VNI West

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a terminal station?

You probably already know what a terminal station looks like even if you didn't know its name. You've likely driven or walked past one of the 60 plus terminal stations located in Victoria – this common electricity infrastructure is dotted throughout cities, regional towns, and agricultural land, and is also often referred to as a substation.

Terminal stations play a critical role in delivering secure and reliable electricity, converting electricity from high voltages to lower voltages so that it can be delivered through powerlines that supply homes and businesses.

Terminal stations contain electrical equipment which can transfer power between different voltage levels, stabilise voltage levels along the transmission line, move electrical energy from one point to another, and monitor and protect the transmission network.



Terminal Stations

Is it dangerous to live near a terminal station?

Terminal stations are designed and constructed to minimise risk to the public, staff, and the environment.

However, terminal stations contain high voltage electrical equipment and live electricity, which can be dangerous. For this reason, a terminal is generally secured with a locked access gate and fence. Surveillance cameras and remote-controlled floodlights are used to monitor, restrict access, and ensure community safety.

Terminal stations and electric magnetic fields

While terminal stations can be a source of electric and magnetic fields (EMFs), they are designed to ensure EMF levels are below the international standard reference levels during operation.

There have been almost 3,000 studies carried out in relation to EMFs. Scientific evidence has shown that every day EMF exposure – from homes, offices, or transmission infrastructure – poses no risk to human health.

In Australia, the government safety body ARPANSA advises that *"There is no established evidence that the exposure to magnetic fields from powerlines, substations, transformers or other electrical sources, regardless of the proximity, causes any health effects."*

For more information please see the Electricity and Health fact sheet on the ARPANSA website arpansa.gov.au.

Do terminal stations pose a fire risk?

Terminal stations do not pose any specific fire risk. Because they carry high-voltage electricity, terminal stations are built with strong safety and security measures to protect the surrounding area.

If there is a fault on site, including from a major fire emergency, automatic protection systems will shut down the terminal to remove any electrical safety risks. Terminal stations are generally operated remotely and can be shut down from off-site if needed.

Is a new terminal station planned for VNI West?

A new terminal station about 12 kilometres south of Kerang, Victoria, is required as part of the VNI West project. VicGrid has signed a contract to purchase a property near Tragowel which – subject to planning and environmental approvals – is the proposed location for the new terminal station.

Expected dimensions of the proposed facility would be around 300 x 800 metres, leaving considerable areas of open space.

VicGrid must undertake an extensive planning and assessment process before the project is approved for construction, including a broad range of environmental and technical assessments such as noise and lighting studies. VicGrid will work closely with near neighbours and the local community to seek feedback and provide information throughout this process.

Construction of the new terminal station cannot commence until all appropriate environmental and planning approvals are obtained and will not begin before 2026.



Proposed terminal station near Tragowel – **Frequently Asked Questions**

Contact Us

Visit our website: **www.vniwproject.com.au**
Email: **enquiries@vniwproject.com.au**
Free call: **1800 824 221**

If you need an interpreter, please call 13 12 50 and reference VNI West. 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.

VicGrid