

Notification of VNI West Field Survey

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) is continuing a program of geological field investigations in the VNI West project draft corridor from Monday May 13, 2024. These geotechnical studies will take place in Northern Grampians Shire. The broader geotechnical investigations program is expected to conclude in June.

The soil and rock sampling taking place will further inform TCV's understanding of the region's geology and assist in route refinement across the broader draft corridor. It is expected these investigations will conclude in May this year.

The survey activities continue a geotechnical drilling program, drilling 27 boreholes in total, each around 100mm in diameter and no more than 35m in depth. Drilling may produce some noise, although not at levels expected to cause any public discomfort.

Once sites are identified as suitable for geotechnical drilling, engineering, ecological and cultural heritage specialists assess the area for any potential issues before any drilling activities begin.

TCV's geotechnical contractors work in line with the [Australian Drilling Industry Association's guidelines](#), boreholes are remediated directly after each geotechnical survey concludes. Boreholes are sealed with a cement-based grout or bentonite from the bottom to prevent borehole collapse and minimise groundwater seepage. This is via pump and tremie line method, the low viscosity grout mixture is pumped below the waterline ensuring all void spaces below ground are filled before the remainder of each borehole is filled with compacted soil.

All geotechnical drilling related field work will take place on public land and all required permits have been obtained from relevant authorities. Investigations take place within fenced work zones for the safety of crews and members of the public. TCV does not anticipate major disruptions to local traffic while work is underway.

In addition to ecological and cultural heritage assessments, locations have been selected with consideration to accessibility and roadway safety. These surveys are not indicative of where towers will be located. Once tower sites are determined, further geotechnical bores will need to be undertaken at each of those locations.

More information about the broader program of field surveys for VNI West can be found [here](#).

Questions about any aspect of VNI West can be directed to TCV via 1800 824 221 or emailed to enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au

Municipality	Location(s)	Expected Window	Type of Surveys
Northern Grampians Shire	Morri Morri Greens Creek Gre Gre South Marnoo East	13/05/2024 - 17/05/2024 20/05/2024 - 24/05/2024	Geo-tech Drilling

Geotechnical Investigations

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) is carrying out field surveys across the VNI West draft corridor. This work is important and builds our understanding of environmental considerations such as flora, fauna and the geology of the area.

We will apply the findings, along with feedback from landholders and the community, to help identify the route for the transmission line that minimises impacts to people, farming and the environment.

Geotechnical investigation program outline

TCV is continuing a program of geological field studies across the VNI West draft corridor. These assessments are expected to run from March to June 2024.

Across the entire draft corridor 27 boreholes will be drilled. Each borehole will be about 100mm in diameter and reach depths of no more than 35 metres.

All geotechnical drilling related field work will take place on public land, or land owned by TCV, and all required permits have been obtained from relevant local authorities. Crews will be visible on roadsides as investigations take place. These sites are not indicative of where towers will be located. Once sites for transmission infrastructure are determined, further geotechnical bores will need to be undertaken at each of those locations.



Preliminary Surveys

We are undertaking preliminary survey activities to help us understand the current state of environmental values. The Victorian Minister for Planning has determined the VNI West project must undertake an Environment Effects Statement (EES) process. These preliminary studies are important to help inform the scope of the EES. The EES process requires a wide array of studies to be undertaken which will include environmental and technical studies, cultural and historic heritage, economic benefits and community considerations.

Geotechnical investigations in the community

Once sites are identified as suitable for geotechnical drilling, engineering, ecological and cultural heritage specialists assess the area for any potential issues before any survey drilling activities begin.

Geotechnical investigations will take place within a fenced off work zone to ensure field investigations can be completed safely. There will be multiple vehicles at each survey site including traffic management, pumping and drilling equipment.

Rock and soil samples from the drilling activity will be used to assess the broader geological features of the region. The TCV website is regularly updated to inform communities of upcoming survey activity.

Neighbours adjacent to these survey sites are advised of the proposed time frame of works and any potential disruptions to their access or property prior to works commencing. Surveys are advertised in local newspapers and are regularly updated on TCV's website and social media.

Site remediation for boreholes

Each borehole is remediated directly after drilling activity concludes. Boreholes are backfilled in strict accordance with the [Australian Drilling Industry Association's guidelines](#).

Every borehole is sealed with a cement-based grout with a high-water ratio, forming a solid mass that is soft enough for digging machinery to cut through, should any future works be required in the area by TCV or other public works companies. Bentonite may also be used in the borehole sealing process, dependant on the soil conditions at the site.

Boreholes are sealed via a pump and tremie line method, the low viscosity grout mixture is pumped below the waterline ensuring all void spaces below ground are filled. The remainder of the borehole is filled with compacted soil from the drilling process. Boreholes are sealed in this way to prevent water seepage and collapse of the borehole.



Safety and biosecurity

For this program of works, TCV requires Works Within the Road Reserve (WWRR) permits from the relevant shire council prior to contractors commencing surveys. Crews have copies of these permits at each survey site.

Permits for works on shire council road reserves do not specify any biosecurity measures be undertaken.

TCV is maintaining clean standards for rigs and vehicles to minimise the transferral of soil between survey sites. TCV will enact strict biosecurity procedures for surveys on crown land or private properties, such as vehicle and boot washdowns with common farming disinfectants.

Where can I find more information?

Contact our team for further information on the project and upcoming engagement activities through the contact details below or scan the QR code.

Visit our website:

www.transmissionvictoria.com.au

Contact us at: 1800 824 221 or

enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au

