

Media Release

Date: Friday April 19, 2024



Communities ‘drop in’ for in-depth discussions with TCV project specialists

More than 120 landholders and community members ‘dropped in’ to Transmission Company Victoria’s (TCV) community information sessions this week for one-on-one discussions on all aspects of the VNI West project.

Held in Kerang, Charlton and Stawell, the informal five-hour sessions were a direct response to community feedback, with environmental, agricultural and technical specialists available for one-on-one discussions.

Thursday’s event in Stawell marks 30 community information sessions provided across the broader VNI West draft corridor, allowing TCV to answer questions, listen to and hear directly from more than 1,300 community members.

TCV Project Director, Sam Magee, said: “We want to hear from all stakeholders across the draft corridor, to determine the best outcomes for landholders and local communities, as we refine the route for the new transmission line.

“The events were a great opportunity for the project team to listen to the community. We gained valuable insights from landholders, helping us to understand their land and their businesses. Our interactive digital map was a useful tool, where landholders could zoom in on their property and highlight sensitivities and individual details of their land.

“These events are part of our commitment to ongoing consultation, with a longer 5-hour session to make it easier for people to come and talk to us and having a range of specialists available to answer their questions,” he said.

TCV’s April sessions follow recent roundtable meetings with local community groups and landholders in Tragowel and Murrabit, as well as project briefings with the Gannawarra, Northern Grampians, Loddon and Buloke shire councils.

Feedback from these public forums, online and at TCV’s Kerang regional field office further improve our understanding of each community’s distinct needs, as we look to better the ways we engage with residents across the VNI West draft corridor.

TCV is currently working to narrow the draft corridor for the VNI West project from around 2km down to a preferred easement of about 100m wide in the third quarter of this year.

Please visit transmissionvictoria.com.au for further information.

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About VNI West

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

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.

In Victoria, a draft corridor around 2km wide has been identified and will be narrowed down to a preferred easement of 70-120m wide in 2024, subject to project assessment and approvals. 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.

About TCV

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) is a 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 project updates and will work with the community on this important transmission line. For more information, head to www.transmissionvictoria.com.au.