

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 in South Australia is located on country traditionally owned by the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region and the Ngadjuri Nation, and includes areas of registered native title determination, native title claim and Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

Consultation with Traditional Owners

During the route selection process for the Project, ElectraNet liaised extensively with Traditional Owners to explain the Project and seek their views. A search of the Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects showed many recorded and registered sites within 20km of the proposed alignment, which was then adjusted to avoid those sites. A series of on-site cultural heritage surveys was then undertaken in collaboration with Traditional Owners to ensure that construction and operation of the Project would not impact on any previously undiscovered sites, objects or remains.



Management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

After the field surveys identified sites of significance located along a 100m-wide preferred corridor, ElectraNet further adjusted the alignment and will avoid all known Cultural Heritage sites during construction. Aboriginal Heritage agreements between Traditional Owners and ElectraNet detail additional protections and other requirements and obligations during construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.

Cultural Heritage Management Plans will ensure Traditional Owners are engaged in on-site monitoring and that measures are implemented for the protection of identified sites. Visible barriers will be installed around identified sites during construction activities. No encroachment within the barrier will be authorised without further consultation with the relevant Traditional Owners.

To further protect Aboriginal cultural heritage, cultural heritage awareness is provided in standard inductions to ensure personnel and contractors undertaking field work are aware of the region's heritage values and the importance of following mitigation measures which include:

- all vehicles remaining on existing vehicle tracks
- no interference with any cultural heritage sites, objects or remains
- immediately reporting any discoveries to ElectraNet and the Traditional Owners.

Non-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The area of the Project has a long history of non-Aboriginal cultural heritage. In the western region, heritage places reflect the long history of copper mining which contributed to South Australia's early prosperity. In the eastern region, heritage places are largely centred around early European use of the River Murray for trade, agriculture and commerce, with the majority of heritage sites located within the boundaries of townships.

The Commonwealth Heritage List, National Heritage Places Register and State Heritage Places Register were reviewed to identify any places or sites in a 1km-wide corridor based on the proposed alignment. One State Heritage place is located approximately 1.5km from the proposed alignment and will be avoided by all Project activities.

There are no Commonwealth, National or local heritage places in the area of the Project.



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

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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