VNI West

Human Health Risk Management Plan

For VNIW Activities under Land Access Agreement

25/5/2026



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Important Notice

This Plan, including any advice, procedures, or guidance it contains, applies only to the Victorian section of the Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West) project, which is overseen by VicGrid.

Stakeholders affected by the VNI West project in New South Wales should refer to Transgrid's website for the relevant information, policies, and requirements.

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1 Scope

The Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West/VNIW) project Human Health Risk and Management Plan (the Plan) establishes the preventative strategies and processes which mitigate identified risk to human health associated with the VNI West project's related activities undertaken on private landholdings.

This Plan applies to all VNIW project related field operations and activities that could impact on human health.

This incorporates all activities of the VNI West project team as well as agents, consultants, and contractors engaged in delivery activities for the development phase of VNIW.

1.1 Associated policies and plans

Policy/Plan	Publicly available
VicGrid Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy	No
VNI West Biosecurity Plan	Yes
VNI West Fire Risk Management Plan	No (available on request)

1.2 Contacts

Comments or questions on this Plan can be directed to:

Role	Contact number
VNI West information number	1800 824 221
Address of VNI West office (VicGrid)	Level 37, 2 Lonsdale St Melbourne, VIC

The VNI West project team will make this Plan publicly available on the website and communicate with local community groups and emergency services in relation to any query regarding this Plan.

1.3 Emergency contacts

All emergency responses should be directed to the appropriate first responder.

2 Policy

VNI West commits to ensuring that the VNIW delivery of the development phase has appropriate processes and procedures to deliver our strategic objective of preventing harm

to the health of landholders, land users, or any person affected by the activities of the VNI West project.

This Plan implements a human health risk management strategy that ensures the prevention of transmission of illness/disease to or between landholders, project personnel, and the broader community, complies with legislative requirements, and meets the standards, declarations, and requirements of Victorian or Federal Government Health authorities.

The VNI West project team will design and apply risk management strategies to:

- Minimise the risk of illness transmission sources by any VNIW related fieldwork activity
- Minimise impact if illness occurs directly from VNIW activities through appropriate health incident response
- Meet the requirements of the *Victorian Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act 2004*, *OHS regulations 2017* and *Land Access Code of Practice 2024 (LACoP)*
- Regularly review and develop this plan for continual improvement, learnings from incidents, and future control strategies
- Raise awareness of all aspects of VNIW human health management plan through Landholder Liaisons, public communications, and the Victorian Essential Services Commission (ESC) reporting

2.1 Aim

The aim of this Plan is to manage health risks associated with the activities of VNIW development phase to ensure the safety of landholders, public, and VNIW personnel in accordance with this Plan.

2.2 Objectives

The objectives of this Plan are to:

- Describe the strategies and programs implemented to mitigate the risk to human health from project fieldwork activities
- Describe the processes and procedures for monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the human health risk management strategies and programs
- Describe the corrective action processes and procedures for ensuring effectiveness of the human health risk management program
- Describe the processes and procedures that apply to VNIW development phase operations in high human health risk areas during any declared disease period

Achievement of these objectives is facilitated through strategies that ensure:

- Our project people are all trained in their tasks and in biosecurity and illness transmission prevention behaviours
- Our equipment and procedures are suitable for the task and don't provide contamination sources
- Landholders'/land users' human health management requirements are complied with at all times unless it is not safe to do so
- Consultation with municipalities, landholders, and other affected persons to ensure the effective prevention of illness transmission where applicable

3 Roles and Responsibilities

Table 1 Roles and responsibilities

Position or group	Responsibility
Landholder	• Engage in good faith with Landholder Liaisons on the topic of human health risk • Identify any human health risks • Set the human health risk obligations within a land access agreement
Land user	• Engage in good faith with Landholder Liaisons on the topic of human health risk • Identify any human health risks
VNIW project team	• Implement this Plan and associated procedures • Monitor and take advice from government health services on human health mitigation strategies • Respond to landholder questions, concerns, or complains in accordance with VicGrid' dispute management process • Adjust, modify, or make good any requests to process or policy to support a land access agreement (within legal parameters) • Abide by the terms of the land access agreement and other obligations under the Land Access Code of Practice
Delivery partners/contractors	• Abide by the terms of the land access agreement and other obligations under the Land Access Code of Practice • Abide by the human health risk management strategies of VNIW

4 Risk Identification: Planning, Preparation, and Mobilisation

4.1 VNIW HSE management system

VicGrid's Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) sets the mandatory minimum standards and compliance behaviours for healthy and safe work.

The HSMS requirements are translated into practical operational controls in the VNIW Health and Safety Management Plan (HSMP), Field Access Request process (FAR), and associated documents. Delivery partner organisations are guided on mandatory procedures for managing health and safety risks through the application of the Fieldwork Protocol.

These procedures and processes for risk management produce a safety risk assessment, of which a part is the human health risk assessment that identifies the risk of vector or biological disease spread and VNIW activity generated health risks.

This assessment will identify and list the controls to be implemented to prevent, minimise and respond to health incidents and the monitoring and review requirements for human health risk for the delivery of VNIW development phase within the VNI West project team's area of responsibility.

4.2 External authorities: Local Government Areas, Department of Health, Agriculture Victoria

The VNIW corridor covers four local government areas (LGAs) and their respective health department structures, hospitals, community health centres and clinics.

The VNIW project team will consult and obtain any human health risk management related procedures, including local restrictions or precautions and emergency response arrangements, from Victorian health and agricultural authorities, and from those local landholders, land users, community groups and commercial operations on whose lands project activities will be undertaken.

These will form part of the Land Access Agreement (LAA) conditions of access.

The project team will make the Human Health Risk Management Plan publicly available on the website and communicate with local community groups and health services in relation to any query regarding this plan.

4.3 Infectious diseases: Covid-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus

Any project personnel who test positive for infectious disease are excluded from entering any property and performing works.

All project personnel must wear masks and practice hygiene controls if requested to by a landholder when meeting any landholder/land user or entering any residence of a landholder/land user.

The project team requires:

- All project personnel to be free of signs of illness and symptoms prior to mobilisation. If any symptoms are experienced, they must be reported immediately to a supervisor, and the affected person excluded from work.
- Any personnel who have been on a property that has been declared under notifiable diseases within the infectious period to be excluded from entering any other property as soon as the notification is known
- If any personnel become ill during land access activities, they must not come into contact with any other person or animal on the land and are to report immediately to their supervisor then remove themselves from the property or residence of an affected person
- If an infectious disease is confirmed, all equipment and vehicles the affected person has come into contact with must be cleaned down

The project team will notify the landholder/land user of the illness onset once confirmed as a courtesy and will maintain follow up support to affected persons through their Landholder Liaison.

4.4 Zoonotic diseases

Zoonoses are diseases that can be spread from animals to humans, some are very serious such as Hydatids, Anthrax, Hendra, Avian Influenza, Tularaemia, Leptospirosis and Brucellosis.

As the VNIW corridor covers animal farming operations, any declaration of any zoonoses outbreak in Victoria will be included in the FAR process as follows:

- The VNIW project team will be informed by any declarations, notifications, or warnings from Agriculture Victoria, and/or conditions imposed by landholders.
- The project team will undertake a risk assessment of conditions applied to the land or applicability of the zoonoses risk to specific animal stock and monitor those whilst project activities are underway.
- Should the project team determine the need to proceed with activities on property or regions with a declared warning, they will assess the risk in association with the landholders and agree to the controls for access.
- During works the project team will monitor conditions and liaise with landholders throughout the access period and make changes to works programs and inter property movements.
- VNIW requires all project personnel including subcontractors and agents to work under hygiene and transmission prevention practices as documented in VNI West's biosecurity plan.
- VNIW requires all personnel to actively keep distance from animals (including birds and poultry) and their grazing areas on the land. This includes not taking water from any stock water points such as troughs, dams, or irrigation channels for any VNIW purposes.

4.5 VNIW activity Human Health Risk Management

Any VNIW related work activity identified as having the potential to generate health risk will be assessed in collaboration with the landholder/land user and agreed controls put in place to prevent this occurring.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Chemical brought onto land
- Noise and vibration from any equipment on the land
- Fume or emission from any activity on the land
- Accidental exposure of pre-existing contaminated waste/carcass through activity on the land

5 Incident Management

5.1 Incident response

VNIW project personnel undertaking land activities, including property meetings, must have task, activity, or work safety risk assessment and emergency response processes and equipment as part of their FAR approval. This risk assessment identifies human health risks and sets out the controls required.

The emergency processes must provide adequate communications and response procedures for the human health risk described. VNIW personnel will work with the landholder/land user to ensure agreement on resources and equipment (including communications methods) available for any health incident response.

5.2 Incident notification and reporting

The VNIW project has complaint notification procedures for any VNIW related incident including health incidents in accordance with obligations under the Land Access Code of Practice.

5.3 Incident outcomes and communication

VNIW personnel will undertake debriefing meetings post incident to identify any learnings and to provide early response for any adverse impacts individuals may be experiencing.

VicGrid captures all related incidents which are summarised, reviewed and key learnings used to improve the projects human health risk controls for future field activities.

Communications regarding incidents and learnings are shared by the VNIW project team across project organisations also delivering in their areas of responsibility for VNIW. This is done via:

- Safety Lessons Learnt and email correspondence
- Safety meetings
- Safety moments in nominated project meetings
- Document management communications across VNIW delivery partners and other projects

5.4 Monitoring and auditing

In accordance with the VicGrid HSMS and VNIW HSMP, the VNIW project team actively reviews and assesses the effectiveness of process, procedures, and controls.

Compliance of contractors is measured through an active assurance program.

Non-compliances are reported in accordance with Victorian Essential Services Commission (ESC) reporting obligations.

5.5 Communication and reporting

VicGrid has internal communications and reporting processes for safety, health and environmental compliance, incidents and any work activities conducted under the Victorian ESC's Land Access Code of Practice conditions of a Land Access Agreement or Section 93 Authorisation.

These processes ensure that the affected landholder/land user(s) are communicated with about any activities that affect them or impact their property, and that they receive all reports required under the conditions of access to their property.

VNIW is also required to provide the ESC with summaries of communications with landholders/stakeholders, activity, and incident/compliance reports. The VNIW project will meet the public communications requirements of the ESC.

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