Roles and Responsibilities

VNI West is a project to build a new transmission line between Victoria and New South Wales.

It will harness clean electricity from renewable energy zones in both states and improve the reliability and security of electricity supply as our ageing coal-fired power stations retire.

This essential infrastructure project involves a number of key organisations, which all play different roles in the planning and development process for VNI West.

The following is a quick guide to the key organisations and their roles in the project.

TCV TRANSMISSION COMPANY VICTORIA

AEMO

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) is Australia's independent system and market operator and system planner.

AEMO's purpose is to ensure safe, reliable and affordable energy and enable the energy transition for the benefit of all Australians.

In its role as system planner, AEMO collaborates with stakeholders to create the Integrated System Plan, a 30-year blueprint for the National Electricity Market or NEM.

This whole-of-system plan provides an integrated road map for the efficient development of the NEM to optimise value for consumers and deliver an energy system capable of meeting emissions targets.

AEMO Victorian Planning (AVP)

Under the rules for the NEM, each state has a transmission network service provider (TNSP) which is responsible for planning the transmission network.

AEMO Victorian Planning (AVP) has that responsibility in Victoria, while Transgrid has that role in New South Wales.

In its role as Victorian Planner, AVP undertakes the regulatory investment test for major electricity transmission projects such as VNI West and the Western Renewables Link (WRL).

Under the National Electricity (Victoria) Act (NEVA), the Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources may also confer functions on AVP through NEVA Orders.

TCV

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) is a new company created by AEMO to progress VNI West.

TCV is currently in the process of applying for a transmission licence in Victoria, which is a normal step for providers of electricity transmission infrastructure in the state. A transmission licence enables the holder to transmit electricity and operate the transmission infrastructure, and will also support the land access, planning and environment approvals work.

TCV will discuss the VNI West transmission project with landholders, Traditional Owners and the community to understand local concerns and ensure that commitments made in the early stages are captured and honoured across the life of the project.

TCV will provide early project updates and will work with the community on this important transmission line.

TCV is committed to incorporating feedback, where possible, into the route refinement work. For more information, head to www.transmissionvictoria.com.au

Transgrid

Transgrid is a TNSP, which builds, owns and operates electricity transmission in New South Wales and the ACT.

Together, TCV and Transgrid have completed the regulatory investment test for VNI West with the publication of the Project Assessment Conclusion Report or PACR. This identifies the preferred area of interest for the project, supported by orders made by the Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources under the National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005 (NEVA).

TCV and Transgrid are jointly progressing VNI West, with Transgrid developing the New South Wales section while TCV leads the early works of the project on the Victorian side.

When complete, VNI West will harness clean, low-cost electricity from renewable energy zones (REZs) in New South Wales and Victoria and improve the reliability and security of electricity supply as our ageing coal-fired power stations retire.

Contact Transgrid for information on New South Wales components of VNI West on 1800 955 588 or at VNIW@transgrid.com.au.

VicGrid

VicGrid sits within the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change (DEECA) and coordinates the overarching planning and development of Victorian renewable energy zones and oversees transmission investment decisions related to the $540m Renewable Energy Zone Fund.

VicGrid is also leading the work to introduce new legislation into Parliament in early 2024 to change the way electricity transmission infrastructure in Victoria is planned and developed.

These state-wide reforms will introduce a new planning process, integrate strategic land use assessments, place-based approaches to engagement, as well as benefits for affected Traditional Owners, local communities and landowners.

Although VNI-West is not being delivered under the new framework, its defining principles will be applied where possible. VicGrid will work closely with TCV on this next stage of VNI West to support community engagement, as the area of interest is narrowed to a corridor and, ultimately, a route and easement.

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.

Essential Services Commission (ESC)

The ESC is an independent regulator that promotes the long-term interests of Victorian consumers in relation to the price, quality and reliability of essential services.

The ESC regulates Victoria's energy, water and transport sector and grants licences for the generation, transmission, supply and sale of electricity or gas.

When assessing an application for an electricity or gas licence, the ESC considers a range of objectives, including the long-term interests of Victorian consumers.

The ESC will soon release an enforceable code of practice in relation to how transmission companies access land, including enforceable obligations for transmission companies when they access land under Section 93 of the *Electricity Industry Act 2000*.

Australian Energy Regulator AER

The AER's work is focused on ensuring that consumers have access to safe, reliable, affordable energy now and into the future.

It enforces the laws of the National Electricity Market (NEM) and spot gas markets in southern and eastern Australia.

And it administers the Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T) which is a public, cost benefit analysis that ensures energy consumers don't end up paying too much for major transmission.

The AER also works closely with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on any energy-related issues that arise under the Competition and Consumer Act.

Energy Safe Victoria

Energy Safe Victoria is Victoria's energy safety regulator and is responsible for the safety of electricity, gas and pipelines industries.

In its regulatory role, ESV also oversees bushfire mitigation programs. In 2023 it published a report on transmission lines, bushfire management and community safety, which outlined how the safety of the community is safeguarded through the design and development of an electricity transmission network.

AusNet

AusNet is a TNSP that has been contracted by AEMO to build, own and operate WRL.

AusNet currently operates more than 6,500 kms of transmission lines across Victoria.

WRL will connect to VNI West at a new terminal station at Bulgana, based on the area of interest published in the VNI West PACR in May, 2023.

Contact AusNet for information about WRL on 1300 360 795 or at info@westernrenewableslink.com.au.

Contact the TCV team

Visit our website:
www.transmissionvictoria.com.au

Contact us at: 1800 824 221 or
enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au

TCV
TRANSMISSION COMPANY VICTORIA