



# VNI West

October 2023

## Acknowledgement of Country

We proudly acknowledge the many Traditional Owner groups as the owners of the lands on which we stand and where VNI West is to be delivered. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise the deep connection of First Peoples to Country and value their contribution to caring for, and managing the land, water, natural and built landscapes and their profound knowledge systems.



# Recording in progress

## Please note

This session is being recorded.

The recording will be published on TCV's website, along with this presentation. No personal details will be made public.

# Agenda

Project background	5 min
Draft corridor and corridor refinement process	10 min
Q&A Session 1	10 min
Landholder engagement	5 min
Q&A Session 2	10 min
Environment Effects Statement	5 min
Q&A Session 3	10 min
Next Steps	5 min
Panel Q&A	20 min

# Today's Presenters & Panel



**Sam Magee**  
Project director



**Jeff Smith**  
Environment  
and planning  
director



**Mark Lampard**  
Technical design  
lead



**Chris O'Halloran**  
Landholder  
engagement  
lead



**Mitch Hume**  
Stakeholder and  
community  
engagement  
manager



**Deepak Sharma**  
Project director  
VicGrid



**George Warne**  
Agricultural  
specialist

# Project Background

# Need for new transmission



**Coal fired generators  
rapidly retiring**



**Renewable energy fills  
the supply gap**



**New transmission is  
required to link  
renewables into the grid**



# Our energy system is changing



Storage capacity  
to **increase of a  
factor of 30**



Grid-scale wind  
and solar to  
**increase 9-fold**



Distributed solar  
PV to **increase  
5-fold**



Electricity usage  
from the grid to  
**nearly double**



Gas-fired  
peaking plants to  
**increase**



Coal generation  
to **be withdrawn**



# Why do we need VNI West

VNI West will:



- Harness 3.4 gigawatts of renewable energy generation, enough to power approximately 2.3 million homes.



- Collect and share clean, **low-cost** renewable power from the wind and solar-rich areas of north-west Victoria.

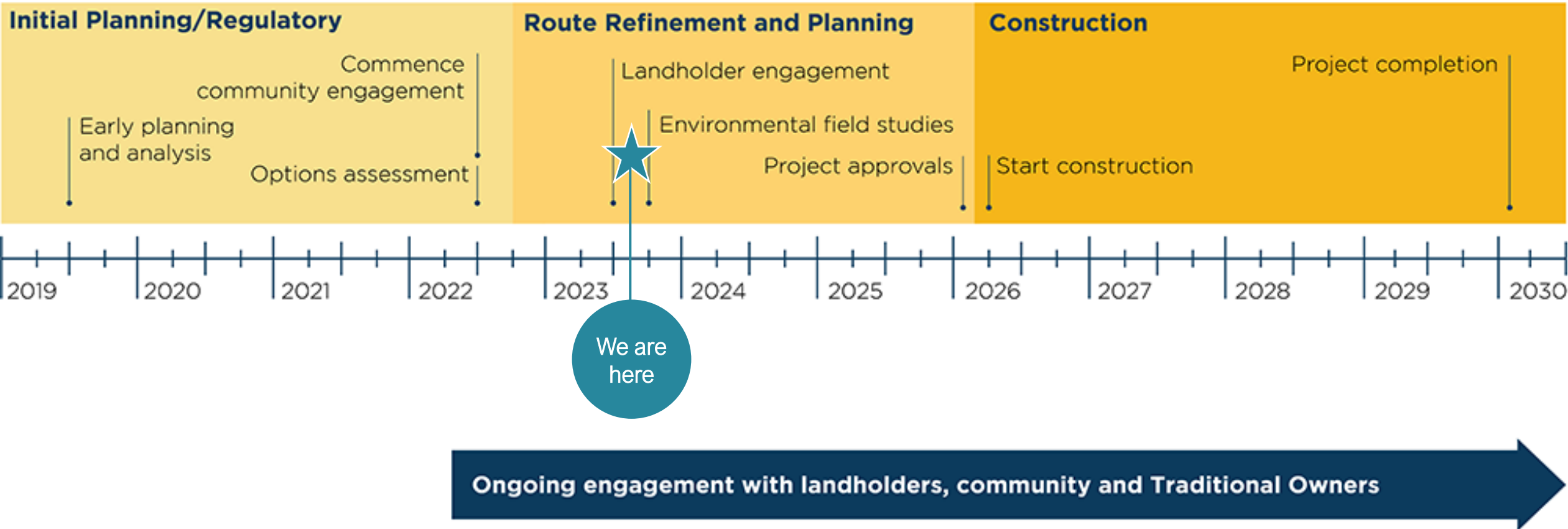


- **Strengthen the connection** between Victoria's and NSW power grids.



- Improve the **security and reliability** of the electricity network as coal-fired power stations are retired.

# Indicative Project timeline



The above dates are indicative only and subject to change

# Corridor Selection

# Developing the route for VNI West



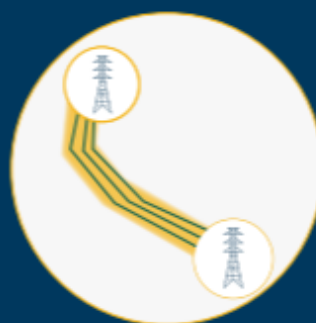
Area of interest



Draft corridor



Field surveys



Route refinement



Environmental  
Assessments



Final alignment



Construction  
(2026)



# Developing the Draft Corridor

TCV undertook a thorough analysis of key factors and local considerations including:



**Ecology and  
biodiversity**



**Visual impacts**



**Cultural heritage**



**Proximity to  
parks and  
reserves**



**Impacts on agriculture**



**Proximity to settlements**

# Developing the Draft Corridor

The draft corridor has been identified following feedback from:



**Landholders**



**Government agencies  
inc. local councils**



**Community members**



**Stakeholders**



**Traditional owners**



**Ongoing technical, engineering  
and environmental assessments.**

# How feedback informed draft corridor



## Land use and agriculture

- Farm infrastructure
- Intensive agricultural activities



## Culture and heritage

- Specific sites of importance to Traditional Owners
- Areas of tourism and recreational values



## Environment

- Vegetation corridors
- Protected land and vegetation
- Protected species
- Areas prone to flooding

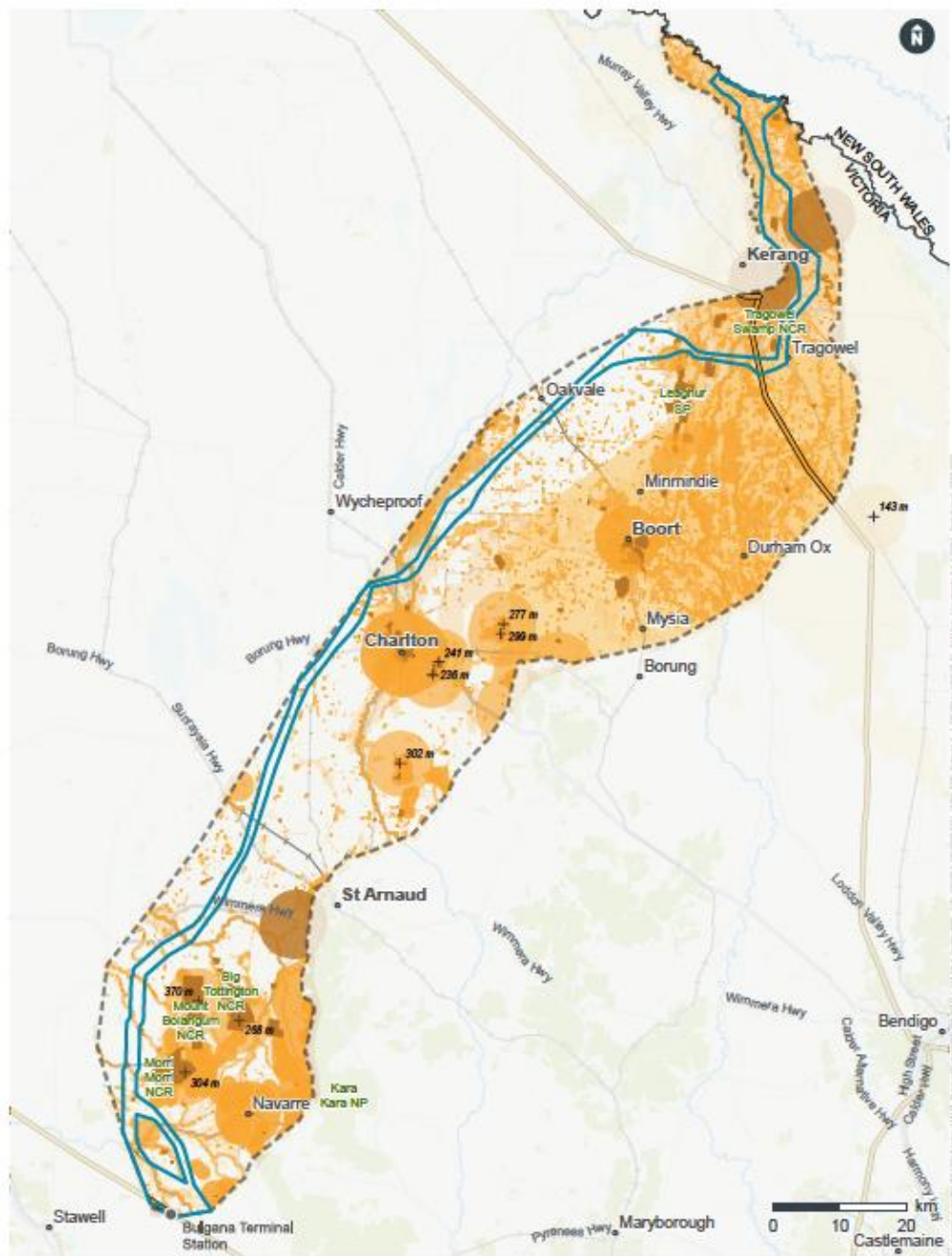


## Infrastructure

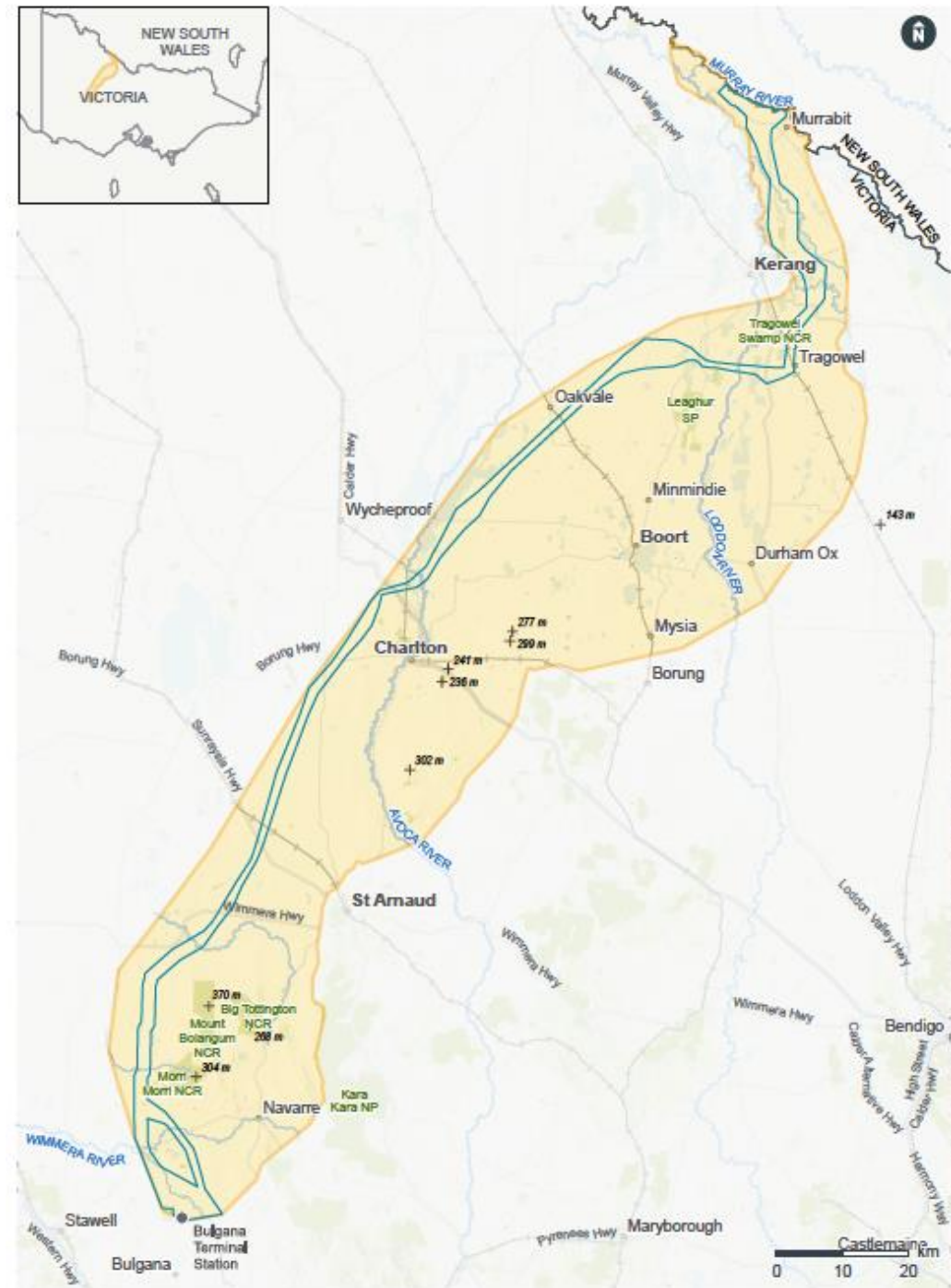
- Townships and residences
- Private airfields
- Existing and potential renewable energy developments

# Draft corridor





- LEGEND**
- Draft Corridor
  - Area of Interest
  - Bulgana Terminal Station
  - + High Points
  - Existing Transmission Lines



# Q&A

## *Project Update & Draft Corridor*



**Sam Magee**  
Project director, TCV



**Mark Lampard**  
Technical design lead, AECOM

# Working with Landholders

# Landholder Engagement Update

- Initial engagement with landholders commenced in August.
- There are ~**540** private properties in the draft corridor.
- We have attempted to make contact with every landowner in the corridor.
- Engagement with landholders will be a focus as the project progresses.



# Landholder Engagement Process



# Q&A

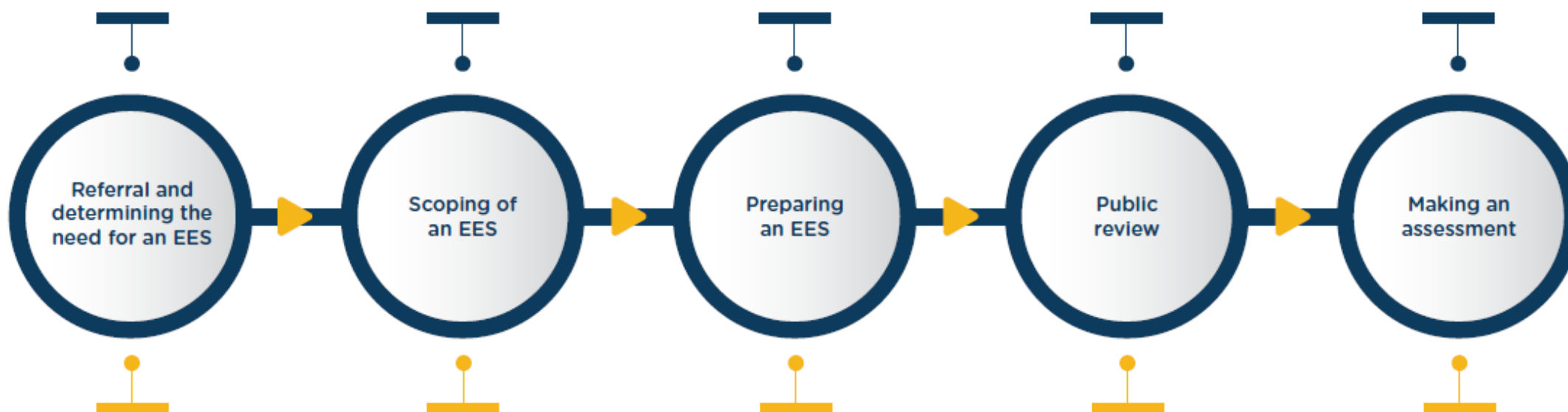
## *Landholder Engagement*



**Chris O'Hallaran**  
Landholder Engagement Lead,  
TCV




# Surveys, planning and approvals

# Environment Effects Statement





# EES studies and assessments

	Aboriginal cultural heritage
	Agricultural and forestry
	Air quality
	Aviation
	Biodiversity
	Bushfire
	Economic
	Electric and magnetic fields
	Geology and contaminated land

	Greenhouse gas and climate change
	Historic heritage
	Landscape and visual amenity
	Land use and planning
	Noise and vibration
	Project alternatives
	Transport
	Surface water and groundwater
	Social

# Upcoming ecology surveys

- TCV is undertaking surveys to help identify existing **animal** and **plant** species and their habitats.
- Environmental survey activities are generally non-invasive.
- There are several other surveys which will occur in future.



*Umbrella Wattle*



*Curlew*

# Q&A

## *Environment and Planning Approvals Process*



**Jeff Smith**

Environment and planning  
director, AECOM

# Next Steps

# Next steps

- Continue to engage with stakeholders, landholders, Traditional Owners and community members as we narrow the draft corridor.
- Ongoing conversations between landholders and their Landholder Liaisons.
- Field surveys will commence soon.
- An Environment Effects Statement (EES) referral will be submitted to Minister for Planning.



# Panel Q&A



# Q&A Panel



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Thank You & Close