2025: Marinus Link's Financial Investment Decision was confirmed, which released \$346 million in Commonwealth funding for NWTD.
- Negotiations with Landholders on voluntary access agreements for construction works are progressing well, access to 80% of the 130km route is secured and negotiations are ongoing to close out the remaining 20%.
- Land Agents are working with over 271 landholders to close out their Property Management Plans (PMPs), which seek to minimise construction impacts and specify landholders' requirements. TasNetworks is working with both the landholders and Genus (the project's early works lead contractor) to finalise these prior to construction commencing.
- Numerous surveys occurred across the alignment during the period including for geotech, soil resistivity, access track design progression, distribution powerlines realignment design, boundary surveys, eagle nests and tower placements.
- We exhibited at five regional community events to raise project awareness, with good attendance.
- Regional biosecurity management, already a priority, has been escalated in response to Tasmania's recently confirmed outbreak of potato mop top virus, with PMPs capturing landholders' property-specific controls and management measures and ongoing site surveys undertaking greater management controls and care.
- TasNetworks hosted and Genus presented at NWTD's regional Stakeholder Liaison Group meetings in June and October. This group provides a forum for collaboration with local key stakeholders about managing regional impacts and maximising benefits.
- Development of NWTD's Community Benefits Sharing Program is advancing. The Program will provide a total of \$10 million for initiatives that benefit local communities in five local government areas affected by Stage 1 of the NWTD (subject to final investment decision). The launch of the program will commence in early 2026 with two rounds of funding offered per year during the construction phase. Promotion of the program will be a combination of targeted (including to regional community organisations, clubs, groups and charities) and through public advertisements.
- In accordance with the Framework of the Community Benefits Sharing Program, an Independent Community Assessment Panel will be established, and their role will be to assess the applications for funding. Recruitment of the Chair is underway, with a further six independent community members to be recruited shortly.
- In October, two regional workshops were held where community groups were invited to share knowledge and advice to inform finalising the Community Benefit Sharing Program's Implementation Plan.
- A review was conducted of NWTD's Regional Economic Development Plan and this involved engagement with key stakeholders to inform the next iteration of the Plan.
- NWTD sponsored and judged entries from children in years 5 to 12 at the BIG Science Fair. We also sponsored and attended the 2025 TasTAFE Trade Excellence Awards. Funding was also provided to Tasmania's RE-Alliance to support Tasmanian regional energy leaders to attend a regional forum in NSW in August.
- Construction design achieved its 70% complete stage in October and continues to progress in advance of the target construction start date of Q2, 2026.

Challenges

- Ongoing instability in Tasmanian politics continuing perceived project uncertainty, questions from landholders about compensation, project certainty, next steps for easement acquisitions
- Signing up all landholders for SBP by 1 December
- Final easement options agreements – best endeavours for voluntary agreements
- Sequencing and scheduling of construction works – managing works around outages and Eagle breeding season, weather, cropping and farming operation schedules
- Workforce accommodation planning; realising skills and training opportunities

Future Focus

- Reviewing broader messaging and presence at community events as the project moves into construction phase
- Public easement amenity opportunities
- Preparation of policies and procedures for NWTD construction phase
- Maximising local suppliers through ICN and engaging through work packages
- Minimising regional impacts through the workforce accommodation strategy and continuing to progress the economic development action plan
- Community Benefits Sharing Program: standing up the community assessment panel, preparing for program launch



Transgrid | November 2025 Progress Update

Short-term highlights

- Completed PEC Strategic Benefit Payment (SBP) 1st tranche (38 payments totalling \$1.743M) for PEC landholders.
- Secured 96% of HumeLink land acquisition agreements.
- Hosted 8 community investment consultation sessions held across HumeLink footprint (8 locations) with 160 participants. 118 EOI's received by both HumeLink East and West.
- VNI-W Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) placed on public display, with 88 stakeholders attending 16 information sessions across the project footprint. DPHI received 144 submissions in response to the EIS.
- Secured 87% of VNI-W land access agreements for it's easement alignment. Negotiation re- the remaining land access progressing.
- By end of September 2025, 4.9% of Transgrid and it's Major Projects FTEs (PEC+HL)are First Nations and \$38.11M were spend with First Nation businesses.
- By end of September 2025, Transgrid Major Projects (PEC+HL) have spent \$766.56M with local (within the project footprints) and regional (within NSW) businesses.
- 2nd round 2025 of the Community Partnership Program closed with 253 applications received from across our Major Projects and existing transmission communities. Through the 1st round 2025, 71 organizations shared \$283K in Transgrid's grants supporting initiatives spanning from community infrastructure, inclusivity, capacity building and accessibility projects.

Challenges

- Eligibility of the SBP to varying ownership structure (eg. Trust interest in Western Land Leases), timing for change in ownership and application of GST on the payments.
- VNI-W delay from the Victorian side limiting the project progress and funding on the NSW side including the project ability to fund community desired initiatives (33 applications received through the social legacy consultation).
- Fair and consistent compensation and benefits approach across communities impacted by transmission lines and Renewable Energy Zones.

Future Focus

- SBP independent audit for the SBP payment process and guidelines.
- Commencing the due diligence process for the remainder of PEC SBPs eligible landowners.
- Assess, prioritize HumeLink Delivery partners community investment EOIs, negotiate and execute the successful initiative agreements.
- VNI continue engaging with the project regional stakeholders (eg. Renewable energy developers) to identify community investment funding synergies to mitigate the project execution delay.

