Media Release

Tuesday 30 May 2023



Mapping what matters for VNI West communities

AEMO has established Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) to continue stakeholder engagement and consultation on the VNI West transmission project.

As AEMO is the system planner and will not physically construct or own the transmission lines, it established TCV to make sure that commitments made in the early stages are captured and honoured across the life of the project.

With the recent publishing of the VNI West <u>preferred option</u>, which was endorsed by the <u>Victorian</u> <u>Government</u>, TCV has commenced further assessments and requests for local information from stakeholders within the 5 to 50 kilometre area of interest.

Victorian communities will be able to call out the special places in their region through an interactive map on the new TCV website - transmissionvictoria.com.au.

Building our understanding of what is important to communities is especially important in this next stage of the project, as we move from the broad area of interest, which is up to 50km wide, to the corridor of between 500m and 1km and an indicative route by Spring.

How people live and work the land varies significantly from one region to the next, from town to town and from one farm to the neighbouring property. And we need this fine-grain detail to chart the best course for VNI West.

We're encouraging everyone – communities, farmers and Traditional Owners to add significant sites, landmarks, areas of specific land use or just post a comment on the map so we can develop a rich reservoir of local intelligence.

To make it simple, our team is available on our telephone line – 1800 824 221 to help anyone who needs assistance with the map or you can send an email to <u>enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au</u> and we can add your details to the map.

Alternatively, at our upcoming community events from July, there will be large maps and anyone who attends will be able to add the special features of their property or community to the chart.

All the information that we gather from these maps will feed into the process to refine the route for VNI West in combination with a broad range of studies, including environmental and engineering assessments, ecology, cultural heritage, landscape, visual amenity, agricultural and proximity to settlements information.

TCV will publish details of the 500m to 1km corridor in July, which will be progressively refined to a 200m to 400m indicative route by Spring for environmental surveys.

TCV and Transgrid, which is managing the New South Wales portion of VNI West, are committed to treating all communities and landholders with respect and decency to ensure that the farmers and landholders that host this essential infrastructure are recognised and fairly compensated.

We will publish details of this next phase of community consultation on the TCV website later this week and it will also be published in local newspapers throughout the area of interest for the project.

In July, TCV will provide more detail of the corridor for VNI West, once we've made contact with landholders in this 500m – 1km land area. For more details, please visit

<u>www.transmissionvictoria.com.au</u> or call 1800 824 221 or send your question, comment or concern to enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au

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About TCV

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) is a new company created by AEMO Victorian Planning to progress the VNI West transmission project. TCV will discuss the VNI West transmission project with landholders, Traditional Owners and the community to understand local concerns as the project moves toward construction. As AEMO is the system planner and will not physically construct or own the transmission lines, it established TCV to make sure that commitments made in the early stages are captured and honoured across the life of the project. TCV will provide early project updates and will work with the community on this important transmission line. For more information, head to <u>www.transmissionvictoria.com.au</u>.