Environment Effects Statement

TCV is required to prepare an Environment Effects Statement for the VNI West project.

The EES will be assessed by the Victorian Minister for Planning and an independent panel, following a public submissions and public hearing process.

As part of this process we are undertaking extensive technical studies including field surveys and investigations, along with landholder, community and traditional owner consultation.

The project must complete the EES process and obtain relevant Victorian and Commonwealth approvals before construction can commence. This will likely include approval of a Planning Scheme amendment.



What is the goal of the Environment Effects Statement (EES)?

An Environment Effects Statement (EES) is the most rigorous environmental impact assessment process in Victoria. The EES process is administered by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on behalf of Victoria's Minister for Planning under the Environment Effects Act 1978.

The EES process is used to assess projects with potentially significant effects on the environment. It supports transparent, rigorous and integrated consideration of potential adverse effects that inform approval decisions.

For more information on the EES process, please refer to the Department of Transport and Planning website at www.planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments.

Types of matters assessed in the EES

EES studies will be wide-ranging, and may address areas such as:

	Social	·, ·,	Flooding
<u>~</u>	Bushfire	P	Aboriginal cultural heritage
((Noise and vibration	99	Electrical and magnetic fields
6	Transport	\$	Economic
	Landscape and visual amenity		Agricultural and forestry
000	Geology	<u> </u>	Surface water and groundwater
- 	Air quality		Biodiversity
• x	Land use and planning		Historic heritage
	Greenhouse gas and climate change		Aviation

What does the consultation process look like?

Department of Transport and Planning Victoria (DTP) will release the list of matters to be investigated and proposed studies in a draft scoping requirements document. Landholders and community members will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the EES study program before the scoping requirements before they are finalised.

A key opportunity for members of the public to provide input on the scoping requirements is the Department's formal public submissions process, which will run for a minimum of 15 business days. Details of this process can be found on the DTP website.

TCV will promote awareness of the opportunity to provide a submission to the EES draft scoping requirements – including through regional advertising and via our website and project updates. Throughout the EES process, TCV will continue to actively engage with local communities and landowners within the draft corridor for VNI West. This will include information about the investigations and assessments to inform the EES, provided directly in meetings and via our website, and face-to-face events such as community information sessions.

Once the assessments are finalised and the EES prepared, it will be exhibited for public comment for a minimum of 30 business days. It is likely that a Public Hearing will also be conducted by an Independent Panel. and EES issues.

Key Facts - The EES Process

Studies and assessments to inform the Environment Effects Statement and project design will take place through 2024 and 2025. We plan to submit the EES to the Minister in 2025. This process is overseen by the Department of Transport and Planning Victoria (DTP). A Technical Reference Group (TRG) will be appointed by the Minister to provide advice and oversight throughout the process.

What is a Technical Reference Group?

The process for preparing an EES involves oversight by a Technical Reference Group (TRG) appointed by the Planning Minister. The membership of a TRG comprises representatives from government agencies, regional authorities, municipal councils, and registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with statutory, policy, or technical interests in the project. The proponent participates in TRG meetings by providing information and promoting, discussing, or responding to project and EES issues.

Referral and determining the need for an EES

TCV will submit referral

documentation to the Minister

for Planning (the Minister) to

determine whether an EES is

reauired.

Documentation will include an

overview of the project, preliminary environmental

information and potential

impacts, a study plan and a

consultation plan.

Scoping of an EES

The TRG will be appointed by

the minister of planning. Draft

scoping requirements for the

EES will be developed by the

Department of Transport in

consultation with TCV and the

TRG, and will be available for

public comment prior to review

and signoff by the Minister. The

Minister will consider this

information together with

advice from relevant agencies

and authorities before signing

off. Final scoping requirements will be posted on the

department website post-approval.

EES Process

Public review Making an assessment

Preparing an EES

The EES will outline:

- Project rationale and objectives
- Location, technology, and design of project components
- Site characteristics and surroundings
- Affected communities, properties, and residences, and potential impacts
- Methods to avoid or mitigate environmental effects
- Program and timelines for the project
- Methods for project execution

To assist in identifying impacts and values, TCV will undertake a range of technical studies and field surveys.

DTP and agency review of EES for exhibition.

Public exhibition of the EES for a specified period may be followed by Public Hearings overseen by an independent panel. A 'Ministerial assessment' will be completed to determine if VNI West would have an acceptable impact on the environment in consideration of the overall project outcomes

Early engagement will help inform the preferred corridor assessed in the referral documentation, ncluding the assessments of potential impacts. The draft scoping requirements will be made available for public comment. Feedback received during this time will assist to inform and finalise the required scope of the EES.

TCV will continue ongoing engagement throughout this process to inform potential impacts, mitigation measures, benefit opportunities and design.

The EES will be exhibited for at least 30 business days, allowing the public to review the EES and provide written submissions.

Submissions made during the exhibition will be reviewed and considered.

The public will be made aware of the decision as

Opportunities for communities to have their say

