

VNI West Community News

Over 500 people from across the region turned up to TCV's community information sessions in October, looking for answers on a range of topics from farming and transmission to bushfire risk management, environmental impacts, land access and compensation.

The project team had some good conversations and were able to answer a lot of questions - but we received a clear message that many people want more detailed information, more regularly about VNI West and our plans.

This monthly "Community News" column will provide another way for the community to access news and updates on issues that you have told us you care about. This month we are responding to three key things that came up at every one of the five community events – when will you finalise the transmission route? Will you need access to private land and why? And how will landholders be compensated, both for access and for an easement on their land?

What happens next?

In the next stage of the project, we will narrow down the corridor to an easement around 100m wide. As an important part of this process, we are talking to farmers and property owners in the draft corridor. If you believe that your property falls within the draft corridor and you have not yet heard from us, we apologise – it has been challenging to find accurate contact details for some properties. We encourage you to call us on 1800 824 221 – your input is critical to help find the best route with the least impact. We would also like to reassure you that a discussion with TCV in no way implies that you agree to have transmission infrastructure on your land.

Fair compensation for landholders

Payments to landholders for a transmission easement will recognise any **loss in market value, increased costs and lost profit** from farming operations as a result of the easement. This is **in addition** to a payment under a Victorian Government scheme of \$8,000 per kilometre per year for 25 years (indexed to CPI) - that is, more than \$200,000 for each kilometre of line.

Compensation payments will vary according to individual circumstances. Landholders can use their own valuers and lawyers, and TCV will cover reasonable costs associated with that advice. TCV will use a similar assessment methodology to other transmission projects, which in some cases has resulted in large payments to landholders.

Land access for surveys

TCV will be seeking access to some private properties in the draft corridor to conduct field surveys. Initial studies in coming months will be non-invasive, simply gathering data to build a better understanding of flora and fauna. We will request consent from landholders, and if you are willing to grant access, we will respect any biosecurity measures and follow your farm rules. Landholders who enter a land access agreement for survey work will be paid \$10,000 (\$5000 per year for 2 years). Land access agreements are for survey work only and do not imply that you agree to have infrastructure on your property or allow construction or other works.

Your feedback is important and we invite you to get in touch via phone or email. For further information including the Landholder Guide, Fact Sheets, FAQs, reports and Project Updates, please visit the TCV website.