

South Australia to New South Wales Interconnector



What is Project EnergyConnect?

The Australian energy landscape is changing as we transition to a greater mix of renewables. To support this transition, the national electricity grid needs to change to connect new energy generation sources to Australian communities and businesses.

At the same time, customers are demanding lower power bills and a more secure and reliable service. ElectraNet, the owner and operator of the South Australian transmission network, investigated a solution to lower prices and help the network evolve.

The solution is a high-capacity interconnector between Robertstown, in South Australia, and Wagga Wagga, in New South Wales, with a connection line to Red Cliffs in Victoria.

The interconnector will help lower energy prices and improve security and reliability in these states.

Commencing in 2016, the project has made its way through a number of milestones, including comprehensive studies and almost all of the required approval processes. Construction commences on Phase 1, between Robertstown and Buronga, in early 2022.

What is an interconnector?

An electricity interconnector is a connection between multiple transmission networks that allows power to flow between regions. Interconnectors are common around the world, including in Australia.

Project EnergyConnect will involve the construction of a new 330 kilovolt (kV) above-ground transmission line connecting South Australia and New South Wales, with an added connection to north-west Victoria.

Who will deliver Project EnergyConnect?

Project EnergyConnect will be delivered through a partnership between ElectraNet and Transgrid.

The Australian Energy Market Operator, as the Victorian transmission planner, will also be involved in delivering the works associated with the connection to north-west Victoria.

What is Project EnergyConnect's current status?

The project has passed through a range of approval processes, including:

- Australian Energy Regulator (AER) regulatory and expenditure approvals
- Environmental and planning approvals for the SA and NSW western sections of the interconnector.

The AER's regulatory approval involved the project passing the Regulatory Investment Test for transmission (RIT-T), which demonstrated the project's robust business case. The expenditure approval allowed for capital expenditure of \$2.28 billion to efficiently deliver the project.

Around the same time, the SA and NSW sections in Phase 1 underwent comprehensive environmental, social, cultural and engineering studies and engagement to understand local community and stakeholder views. These formed part of the environmental and planning assessment processes. Both the SA and NSW sections of Phase 1 have received state and Australian Government approvals. Construction will commence on Phase 1 in early 2022, from Robertstown in SA to Buronga in NSW.

Phase 2, which will connect Buronga to Wagga Wagga in NSW, will undergo an environmental and planning assessment process during 2022 before construction can commence.

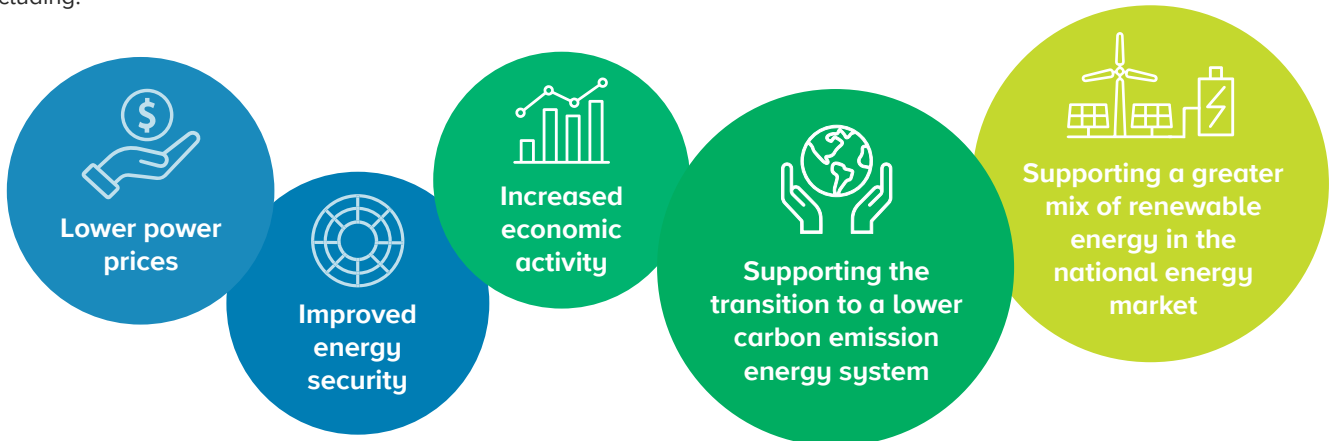


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What are the benefits of Project EnergyConnect?

Project EnergyConnect will deliver a range of benefits for customers in South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria including:



Typical residential electricity bills in South Australia are estimated to reduce annually by about \$100 and businesses can expect higher savings, proportional to their energy use. Project EnergyConnect will save NSW customers \$180 million per year.

Independent modelling also forecasts Project EnergyConnect should deliver broader economic benefits including regional construction jobs during the life of the project in South Australia and New South Wales.

How much will the new line cost and when will it be completed?

Project EnergyConnect will cost about \$2.28 billion. Residential energy customers will contribute about \$9 annually in South Australia and \$5 annually in New South Wales – costs which are outweighed considerably by the estimated savings on electricity bills.

Given the savings and benefits, ElectraNet and Transgrid are working closely with the South Australian and New South Wales governments to commence construction as soon as possible, following all necessary environmental and planning approvals.

The interconnector will be built throughout 2022 and 2024, with sections being energised as they are completed. Internetwork testing and the release of power transfer capacity will occur over time, until the interconnector reaches its full potential to transfer electricity during 2025 and 2026.

How can I get involved?

Project EnergyConnect is focused on delivering benefits for customers, communities and businesses. ElectraNet and Transgrid are committed to open and transparent engagement with all stakeholders and community members across the project.

Information for stakeholders and community members on the project is available on the Project EnergyConnect website:

www.ProjectEnergyConnect.com.au

To obtain more information, be kept up-to-date with project information and provide feedback contact us:

In South Australia or general inquiries

E ProjectEnergyConnect@electranet.com.au

P 1800 560 577 (free call)

If you are in New South Wales

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