

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
 Bushfire	 Aboriginal cultural heritage
 Noise and vibration	 Electrical and magnetic fields
 Transport	 Economic
 Landscape and visual amenity	 Agricultural and forestry
 Geology	 Surface water and groundwater
 Air quality	 Biodiversity
 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.

Need help contacting TCV?

If you need an interpreter, please call 13 12 50 and reference Transmission Company Victoria.

If you are deaf and/or find hearing or speaking with people on the phone difficult, please contact the National Relay Service on voice relay number 1300 555 727, TTY number 133 677 or SMS relay number 0423 677 767.

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.

EES Process

