RMCG

VNI West Community Reference Group

October 2026

Chairperson's summary and update

CRG BRIEF UPDATE

The VNI West Community Reference Group (CRG) met for its eighteenth meeting on 22 October 2026 in Charlton with a focus on the VNI West Environment Effects Statement (EES) that is currently on for public exhibition. Eleven CRG community members attended the meeting along with the VNI West Project team and some VicGrid, Iberdrola Australia, Buloke Shire Council and University of Canberra observers.

Before the meeting, CRG members asked to nominate the chapters from the EES that they would most like to hear more about. As a result, we invited technical advisors for the agriculture, bushfire, social and stakeholder and community engagement chapters of the EES to join the meeting online.

The following topics were discussed at the meeting:

- An overview of the currently advertised Environmental Effects Statement (EES) process and the scope of the matters included in the EES.
- A summary of the key findings for the chapters of greatest interest to the CRG members: social agriculture, bushfire and stakeholder and community engagement. Technical specialist presenters provided a 10 minute summary of the key impacts assessed and the proposed mitigations recommended.
- A project update from the VNI West Program Director who highlighted the progress of the project in releasing the EES and the commencement of the design and construct procurement process.
- Other business included highlighting to the CRG that the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner is holding information sessions online and in-person for the EES.

Thank you to all the community members who continue to actively contribute and attend the in-person meetings.

The minutes for the August meeting are now available on the CRG website, and the minutes for this October meeting will be reviewed and endorsed by the CRG at its next meeting.

This report has been prepared by:

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