Media Release

Thursday, 23 February 2023



SecureEnergy drives community engagement to the next level

SecureEnergy as part of <u>EnergyConnect</u>, Australia's largest transmission line project, is connecting with its communities by taking engagement to the people in a purpose-built Community Engagement Van.

EnergyConnect is a 700-kilometre electricity transmission line, known as an interconnector, extending from Wagga Wagga NSW to the South Australian border.

Carmen Marshall SecureEnergy's Engagement Manager believes it is important to make the effort to engage with local communities on their doorstep. The Community Engagement Van is mobile enough to allow the project team to do that.

"With such long distances to cover as part of the project it is important for the project team to connect to the communities where they live and work," said Ms Marshall.

"Our new Community Engagement Van gives us the ability to pop up at community events or pull up in the centre of towns or local parks where the community can have ready access to the team."

Ms Marshall added: "We are on the spot; we can talk to local people, and we are visible. That's what community engagement is all about."

Amanda Hinkelmann, a local Wiradjuri artist from Wagga Wagga has provided the Indigenous artwork represented on the van. The artwork is a representation of the EnergyConnect project

The Engagement Van has been customised to store communication materials in fitted out cabinets, allow for one-on-one meetings with the community, extendable exterior awnings to provide shade with foldable furniture when the team are speaking to the community outside, a fridge and several sockets for a variety of power sources including laptops and tablets.

SecureEnergy will be undertaking a series of popup engagement sessions where the community can come and speak to team members about the project and get updated on construction progress in a casual and welcoming setting.

The first trip undertaken by the Engagement Team will see them in Hay, NSW for the <u>Business and Employment Forum</u> on the evening of Wednesday, 22 February 2023 between 4.30pm-7.00pm.

The van was purchased from Thomas Brothers Toyota in Wagga Wagga; fitted out by Sensational RV Wagga Wagga with Sign Writing by Wagga based, Precision Signs.

About EnergyConnect:

Transgrid's EnergyConnect Project is energy interconnection infrastructure that will lower power bills for homes and businesses across regional NSW, saving customers \$180 million per year and creating up to 1,500 new jobs in regional NSW.

Ends

For media enquiries contact: Jo Mazzocchi on 0418 469 605

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Above: SecureEnergy Engagement Manager Carmen Marshall proudly shows the new Community Engagement Van.



SecureEnergy Community Engagement Van