



The Energy
Charter

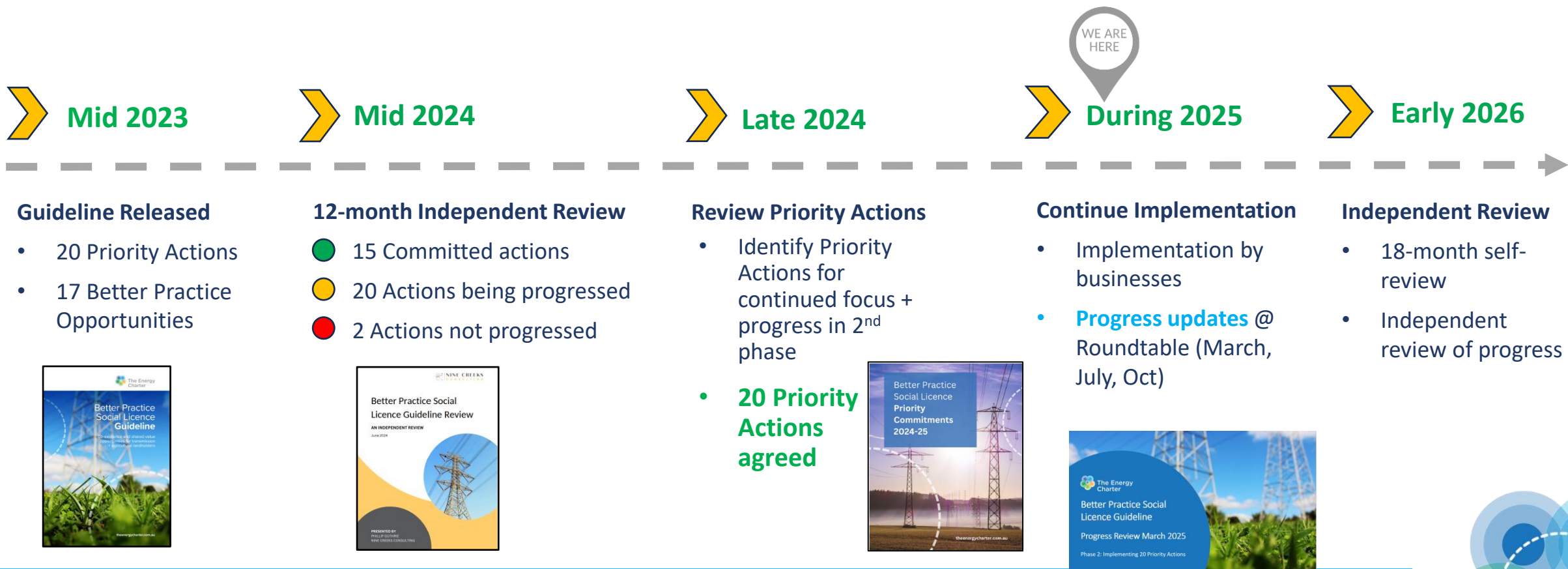
Better Practice Social Licence Guideline

Phase 2 – July 2025

Accountability Progress Review



#BT Social Licence Better Practice Guideline + Accountability



AusNet | July 2025 Progress Update

Short-term highlights

Transmission Safety Campaign

- In March 2025, AusNet launched a multi-channel safety awareness campaign targeted at some 10,000 landholders that host existing AusNet-owned transmission infrastructure. This included a major uplift to the transmission page on AusNet's website, making it a centralised hub for information for things like permitted and non-permitted activities.

Increased support and benefits for Western Renewables Link (WRL) landholders

- In response to landholder and community feedback on WRL, AusNet has introduced a range of initiatives that provide greater flexibility, earlier support and improved benefits to landholders and the community, including:
 - Higher land access payments recognising potential survey work impacts to landholders.
 - Increased option fee with the landholder to keep the full upfront amount regardless of whether the project proceeds.
 - New, property-specific Voluntary Hosting Benefit with potential upfront instalments.
 - Delivery of \$15 million in community benefits during the project's development phase.

WRL Near Neighbour Benefit Program

- Neighbours of properties along the proposed WRL route will be able to share in a new benefits program, aligned with the draft VicGrid Benefit Sharing Framework. If the project is approved, neighbours within one kilometre of the proposed easement may be eligible for a one-off payment of \$20,000 or \$40,000, depending on proximity to the line.

WRL Environment Effects Statement (EES)

- The WRL EES and draft Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) are now on public exhibition. During the exhibition period community members and landholders will be able to review the full EES and make a formal submission. AusNet is hosting a series of engagement sessions to help people navigate the content, which covers 20 key areas from land use and planning, biodiversity, bushfire and includes information on undergrounding.

Challenges

Transmission Safety Campaign

- Evaluating the effectiveness of the safety awareness campaign, in understanding whether it has led to behavioral change amongst landholders is challenging to determine.

Increased support and benefits for WRL landholders

- Varying levels of engagement remain across landholders and with the launch of multiple increased support payments for landholders at the same time, significant communication and engagement has been required to support understanding.

Future Focus

Transmission Safety Campaign

- Strengthen landholder database for existing transmission to support more accurate and targeted communications.
- Leverage direct communication channels such as email, SMS, and traditional mail to improve engagement and outreach effectiveness and leverage opportunities for in-person engagements, including field days and local council forums.
- Strengthen partnerships with agricultural organisations such as VFF and Agriculture Victoria to co-design engagement initiatives and improve outreach effectiveness.

WRL

- Continue working with landholders to provide property-specific solutions to minimise interruptions and impacts.



Marinus Link| July 2025 Progress Update

Short-term highlights

- Progression of landholder agreements with approx % completion of Easement and Lease Option Deeds
- Grants and sponsorships - Our FY24/25 Community Grants and Sponsorship Program continued, supporting local organisations and initiatives that align with our project footprint and values.
- Stakeholder relationship progression - Our relationships with Business North West (BNW) and Devonport Chamber of Commerce in Tasmania and Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the ICN in Victoria have matured, providing critical platforms for shared regional goals. Continued our engagement with stakeholders across government, business, and community sectors. This includes ongoing, trusted relationships with peak bodies, regional councils, and community organisations.
- Internal strategy reviews - Strategic engagement reviews undertaken to improve coordination across functions, aligning with Board and Executive feedback and as the project progresses from planning to construction.
- Industry event presence - Participation at various conferences, including the Women in Business Summit, showcasing our commitment to inclusive, regionally relevant leadership.
- Linking training to industry – working closely with contractors and peak bodies such as Industry Capability Network (ICN), supporting supply chain readiness and skills development.
- Youth partnerships - Strengthened partnerships with the Beacon Foundation in Tasmania, driving youth employment and education outcomes.
- Internal uplift - Continued participation in The Mind Games, supporting mental health and wellbeing in infrastructure.
- Team skills - All Engagement Specialists have now completed their certificates of engagement through the Engagement Institute (formally IAP2), formalising their expertise and professional commitment.

Challenges

- Unexpected Tasmanian political events and the possibility of the inserted community divide or scrutiny.
- Team and organisational developments transitioning to construction phase whilst maintaining stakeholder relationships.
- Populating revised project information within community without contributing to potential confusion, old vs new plans.
- Continued communications and relationship development with directly impacted landholders.

Future Focus

- Pre-construction focussed engagement
- Localised workforce development opportunities
- FY25/26 Community Grants and Sponsorships Program
- Development of Community Benefits Sharing Framework
- Further progression on stakeholder relationships
- MLPL Reconciliation Action Plan development



Powerlink | July 2025 Progress Update

Short-term highlights

- We finalised Powerlink's Community and Social Performance Strategy to drive lasting benefits for communities. We implemented a procurement process and contract framework that facilitates and aligns with the requirements of this strategy.
- Powerlink appointed a Local Economic Participation Specialist to help support local business involvement in our projects.
- We commenced work on Powerlink's first Social Impact Assessment (SIA), examining the impacts and opportunities from project development in Central Queensland. The first round of in-field social research was completed to seek insights from a range of local stakeholders. This feedback will inform development of Social Impact Management Plans to deliver tailored local mitigation measures and maximise positive outcomes for communities.
- We are rolling out a biosecurity declaration app to enhance digital efficiency and mobile access of biosecurity information. Completed forms can be downloaded and shared with landholders as a record of compliance with biosecurity requirements.
- In response to community feedback to improve vegetation screening work at Powerlink's Bouldercombe Substation, we have completed the first stage of works with 60 mature trees planted. The trees were sourced from a local nursery and a local plumber employed to install an irrigation system. Additional plantings will occur as part of stage two activities.
- We developed new collateral to promote community safety education which was distributed to attendees at FarmFest (Queensland's largest primary industry event). This included stickers suitable for placing in the cab of machinery to promote increased awareness and understanding of safety around transmission infrastructure.
- We strengthened our asset management planning through new technologies such as installing pilot sensors on underground transmission cables in Far North Queensland to better monitor cable health and guide future project planning regarding underground infrastructure.
- We continued to support embedment of the Queensland Farmers' Federation's Energy Engagement and Education Advisor. The purpose of this role is to strengthen linkages between the energy and agricultural sectors via preparing submissions on policy development, representing agricultural interests at forums and events, and providing feedback on key Powerlink collateral to support mutual understanding.
- A new Indigenous Relationship Agreement approach has been developed to formalise respectful, long-term partnerships with Traditional Owner groups across Queensland, ensuring culturally responsive engagement and shared decision-making in the delivery of our infrastructure. Informed by Powerlink's First Nations Leadership Group and grounded in principles of co-design, the Framework establishes clear mutual expectations, upfront commitments and financial benefit packages that support First Nations communities while reducing project risks and delays.

Challenges

- While cost of living remains a significant challenge for many Queenslanders, costs across the energy sector have increased in response to many global and local factors. This is creating challenges for planning and investment decisions.
- Traditional community engagement techniques such as information drop-in sessions are reducing in effectiveness in terms of providing information about a project. Powerlink is adopting a combination of digital engagement tools, together with more 'informal' engagement techniques to go to where the community is rather than have them come to us.
- We are trying to improve how to better demonstrate and communicate the direct local benefits of our projects, with a focus on shifting our narrative to localised economic benefits rather than the broader energy system elements of our work.
- Integrating highly complex spatial data and IT systems has meant that work to uplift Powerlink's existing stakeholder relationship management platform is taking longer than expected.

Future Focus

- A range of strategic partnership and R&D initiatives are being pursued with NRM Regions Queensland to deliver enhanced community, stakeholder and environmental outcomes e.g. maximising strategic land use for vegetation offsets to minimise impacts from our infrastructure; exploring coordinated biosecurity management efforts; and progressing a soil monitoring program in association with the CSIRO.
- We are continuing to progress actions under a Memorandum of Understanding with James Cook University to better incorporate soil types and conditions as part of annual reviews of vegetation maintenance programs.
- To support delivery of a critical program of regional transmission upgrades, we are strengthening our engagement with Central Queensland communities by sharing regular regional update collateral, holding local engagement pop-ups, and hosting our first regional Transmission Network Forum in Gladstone during August 2025. These targeted activities are helping to boost our accessibility and transparency.
- We are developing a specification document to improve the transfer of data, maintenance information and landholder requirements to streamline handover between a project's construction and maintenance phases.
- An innovation trial is underway to examine alternative vegetation management techniques on easements, which has identified the potential to trial involvement from grazing animals and drones to support this work.
- Work is underway to finalise our Community Benefits and Social Value Framework. In response to the Queensland Government's introduction of a Community Benefits System within the *Planning Act 2016* for impact assessable wind and solar farms, and following consultation with Powerlink's Customer Panel and other TNSPs, we are developing an evidence-based approach to benefit sharing, supported by a participatory governance model within regions.
- We are continuing to develop a Workforce Accommodation Strategy to support delivery of project-specific Workforce Accommodation Management Plans.



TasNetworks | July 2025 Progress Update

Short-term highlights

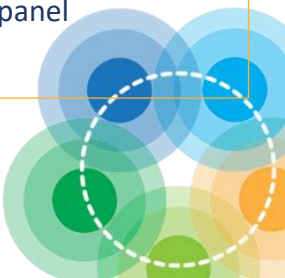
- Submitted the permit application and delivered supporting engagement roadshow program – currently responding to RFI's prior to permit application going on public exhibition
- Final Investment Decision progressed and provided to Government Shareholders
- Successfully held a 'Meet the Head Contractor' event – attended by over 150 local suppliers
- Eligible landholders have been advised that they will be entitled to a Strategic Benefit Payment of \$200K per km plus CPI to be paid over 20 years.
- Currently 55% of landholders have signed a Licence and Easement Option Agreement and negotiations are ongoing with remaining landholders.
- Landholder negotiation of Property Management Plans (PMP), detailing landholder specific requirements, is continuing across both PM-SH and SH-BU. TasNetworks is working with both the landholders and Genus to settle these prior to construction commencing.
- Regional biosecurity washdown sites completed.
- Property specific washdown sites are being documented during the drafting of property management plans.
- Community Benefit Sharing Program continue to finalise governance arrangements
- NWTB regional economic development plan – Recent review involved engagement with key stakeholders to inform the next iteration of the Plan.
- Committed sponsorship to category award prize at BIG Science Fair in August and funding towards Tasmanian RE-Alliance to support Tas regional energy leaders to attend a Regional Forum in NSW in August.
- Construction design being progressed by Genus – firming up access requirements, gate, stockpile locations for timber and steel, re-use gravel from temporary access arrangements.
- Toured TPC and State Gov representatives around their land titles impacted by project
- Geotech investigations being carried out to inform constructability

Challenges

- Recent instability in Tasmanian politics has led to perceived project uncertainty, questions from landholders about compensation and raised questions about the status of the whole of State Business Case
- Finalisation of SBP – stakeholder and landholder acceptance
- Final easement options 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 NWTB construction phase
- Maximising local suppliers through ICN and engaging through work packages
- Continuing to progress the economic development action plan
- CBSP- recruiting and on boarding for the community assessment panel



Transgrid | July 2025 Progress Update

Short-term highlights

Participation & Impact (Year 1)



4,156 total visitors to the Hub	3,556 Discovery Pod sessions	105+ hours of free community space use via Hub Partner Program	200+ virtual attendees at grants workshop
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- Transgrid and our EnergyConnect delivery partner ElecNor Australia co-funded remote bushfire camera at Galore Hill to support NSW Rural Fire Service efforts.
- WatchTowers Networks platform enables real-time bushfire monitoring and public access through the CentralWatch dashboard for community safety.

HumeLink Community Investment and Benefits Program

Project priority areas



Community Connection
Addresses social isolation, mental health and improved regional connectivity.



Care for Country
Encompasses environmental initiatives and HumeLink's commitment to reconciliation with First Nations people and their enduring connection to Country.



Social legacy initiatives
Supports opportunities to promote community benefit beyond life cycle of HumeLink project.



Local education and skills development
Addresses local education and skills development, supporting local communities and economies, including investment in development of the transmission workforce.



Local Industry development
Includes collaboration with HumeLink delivery partners on strategies which aim to identify and support the capacity and capability of local and regional businesses.

Challenges

- Concurrent Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) assessments for VNI-West, Hunter Transmission Project and CWOREZ
- Federal election and the lay of the land post-election
- Fair and equitable compensation and benefits across communities impacted by transmission lines and renewable energy zones

Future Focus

- Rollout of strategic benefit payments.
- Wiradjuri education module, an immersive and enriching program celebrating Wiradjuri language, stories and traditions. With students from Primary and Secondary school groups over the module's fortnight of 343 students from across the Riverina.
- EOI biodiversity stewardship agreements

