

Project EnergyConnect is a landmark infrastructure project that will deliver the first new electricity interconnector between Australian states in 15 years.

An electricity interconnector is a connection that allows power to flow between regions in the National Electricity Market (NEM), providing access to a larger number of renewable electricity generators.

Project EnergyConnect will use steel lattice towers for the transmission line in South Australia. These structures will be approximately 65m-high and typically spaced between 400m and 600m.



Project EnergyConnect traverses several landscape types from cleared grazing land to extensive mallee woodland with low population densities. Given these landscape types, the proposed towers will be a dominant feature. Visual impacts have largely been mitigated through a detailed route selection process which avoids towns, residences and scenic tourism locations where possible, and aligns the Project with existing transmission infrastructure and other disturbed areas.

Visual Impact Studies

A specialist assessment of the Project's visual impacts was carried out in two phases as shown below.

Phase One

The first phase was a desktop assessment which included:

- Calculating the 'Theoretical Zone of Visual Influence' (TZVI). The TZVI was calculated to understand the visual impacts of the presence of the transmission line on people or locations in the area around the Project
- Describing the existing visual landscapes and identifying residential receptors
- Determining the key visual elements of the Project for visual impact modelling.

Once the TZVI was determined, this fed into the route selection and stakeholder engagement processes.

Phase Two

- Development of photomontages at visually sensitive locations identified within the TZVI.
- Photomontages provided a variety of views towards the Project infrastructure in different landscapes so potential impacts could be better understood.

Findings



Photomontage along Wentworth Road



Town centres and residential views

Modelling of Project infrastructure showed the vast majority of people within the TZVI will not have views of the transmission lines. The Project will not be visible from Morgan, Cadell, Renmark or anywhere along the River Murray. Residents to the east of Robertstown may observe Project elements in the distance but these views will not be dominated by the Project. Cooltong will likely experience a higher degree of visual impact however, this will be mitigated by the presence of existing electricity distribution infrastructure, and vegetation shielding in the vicinity of most properties.



Tourism areas views

Project views will not be possible from the River Murray, or its immediate surrounds due to topographic barriers and vegetation shielding preventing views to the north. The transmission line will run on the southern boundaries of Calperum and Taylorville Stations which are currently partially cleared by access tracks and have low visitor numbers at these locations, reducing overall impact.

Further detail on the potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures are contained in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).



Road user views

Project views from major and minor roads within the TZVI will be possible for short sections of a journey. Impacts at the western end of the Project will be mitigated by the presence of existing transmission infrastructure and the transient and short duration of the views. The transmission line will be a dominant feature along Wentworth Road.

Stay connected

You can view the EIS, be kept up to date with Project information and provide feedback by visiting the online engagement room on our website or by contacting the Project team.

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