

# Attachment D: Summary of community and stakeholder engagement undertaken

This attachment details the engagement process being implemented for the larger action with key stakeholders and the broader community. It identifies the engagement activities that have occurred to date and those which are planned for future stages of the larger action, and summarises the outcomes of engagement activities already undertaken.

## D.1 Engagement objectives

Stakeholder and community relations for the larger action have been led by the GJV's project manager with support from community relation specialists within the GJV. The GJV has developed a needs-based approach for guiding the implementation of its Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which reflects the different needs and interests of the various stakeholder groups relevant to the larger action.

The GJV has identified appropriate methods of communication and engagement for each stakeholder group that has potential interest in the larger action. The engagement approach has been designed to be open and responsive, with overarching goals to ensure an engaged and informed community and to obtain feedback that is able to be considered and addressed early in the development process.

## D.2 Methodology

The GJV's overarching approach to community and stakeholder engagement is as follows:

- Identify stakeholder groups and individual stakeholders with a potential interest in the larger action (see **Section C.3**)
- Identify appropriate engagement mechanisms for each stakeholder group, based on their needs and interests (**Section C.4**)
- Undertake engagement activities
- Consider feedback received and respond to stakeholders where needed (**Section C.5**).

## D.3 Stakeholder identification

Stakeholder identification began early in the larger action's development and is a tiered, ongoing process dependent on the character of the region (e.g. the setting – regional or big city; dominant industries, if any; key government policies; and interests of the local community).

Nine key stakeholder groups that would have an interest in the development of the larger action have been identified. This includes host and neighbouring landholders, local community, government agencies and Members of Parliament. The first group engaged was the host landholders and direct neighbours, followed by other nearby landholders such as Icon Water (for the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre (LMWQCC)), the ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) (in relation to nature reserves) and the Department of Finance.

As the larger action has continued to develop, new stakeholders have been identified through communications with existing stakeholders and as new groups/individuals have become interested in the larger action. In many cases, these interested parties have made contact with the GJV through the regulatory processes or as a result of advertising on the GJV’s website or via community information sessions.

**Table D.1** provides the engagement objectives for each stakeholder group and the engagement activities that the GJV has identified to enable it to meet these objectives. These activities include one-on-one meetings, briefings, and information sessions.

**Table D.1 Stakeholder engagement objectives and activities**

Stakeholder group	Engagement objectives	Engagement activities
<b>Traditional Owners, local Indigenous communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GJV is engaging with the RAOs to understand whether any elements of the larger action are culturally relevant and/or sensitive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement through the cultural heritage assessment process under the ACT <i>Heritage Act 2004</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Host and neighbour landholders / land managers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GJV is in ongoing communication and discussions with host landholders, seeking contributions of local knowledge and advice to guide the larger action’s development.</li> <li>The GJV seeks to create and maintain a close working relationship with landholders adjacent to the larger action area to ensure that impacts are minimised on these landholdings. This includes Icon Water, Neoen, Burns Golf Club, and others.</li> <li>The GJV has engaged with host landholders and near neighbours from early in the planning process and continues to provide opportunities for landholders to raise issues and provide feedback about the larger action.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular meetings.</li> <li>One-on-one meetings.</li> <li>Invitation to community drop-in sessions.</li> <li>Access to updates via website.</li> </ul>
<b>Ginninderry residents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GJV is engaging with Ginninderry residents to seek contributions of local knowledge and advice to guide the larger action’s development.</li> <li>The GJV aims to keep the community informed about the larger action from early in the planning process and provide ongoing opportunities for the community to raise issues and provide feedback.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invitation to community drop-in sessions.</li> <li>Community newsletters.</li> <li>Social media (e.g. Ginninderry Locals Facebook Group).</li> <li>Access to updates via website.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder group	Engagement objectives	Engagement activities
<b>Local ACT and NSW communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GJV seeks to ensure that the local community is kept informed about the larger action and given opportunities to provide feedback early in the planning process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invitation to community drop-in sessions.</li> <li>Access to updates via website.</li> </ul>
<b>Nearby utility owners including Icon Water (also a near neighbour) and Evoenergy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GJV seeks to develop and maintain strong working relations with the owners and operators of nearby utilities to minimise impacts on these utilities and to provide opportunities for feedback early in the planning process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular meetings.</li> <li>One-on-one meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>Transmission infrastructure owner and operator (Transgrid)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GJV seeks to develop and maintain strong working relations with Transgrid as Transgrid is responsible for detailed design of the larger action and will ultimately operate and manage the new assets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular design and operation meetings.</li> <li>One-on-one meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>Special interest groups such as the Strathnairn Arts Centre and ACT Conservation Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GJV seeks to create partnerships with local special interest groups that have an interest in the larger action. The GJV is providing opportunities for groups to raise issues and provide feedback about the larger action early in the planning process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One-on-one meetings.</li> <li>Community drop-in sessions.</li> <li>Access to updates via website.</li> </ul>
<b>Government agencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GJV seeks to meet the regulatory requirements of the Australian and ACT Governments while fostering a positive and collaborative relationship to achieve long-term goals for the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One-on-one meetings.</li> <li>Briefing sessions.</li> <li>Email updates.</li> </ul>
<b>ACT Legislative Assembly members in the electorate of Ginninderry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GJV seeks to ensure that the local ACT Legislative Assembly members are kept informed of the larger action and its progress.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefing sessions.</li> <li>Email updates.</li> </ul>

## D.4 Engagement mechanisms

The GJV has undertaken a range of engagement activities with various stakeholders throughout early development, using a mix of in-person and virtual methods, as outlined in **Table D.1**. The various mechanisms for engagement are described below.

### D.4.1 Website

The GJV has set up a website for the larger action at [Ginninderry.com/TransmissionLines](http://Ginninderry.com/TransmissionLines). The website was established during the ACT EIS process to provide clear and accessible information about the larger action to the community. The website will continue to be updated to provide accurate information on the larger action throughout the development process.

The website provides direction for people to provide comment on the larger action, including:

- Direct contact via email, which will remain with the larger action for its lifetime
- Direct contact via phone
- Feedback survey
- Information about upcoming community events or information sessions and other opportunities to provide feedback (e.g. during public notification of the referrals, EIS and DA).

#### **D.4.2 Stakeholder meetings**

The GJV has provided briefings and updates about the larger action to a range of key stakeholders to date. The purpose of these meetings has been to introduce the GJV, discuss the larger action and provide an opportunity for feedback.

The GJV has engaged with the following stakeholders through one-on-one meetings:

- Host and neighbouring landholders
- Transgrid
- Other nearby utility owners including Icon Water and Evoenergy
- Government agencies including the EPSDD, DCCEEW, the Conservator's office, PCS, UTR and DoF
- Special interest groups including Strathnairn Arts Centre, Conservation Council and Bush on the Boundary.

Ginninderry will continue to engage with these stakeholders and others as identified in **Table D.1** throughout the remainder of the EPBC Act and ACT EIS and DA processes, and during any subsequent stages of design, construction, and operation as required.

#### **D.4.3 Community drop-in sessions**

The GJV plans to hold two community drop-in sessions prior to submitting the draft EIS for the ACT action:

- The first drop-in session will be at The Link in Ginninderry, targeting Ginninderry residents, other ACT community members and other interested stakeholders
- The second drop-in session will be at Uriarra Crossing (Uriarra Recreation Reserve), targeting rural landholders in the ACT and NSW who live near the larger action area (e.g. off Fairlight Road).

Members of the public will be invited to attend, with the events to be publicised through local media, letterbox drops in Ginninderry, and via the Ginninderry community noticeboard. Other key stakeholders may be contacted directly and personally invited to the events.

The community drop-in sessions will be casual events where the public can read information about the larger action displayed on A1 corflute posters around the room and ask questions of the GJV and Umwelt project teams.

Attendees at the community drop-in sessions will be invited to provide comments and feedback on the larger action via a survey feedback form, which will be made available via QR codes on the posters, letterbox drops and website. Feedback received from the surveys, or via discussions at the community drop-in sessions, will be documented in the GJV's Stakeholder Engagement Plan and summarised in the EIS.

#### **D.4.4 EIS public exhibition**

The EIS process includes public exhibition of the draft EIS, which will provide the opportunity for any person to provide comment or feedback on the ACT action. Umwelt and the GJV will review any submissions received and update the EIS to address any concerns raised in these submissions.

#### **D.4.5 Post-approvals**

Stakeholder engagement activities would continue following approval of the larger action. The GJV and Transgrid will continue to engage with key stakeholders prior to and during construction, particularly host and neighbouring landholders and community groups, to discuss timing of construction activities for minimising potential disruption. The GJV will provide community updates to residents of Ginninderry and surrounding areas, while Transgrid will undertake letterbox drops and provide online information as appropriate throughout construction and operation.

The GJV will also engage with local businesses to identify opportunities for local procurement, and with regulatory agencies in relation to environmental management plans. Engagement would be via dedicated meetings, emails to key stakeholders and subscribers, and website updates.

The GJV will continue to provide updates via the website once the larger action is operational, and would manage the complaints register through the website. Prior to decommissioning, the GJV will engage with host and neighbouring landholders and regulatory authorities to discuss timing of decommissioning activities to minimise potential disruption.

### **D.5 Engagement outcomes**

The GJV has engaged with a range of stakeholders throughout the development of the larger action, via the mechanisms described in **Section D.4**. The outcomes of these engagement activities are summarised below.

#### **D.5.1 Stakeholder meetings**

As discussed in **Section D.4.2**, the GJV has engaged with a range of stakeholders throughout the larger action's development via one-on-one meetings. The outcomes of these meetings are summarised below.

##### **D.5.1.1 DCCEEW**

The GJV has met with assessment officers from DCCEEW on a number of occasions, including 24 April 2024, 17 March 2022 and 19 December 2022. These pre-referral meetings introduced DCCEEW to the larger action and discussed potential impacts and mitigations for MNES.

The pre-referral meetings had a particular focus on determining the appropriate referral/assessment pathway for the larger action under the EPBC Act, noting the cross-jurisdictional nature of the larger action. DCCEEW ultimately confirmed that an assessment bilateral agreement could not be used for a cross-jurisdictional project, and that the larger action needed to be either referred in its entirety or via split

referrals for the ACT and NSW components. The latter approach was chosen to allow Transgrid to self-assess under the NSW EP&A Act, which would not have been possible had the larger action been referred in its entirety under the EPBC Act, based on initial DCCEEW advice.

#### D.5.1.2 EPSDD

The GJV has met regularly with staff from the EPSDD since 2019, most recently on 1 March 2023. The purpose of this meeting was to brief the Impact Track team on the status of the larger action, including potential impacts, and to update them on recent discussions with DCCEEW about the assessment pathway under the EPBC Act. The GJV committed to submitting the EPBC Act referrals as soon as possible, with the aim of receiving DCCEEW's referral decisions prior to submitting the draft EIS to the EPSDD.

#### D.5.1.3 Department of Finance

The GJV has met with staff from the DoF on several occasions. Early in the development process, the purpose of these meetings were primarily to understand how the DoF land in NSW is managed and whether there would be any restrictions on the larger action. More recently, the GJV has sought clarity from the DoF on the assessment and approval process required for the component of the NSW action located on DoF (Commonwealth) land. The DoF confirmed that an EPBC Act referral (and assessment if required) covering a whole-of-environment assessment on Commonwealth land is needed. This was undertaken as part of the EPBC Act referral for the NSW portion of the larger action.

#### D.5.1.4 ACT Government agencies

The GJV has met with various ACT Government agencies during preparation of the EIS. **Table D.2** provides a summary of these meetings.

**Table D.2 Summary of larger action meetings with ACT Government agencies**

Agency	Meeting date	Outcomes from meeting
SLA	Multiple, from March 2019 to present	SLA is the representative of the ACT Government in the GJV. Updates on the progress of the larger action were therefore provided regularly to upper management within the SLA, and to the SLA Board, to ensure the ACT Government was kept up-to-date on potential impacts, benefits, costs and progress of the larger action.
PCS	Multiple, from March 2021 to present	Multiple meetings were held to discuss the scope of the larger action and potential impacts and benefits on PCS managed land.
Conservator	15 August 2023	<p>This meeting was to seek clarification on some of the Conservator's comments in the EIS Scoping Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Conservator's team amended their requirement for superb parrot nesting trees to be surveyed within a smaller area along the new alignments to the east of the Molonglo River (referred to as the 'superb parrot tree assessment area'; see Figure 10 in Attachment A to the ACT referral).</li> <li>• The Conservator's team requested an additional round of surveys for Austral toadflax, with surveys OK to be undertaken in spring.</li> <li>• The Conservator's team agreed to provide maps showing recent (unpublished) modelling of GSM habitat near the larger action to inform the GSM impact assessment.</li> </ul>

Agency	Meeting date	Outcomes from meeting
UTR	16 August 2023	This meeting was to seek clarification on some of the UTR’s comments in the EIS Scoping Document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The GJV clarified that no changes to the line connections into the Stockdill and Canberra Substations would occur as a result of the larger action, and that this would be clearly described in the EIS</li> <li>• Because of this, UTR confirmed that energy system modelling and an impact assessment of connection changes within the substations, is not required as part of the EIS.</li> </ul>
TCCS	2023	The SLA engaged with TCCS on behalf of the GJV to discuss potential impacts of the larger action on TCCS landholdings and proposed mitigation measures.

#### **D.5.1.5 Transmission infrastructure owner and operator (Transgrid)**

The GJV has held regular meetings with Transgrid throughout the larger action’s development, to determine appropriate design elements from an engineering and constructability perspective, and to avoid ecological and heritage impacts where possible. The GJV has also engaged with Transgrid in relation to the NSW action’s assessment pathway and to seek input to this referral (e.g. in relation to the larger action design and mitigation measures).

#### **D.5.1.6 Burns Golf Club Belconnen**

The Burns Golf Club Belconnen is the landholder of Block 2 Section 132 Holt, where Line 3C is located. The GJV has met with representatives from the Burns Golf Club Belconnen to identify ways to minimise impacts on the golf course during stringing of the additional conductors on Line 3C.

In consultation with Transgrid, the GJV has modified the construction design to avoid placing brake and winch locations on the golf course, thereby avoiding direct impacts on the grounds. The number of vehicles required to access the golf course during construction has also been minimised to three Utes and trailers at any one time. Twelve days would be needed to string the additional conductors, of which just seven days would require restricted access to the Line 3C easement on the golf course to ensure the public’s safety.

#### **D.5.1.7 Utility owners**

The eastern end of the larger action is located in an ‘infrastructure hub’ where various other utilities are located, including the LMWQCC and various electrical infrastructure owned by Evoenergy and Transgrid.

Early in the larger action’s development, the GJV considered locating the new alignments closer to the LMWQCC. The GJV engaged early with Icon Water to understand whether this was a viable option, but Icon Water did not find it acceptable due to infringement on the northern boundary of the LMWQCC property. Icon Water was pleased with the southern alternative which would not impact on the LMWQCC, and this option was ultimately progressed for assessment in this referral.

The GJV has engaged with Evoenergy in relation to potential impacts of the larger action on Evoenergy infrastructure, including the 11 kV overhead powerlines within the larger action area adjacent to Stockdill Substation. Evoenergy did not raise any particular concerns or requirements for the larger action.

The GJV regularly meets with Transgrid to discuss the design and progress of the larger action. Design decisions have been made to ensure that the larger action is compatible with existing Transgrid assets.

#### **D.5.1.8 Neoen**

Neoen is developing the proposed Territory Battery project on Block 1634 Belconnen, adjacent to the new alignments in the ACT. The GJV has met with Neoen on several occasions to discuss potential electrical constraints on the designs of both projects, and the need for land access arrangements, coordination deeds and other consents. The GJV and Neoen have come to an agreement on relevant matters and both projects are able to proceed without limitation from the other. In particular, the proposed design of the new alignments safely passes over the Territory Battery site and would not impact the Territory Battery construction activities or electrical requirements.

#### **D.5.2 Community drop-in sessions**

This section will summarise any comments received during the community drop-in sessions (see **Section D.4.3**) and how the GJV has considered relevant feedback.

#### **D.5.3 EPBC Act referral public exhibition**

This section will detail how the GJV has considered any submissions received during public exhibition of the EPBC Act referrals.

#### **D.5.4 EIS public exhibition**

This section will detail how the GJV has considered any submissions received during public exhibition of the draft EIS.