

As we talk to landholders and members of the local community across the VNI West draft corridor, we are hearing genuine concerns about managing and fighting fires around transmission lines.

This month, "Community News" looks at high voltage transmission and bushfires and answers the common questions we've heard on this important topic.

We also recognise that TCV does not operate transmission and we are not the experts in fighting fires, which is why we've worked with fire authorities such as the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Victoria's safety regulator Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) to find the answers.

## Do transmission lines increase the risk of bushfires?

As a rule, transmission lines don't start fires. Importantly, in a major bushfire emergency, transmission can be "turned off", so there is no power running through the lines.

*"Transmission lines, when managed and maintained properly, pose a very low risk of starting a fire."*

**Energy Safe Victoria**

## Can you fight a fire around transmission lines?

**Yes** - bushfires have been safely and successfully fought around transmission across the country for decades.

By law, the companies that own and maintain transmission lines must work with fire authorities to ensure that firefighting is possible around transmission.

*"In a bushfire response, an assessment will be made by the Incident Controller - and if it is considered safe to do so, responding crews can operate near transmission lines. **Firefighters receive training on the control measures for fighting fires near transmission lines.**"*

**CFA Victoria**

## Is it more dangerous for firefighters?

*"There are dangers for firefighters in relation to potential arcing from overhead transmission lines, but this can be, and is, managed through an assessment of the fire and the different responses available."*

*"**Low-intensity grassfires** (with flames less than 2m in height), which don't produce dense smoke contacting the transmission lines, **can be managed on the ground, using normal procedures.** Where there **is more intense fire activity** and dense smoke, a **25m safety buffer is applied.** In these instances, there is a range of different fire suppression options, **including the use of firefighting aircraft.**"*

**Jason Heffernan, Chief Officer CFA**

## Is bushfire risk being taken into account?

TCV would like to assure the community that evaluating bushfire risk is a priority as we refine the corridor for VNI West.

As part of the strict project review and approvals process, a detailed fire risk assessment must be conducted by an independent expert, with input from fire authorities including the CFA.

Your feedback is important. Please get in touch through the channels below to raise any questions or comments and access further information. You are also invited to visit the new TCV regional office in Kerang, to find more information or to chat with a member of the TCV project team.

## Contact us

**Email:** [enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au](mailto:enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au)

**Freecall:** 1800 824 221

**Website:** [transmissionvictoria.com.au](http://transmissionvictoria.com.au)

**TCV Regional Office:** Patchell Plaza, 47 Victoria Street, Kerang  
Open Tuesdays 11.30am to 5pm and Wednesdays 8.45am to 2pm

## For further information on bushfires and transmission

"Fighting Fires around Transmission Lines" [www.CFA.vic.gov.au](http://www.CFA.vic.gov.au)

"Electricity Transmission Lines – Bushfire Management and Community Safety" [www.esv.vic.gov.au](http://www.esv.vic.gov.au)