

# 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, has been investigating a solution to lower prices and help the network evolve.

The proposed 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 would help lower energy prices and improve security and reliability in these states.

To progress the proposed solution, ElectraNet is undergoing a Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T). The RIT-T is a rigorous cost benefit analysis overseen by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) and applies to all major transmission investments in the National Electricity Market (NEM).

The interconnector project is called Project EnergyConnect.



## 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?

If all approvals are secured, 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 the Project EnergyConnect's current status?

As part of the RIT-T process, ElectraNet has released the final report into the construction of a new interconnector between SA and NSW. The AER will assess the Project Assessment Conclusions Report (PACR) to determine if the project has passed the RIT-T and rule on whether our proposed solution can proceed.

In parallel to the RIT-T process, the South Australian and New South Wales governments have provided support for ElectraNet and TransGrid to progress preliminary work to narrow the route corridor between Robertstown and Buronga. The preliminary work includes environmental, social and engineering studies and engagement to understand local community and stakeholder views and to seek their feedback.

If the AER approves the proposal, Project EnergyConnect will undergo rigorous State and Commonwealth government environment and planning assessments. There will also be extensive community and stakeholder engagement.

Construction will commence on Project EnergyConnect only after environmental and planning approvals have been granted.

## What are the benefits of Project EnergyConnect?

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

- Lower power prices
- Improved energy security
- Increased economic activity
- Supporting the transition to a lower carbon emission energy system; and
- Supporting a greater mix of renewable energy in the national energy market.

Typical residential electricity bills are estimated to reduce annually by about \$66 in South Australia and \$30 in NSW. For small businesses, bills are estimated to reduce annually by \$132 in South Australia and \$71 in NSW. These savings are estimated to start flowing after the project's completion.

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 is estimated to cost about \$1.5 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 will be shared as soon as the interconnector is in place, ElectraNet and TransGrid are working closely with the South Australian and New South Wales governments to commence construction as soon as possible, subject to gaining all necessary environmental and planning approvals.

We are working towards a 2022 completion date and continue to look for opportunities to deliver the project as soon as possible.

## 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 and how to participate is available on the Project EnergyConnect website:

[www.ProjectEnergyConnect.com.au](http://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:

✉ [consultation@electranet.com.au](mailto:consultation@electranet.com.au)

☎ **1800 560 577 (free call)**

If you are in New South Wales:

✉ [community@transgrid.com.au](mailto:community@transgrid.com.au)

☎ **1800 222 537 (free call)**