

Victoria to NSW Interconnector West



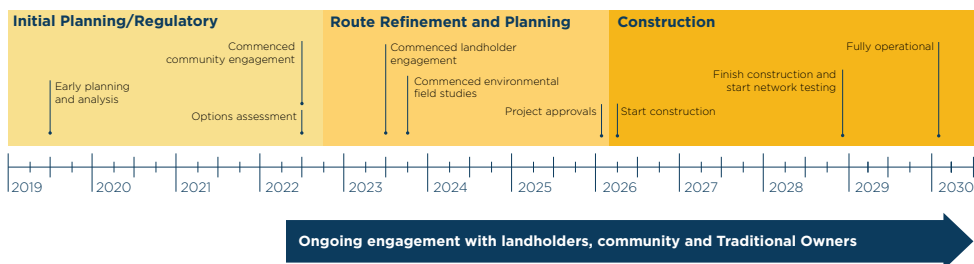
TRANSMISSION
COMPANY
VICTORIA

Victoria to NSW Interconnector West

VNI West is a major project to build a new transmission line between Victoria and New South Wales. It will harness clean energy in both states and improve the reliability and security of electricity supply as coal-fired power stations retire.

VNI West Project Timeline

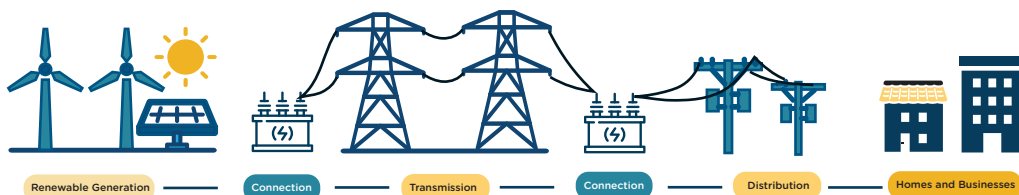
In Victoria, a draft corridor around 2km wide has been identified and will be narrowed down to a preferred easement of 70-120m wide. The corridor runs from Bulgana to near Kerang and then across the border into New South Wales. Construction is scheduled to commence after all approvals have been obtained, in 2026.



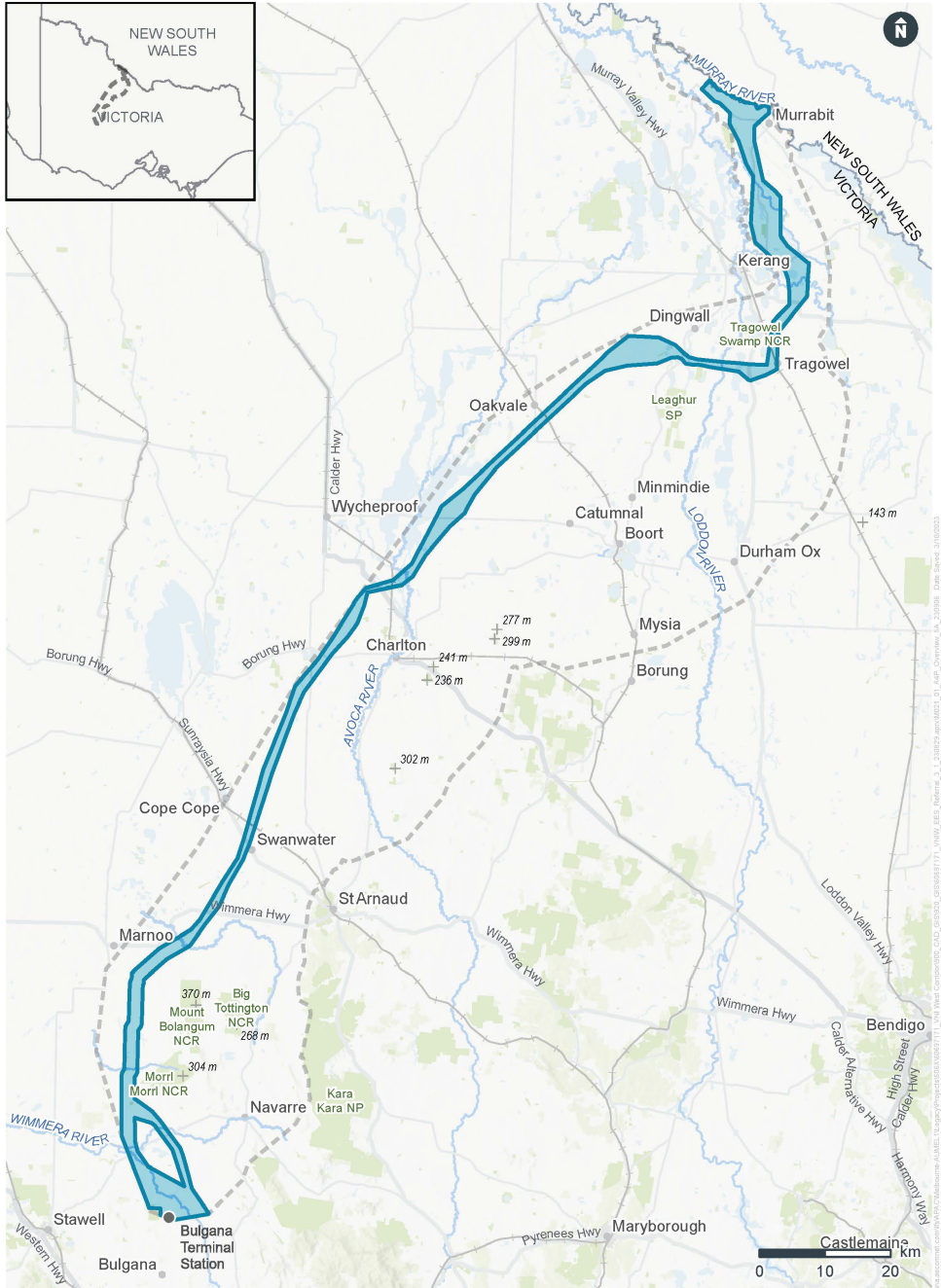
The above dates are indicative only and subject to change

Why is the project needed?

As coal-fired power stations retire, new renewable energy generation will be built to fill the supply gap. New transmission lines are needed to connect this power with our homes and businesses and improve reliability.



VNI West Draft Corridor (Victoria)



LEGEND

- Draft Corridor
- Bulgana Terminal Station
- Area of Interest
- High Points
- Localities

Project benefits at a glance

VNI West will:

Harness renewable energy for Victorian homes.



Provide local jobs and business opportunities during construction.



Support training and skills development in rural communities.



Boost regional economic activity.



Strengthen the connection between Victorian and NSW power grids.



Ensure energy security as coal fired power retires.



What benefits will the project deliver to local communities?



Economic development and employment benefits will be generated as the project brings demand for local and regional business services and goods. This includes opportunities during the construction phase (from 2026) and for ongoing operations.

As part of a government initiative, a development fund will be established for communities hosting renewable energy infrastructure in Renewable Energy Zones. It will coordinate financial contributions from project proponents for regional infrastructure and programs based on local needs and priorities.



Frequently Asked Questions

Will we need more transmission lines in the area?

There are currently no further transmission lines planned by AEMO/TCV in the area, however as the energy transition progresses, new generation projects and connections may be proposed.

Is the project approved?



No, not yet. TCV is at the beginning of a comprehensive environmental and planning approval process for VNI West, which is expected to continue until at least 2026. The project cannot proceed without planning approvals from state and commonwealth governments. This process includes ongoing engagement with landholders, local communities, Traditional Owners and other stakeholders.

Why isn't VNI West being built underground?



There are significant land use restrictions for buildings, dams, farming and tree planting. Vegetation with deep roots can't be planted in the easement, and cropping opportunities are limited.



Undergrounding would require a deep concrete trench to be installed, causing significant disturbance to flora and fauna.



The cost of undergrounding transmission is much higher than overhead lines – recognising that projects like VNI West are ultimately paid for by electricity consumers.

How are landholders compensated for hosting transmission infrastructure?

Landholders will receive compensation from TCV and the government for transmission infrastructure on their land. Compensation will be determined by a qualified valuer and expert as required and can include:

Market Value Considerations



Loss in market value as a result of the easement.

Disturbance



Loss suffered to farming as a result of the easement and payment for reasonable costs incurred for independent professional advice.

TCV will pay for your reasonable costs incurred with obtaining independent valuations and any expert advice.

Severance



A reduction in market value of land which is caused by land severed from other land because of the easement.

Special Value



Any additional financial value only available to the specific landholder in respect of the affected land and not the market in general.

In addition to this compensation from TCV, landholders will receive additional payments including, \$8,000 per kilometre per annum for 25 years for transmission (\$200,000 over 25 years) as well as a \$20,000 sign on fee.

How will TCV consider biosecurity?

The Landholder Liaison will work with landholders to identify all biosecurity requirements for their property, and agree on appropriate management plans. These can be detailed in the Land Access Agreement, and TCV and its personnel must comply with their requirements at every stage of the project, in line with our legal and contractual obligations.



What assessments are required?

Before the project can be approved, TCV will be required to undertake a range of studies and assessments to determine the potential impact of the VNI West project, including, but not limited to:

- Agriculture
- Cultural heritage
- Air quality
- Bushfire
- Greenhouse gas and climate change
- Landscape and visual amenity
- Ecology and geology



Why can't transmission be located next to roads?

Many public road reserves are not wide enough to accommodate major infrastructure and can also be areas of environmental sensitivity as they often contain important remnant vegetation. There are also potential road safety, public safety and transmission infrastructure safety risks.



Can you continue to farm under and around transmission lines?

Yes. There are many farming activities which can take place in a transmission line easement such as broadacre cropping, running livestock and planting orchards.



6,500 km

of transmission lines currently operate in Victoria, many of which co-exist with farming and agriculture.

For information on farming with transmission, please head to the TCV website and access our 'Farming with Transmission Fact Sheet'.

Do transmission lines increase bushfire risk and can you fight fires around transmission?

Bushfires have been safely and successfully fought around transmission across the country for decades. Transmission lines, when managed and maintained properly, pose a very low risk of starting a fire.

Importantly, in a major bushfire emergency, transmission can be "turned off", so there is no power running through the lines. By law, the companies that own and maintain transmission lines must work with fire authorities to ensure that firefighting is possible around transmission.



What is a Land Access Agreement?

A Land Access Agreement (LAA) is a document outlining who, when and how TCV and its project consultants will access your property. This is an agreement between a landholder and the project, subject to any requirements the landholder may have. LAAs contain a payment for participation, more information on LAAs is available in the Landholder Guide.



Contact us

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If you need an interpreter, please call 13 12 50 and reference Transmission Company Victoria. If you are deaf and/or find hearing or speaking with people on the phone difficult, please contact the National Relay Service on voice relay number 1300 555 727, TTY number 133 677 or SMS relay number 0423 677 767.