RMCG

VNI West
Community Reference Group

10 December 2024

Chairperson's summary and update

Certified B Corporation

CRG BRIEF UPDATE

The VNI West Community Reference Group (CRG) met for its sixth meeting on 10 December 2024. Twelve CRG members attended, and two apologies were received.

For the first hour, CRG community members met with the Chairperson and Secretariat without the attendance of observers or guests, allowing time to discuss and review the operation of the CRG. Notes for this session were recorded in confidence.

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) and other observers joined the second part of the meeting. Sam Smith (TCV), Claire Cass (TCV), Angus Shaw (CBRE) and Eamon Sloane (Insurance Council of Australia) provided presentations and updates, answered questions, and listened to the concerns of the CRG. Key topics of discussion included:

Project Update

- Progress on the transmission license application and the Essential Services Commission consultation
- Engagement with landholders on the preferred easement since October
- Public consultation on the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) scoping requirements, open until 18 December
- Ongoing agricultural and social impact assessments involving stakeholder feedback
- Feedback collection on proposed tower locations to identify potential impacts.

Compensation

- Overview of TCV's proposed compensation package, including landholder professional fees, property-specific compensation, and additional payments
- Emphasis on ensuring long-term impacts and stress are addressed fairly.

Insurance

- Discussion on public liability coverage, potential impacts on landholder insurance premiums, and TCV's responsibility for infrastructure-related risks
- Clarification on the interaction of insurance policies with farming operations and the need for government-backed assurances.

Fire Management

- CFA's position on fighting fires near transmission infrastructure and the allocation of fire service levies
- Discussion on the roles and responsibilities of TNSPs and TCV in fire scenarios.

The minutes for the December meeting will be reviewed and endorsed by the CRG at its next meeting. The minutes from the August and November meetings will be available on TCV's website following CRG approval at the December meeting.

This report has been prepared by:

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1.0	Draft	20.12.24	B. Hermans	C.Flanagan-Smith	-	C.Flanagan-Smith	TCV