



VNI West Community Reference Group

14 February 2024

Chairperson's summary and update

CRG BRIEF UPDATE

The VNI West Community Reference Group (CRG) met for the third time on Wednesday 14 February in Charlton. The meeting was held the day after significant storm damage across the State, and several bushfires in the region. After consultation with members, most indicated they wished to proceed with the meeting as scheduled. Twelve members attended, with seven apologies (three of whom were unable to attend due to the previous day's fire and weather events).

The meeting saw updates on the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) process, the purchase of land for the proposed Tragowel Terminal Station and compensation and community benefit-sharing policy considerations.

CRG Chairperson, David Hale (from the Bendigo-based RM Consulting Group) said "As always, I'm very grateful to community members making the effort to come along and share their concerns, especially with many dealing with the effects of storms and fires. We need to keep making progress on the issues like fighting fires around transmission lines and insurance implications, and I've spoken with representatives who will be able to brief CRG members on those issues in the coming months."

Mr Hale announced he will be stepping aside as CRG Chairperson as he re-trains to become a primary school teacher. RMCG Principal, Claire Flanagan-Smith, will assume Chairperson duties at the next CRG – likely to be held in April/May (to align with DTP EES Scoping timeframes, notice to be provided in advance).

The minutes for the February meeting will be endorsed by the CRG at its next meeting. The minutes from CRG's second meeting in November will be available on [TCV's website](#) from 26 February 2024.

This report has been prepared by:

RM Consulting Group Pty Ltd trading as RMCG

135 Mollison Street, Bendigo Victoria 3550

(03) 5441 4821 — rmcg.com.au — ABN 73 613 135 247



Offices in Victoria, Tasmania and NSW

Key RMCG contact

Claire Flanagan-Smith

0427 679 044 – clairef@rmcg.com.au

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