

Landholder Guide

Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West

May 2025



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Support for Landholders

We acknowledge that the project will have a genuine impact on people and properties, which may increase anxiety and impact on mental health. We hope to reduce stress and uncertainty by engaging thoughtfully with people, to answer their questions and seek input into the project.

Support Services are available for VNI West, you can make an appointment to speak to a professional counsellor for free and confidential advice.

Converge International

Personalised and qualified counselling services, designed to support a variety of complex wellbeing issues. Call 1300 687 327 and reference 'VNI West'

Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS)

Financial counselling, small business and wellbeing support for farmers and regional businesses. Call 1300 735 578 and reference 'VNI West'

Please visit the [Community Support Services webpage](https://transmissionvictoria.com.au/resources/community-support-services) (transmissionvictoria.com.au/resources/community-support-services) to discover more services available to you.

Accessibility Services

If you need an interpreter, please call 13 12 50 and reference Transmission Company Victoria. 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.

Project Contacts

Website: transmissionvictoria.com.au

Email: enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au

Free call: 1800 824 221

Facebook: @TransmissionVictoria

Acknowledging Traditional Owners

Transmission Company Victoria proudly acknowledge the Barapabarapa, Wamba Wemba, Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia, Jupagalk and Dja Dja Wurrung peoples as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which VNI West is to be delivered and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. TCV recognises the deep connection of First Peoples to Country and values their contribution to caring for, and managing the land, water, natural and built landscapes, and their profound knowledge systems. We are committed to pursuing genuine and lasting partnerships with First Peoples to learn about and understand their culture and connections to Country in the way we plan for and manage the delivery of this project.

Landholder Guide Overview

The 2025 VNI West Landholder Guide provides landholders with key information about the Victoria to NSW Interconnector West project. This includes what to expect during land access, how easements work, easement acquisition pathways, and details about the compensation and benefits available to landholders. Our goal at Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) is to equip you with all the information you need to confidently make the best decisions for yourself and your property.

This Landholder Guide is divided into three parts:

Part One

Project and Landholder Overview: Outlines the overall project and the key parties involved. This section explains how the proposed route is refined and how the project easement has been selected. You will also learn about our engagement approach and how we work with landholders through dedicated Landholder Liaisons.

- Project development and route refinement
- Route options under assessment
- Support for you from your Landholder Liaison



Part Two

Land Access Overview: Details the processes involved to access private land for field surveys and to inform project impact assessments. This section describes associated access payments and the rights and responsibilities of landholders and TCV.

- Field surveys and investigations
- The Environment Effects Statement
- Voluntary land access and access payments
- Land access under statutory powers



Part Three

Easements, Benefits and Compensation: Details the Land Easement and Access Package (LEAP), benefits for landholders and the compensation process. This information relates to how TCV will acquire interest in land to construct and operate VNI West.

- Transmission easements for VNI West
- Managing your property
- Your Land Easement and Access Package
- Valuation, compensation and benefits
- Easement acquisition pathways



Where relevant, this guide has been updated to comply with the requirements of the *Essential Services Commission's Land Access Code of Practice (LACoP)*. The LACoP is an important document that outlines when land can be accessed for various purposes associated with the provision of electricity transmission infrastructure, and the steps that need to be taken before this access can occur.

esc.vic.gov.au/electricity-and-gas/codes-guidelines-and-policies/land-access-code-practice



Part 1: Project and Landholder Overview



Purpose

This section outlines the VNI West project, the route refinement process to date, and how landholders are being supported through dedicated Landholder Liaisons.

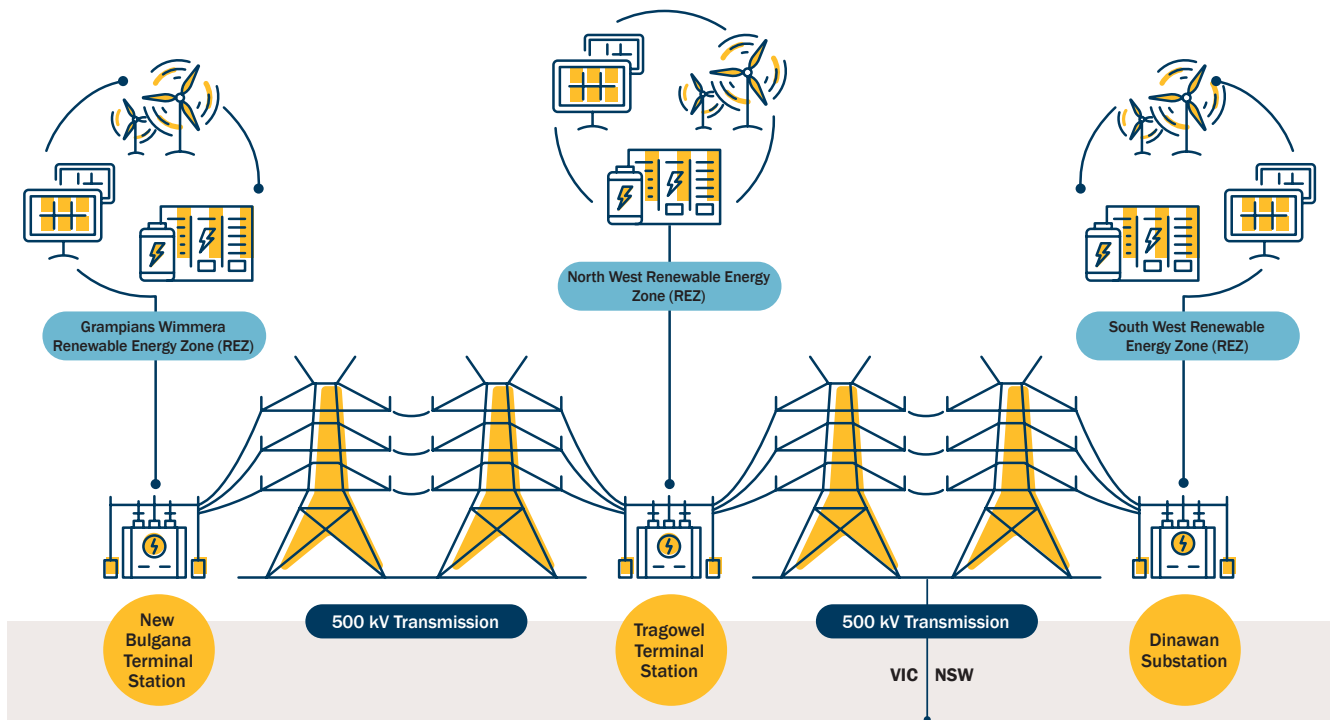
Contents

- Project development and route refinement
- Route options under assessment
- Support from your Landholder Liaison

The Victoria to New South Wales (NSW) Interconnector West (VNI West) is a major infrastructure project to build and operate a new transmission line between Victoria and NSW.

The line will carry clean electricity from renewable energy zones (REZs) in both states, supporting the ongoing transition away from coal-fired power and helping to keep your electricity supply reliable and secure as old generators are retired.

VNI West is needed because Australia's ageing coal-fired generators are exiting the market after decades of great service. More than that, their age and the economics of the electricity market are accelerating these closures.



This diagram is for illustrative purposes only

The most cost-effective replacement is renewable energy – including solar and wind – backed by batteries, gas, and hydro to ensure consistent supply.

The new 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line will run from the Dinawan terminal station in NSW to Bulgana in Victoria, where it will connect to the Western Renewables Link (WRL) via a new terminal station to be constructed in Tragowel.

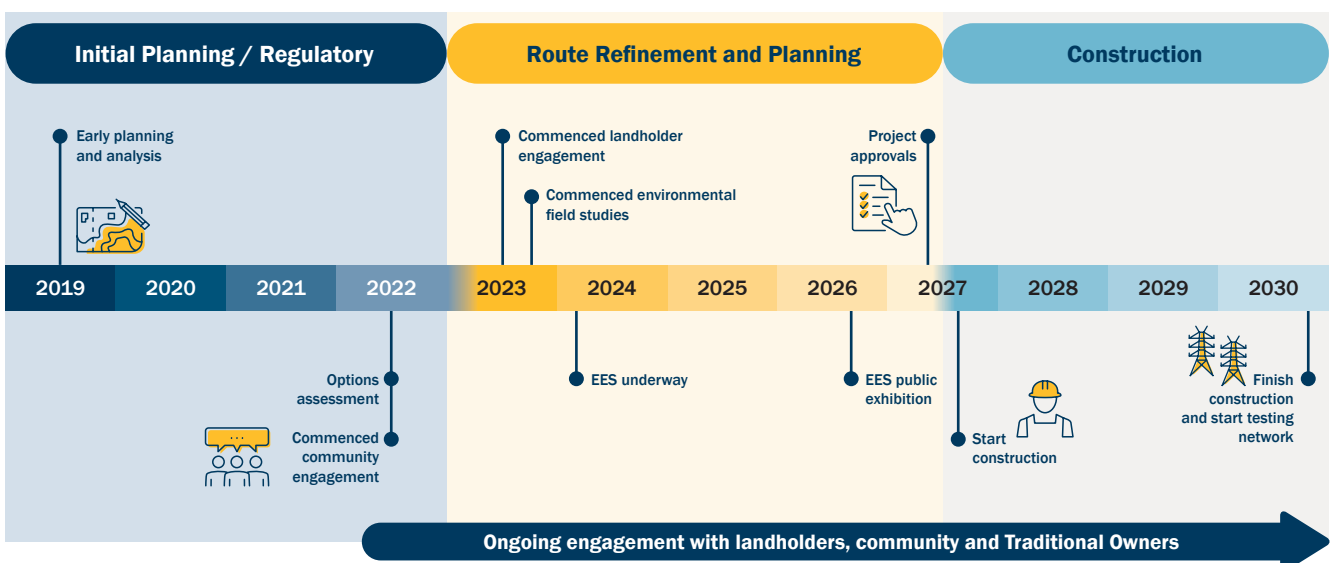
As a landholder within the Project Easement, you’ve been appointed a dedicated Landholder Liaison to work with you directly. Your Liaison is here to discuss the specifics of your property, your business operations, and any other key matters – including survey access, easement negotiations, and available landholder payments.

You can find all the latest project information including timelines and key milestones on our project website, transmissionvictoria.com.au.

Project Timeline

From planning to construction, like any major infrastructure project, target dates for phases of VNI West may shift.

TCV is working hard to ensure this complex project delivers reliable, renewable energy that Victoria needs while prioritising landholders and communities that are integral to delivering critical state infrastructure.



The above dates are indicative only and subject to change

Project Development and Route Refinement

We're continuing to work closely with landholders to refine the proposed route of VNI West. The goal is to ensure the final alignment minimises impacts on farming, land use, and day-to-day operations wherever possible. The below table outlines key steps taken in the development of the VNI West project to date:

July 2018

The need for new transmission to increase connection between Victorian and NSW power grids was identified in the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) Integrated System Plan (ISP). VNI West is proposed to link renewable energy generation to the National Electricity Market (NEM).



May 2023

Based on the RIT-T, MCA and market modelling, a 5 to 50-kilometre-wide Area of Interest was established.



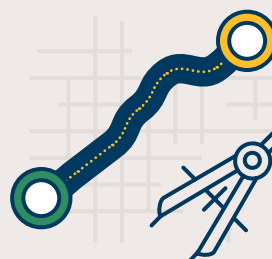
October 2024

Landholder engagement, technical studies and field surveys helped define a Project Easement of around 70-metres-wide along most of the route, as shown in the map below. A broader survey area (including the Project Easement), of around 270-metres-wide, was also mapped to extend the scope of potential impacts to be assessed as part of the Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the project.



October 2023

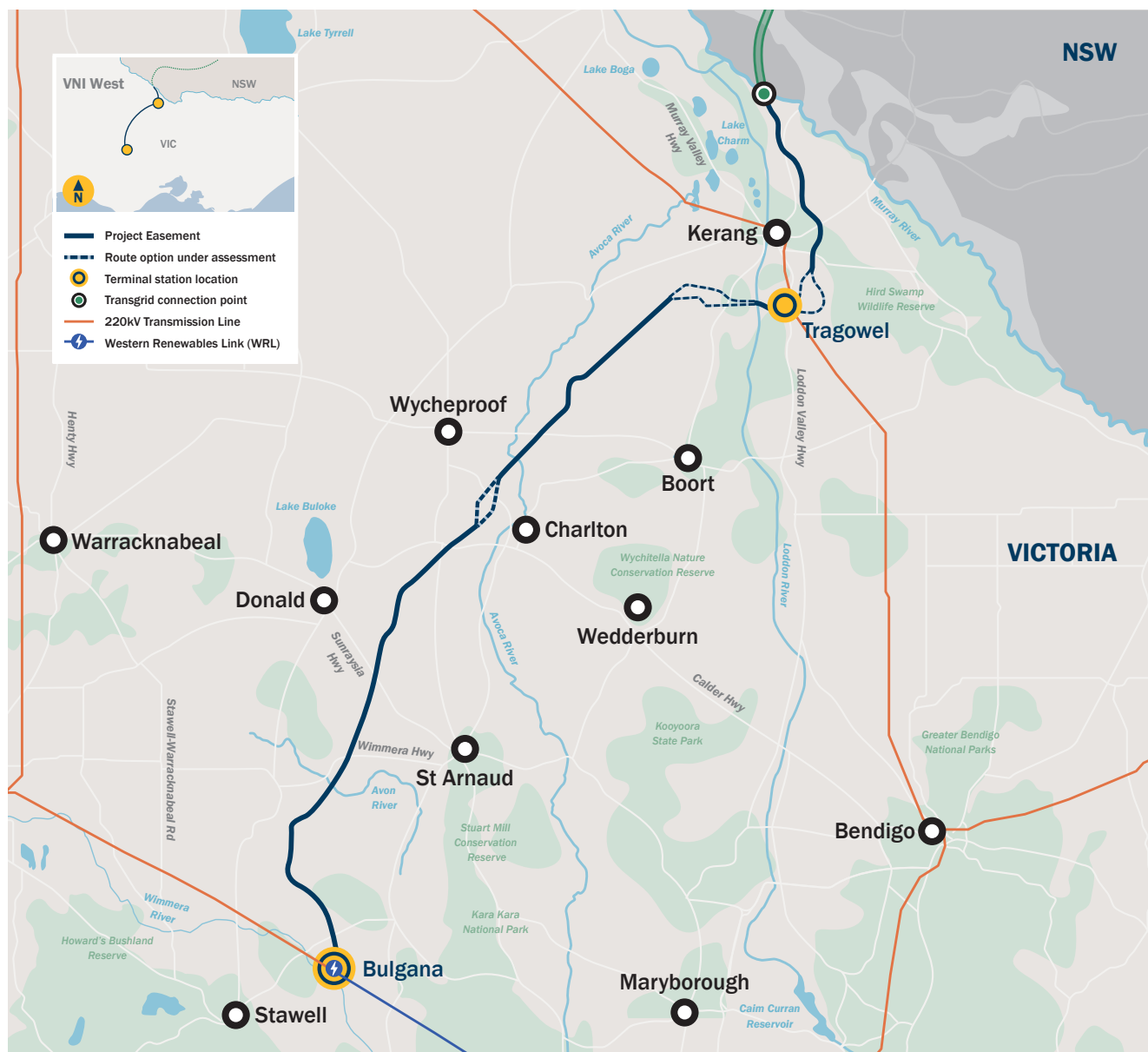
A Draft Corridor was selected, with an average width of 2 kilometres. The Draft Corridor was refined through desktop analysis, expert workshops, and engagement with local communities to reduce impacts on sensitive environments and cultural sites.



March 2025

Following the release of the Project Easement, the alignment was further refined in response to landholder feedback, particularly in relation to tower placement. Where feasible, adjustments were made to reflect local input.

Location of the Project Easement map



This diagram is for illustrative purposes only

Route Options Under Assessment

Along three areas of the proposed transmission line, more than one route option is currently under assessment. These sections are highlighted on the project map above.

In each case, additional environmental, technical, planning, and social studies are underway to help determine the most suitable alignment. This assessment will continue through the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) process.

During this process, we will examine whether any of the alternative routes may offer advantages – for example, fewer environmental constraints, reduce land-use impacts, or stronger landholder support for infrastructure siting.

The presence of environmental sensitivities, planning overlays, or logistical barriers – as well as opportunities identified through landholder engagement – are all being carefully evaluated.

You can find a more detailed summary of the considerations influencing these sections in Section 4 of the [VNI West Project Easement Report](#), available on the TCV website.

Engaging with you

Landholder-Focused Approach

As a landholder, you are central to how this project moves forward. Transmission infrastructure will largely be located on private land, and we recognise the importance of working respectfully and transparently with the people it affects most.

We acknowledge conversations have not always been easy, and we thank you for the time and consideration you've already given. We've heard your feedback – particularly the need for more direct support – and we are working to provide this through your dedicated Landholder Liaison and clearer communication at every step.

We're committed to ensuring landholders are treated fairly, recognised appropriately, and compensated when infrastructure is located on their land.

You know your land best. That's why our engagement approach is designed around helping you make informed decisions, not only about access and agreements, but also about the future use of your land.

Because of the complexity of these discussions, we strongly recommend seeking independent advice. If you already work with professional advisers – including legal, agricultural, or financial experts – we can cover reasonable costs for engaging these advisers for project-related matters. More detail on this support can be found in Part 3 of this Landholder Guide.

A landholder is anyone with an interest in land – this includes both owners and occupiers.

We will work with all landholders during the land access process, including those with easements, leases, or other legal interests (e.g. caveats or co-ownership structures).



Our Engagement Principles



Meaningful: Engagement will have a clear purpose and relevance to your situation.



Accurate and timely: We will provide information as it becomes available and respond to you as promptly and clearly as possible.



Informed, accessible and inclusive: Information will be practical, easy to understand, and inclusive of all stakeholders to encourage active participation in the project.



Genuine and transparent: We'll be open about what can and can't be influenced, and honest in all communication.



Share other options: You'll be made aware of external services, support, or next steps that may help you navigate decisions.



Full circle engagement: We will ask what matters to you, listen carefully, and respond – including outlining how your input has shaped our approach.

Support From Your Landholder Liaison

Your Landholder Liaison is your dedicated point of contact throughout the project. Every landholder within the Project Easement has been assigned a Liaison to provide tailored support.

They are here to:

- Help you work through any concerns, and understand your priorities
- Keep you updated on the project as it progresses
- Support negotiations around Land Access Agreements
- Facilitate survey and investigation access (where access is granted)
- Guide you through the Option for Easement (OfE) process
- Connect you with project specialists who can answer technical, environmental, or planning questions

Landholder Payments

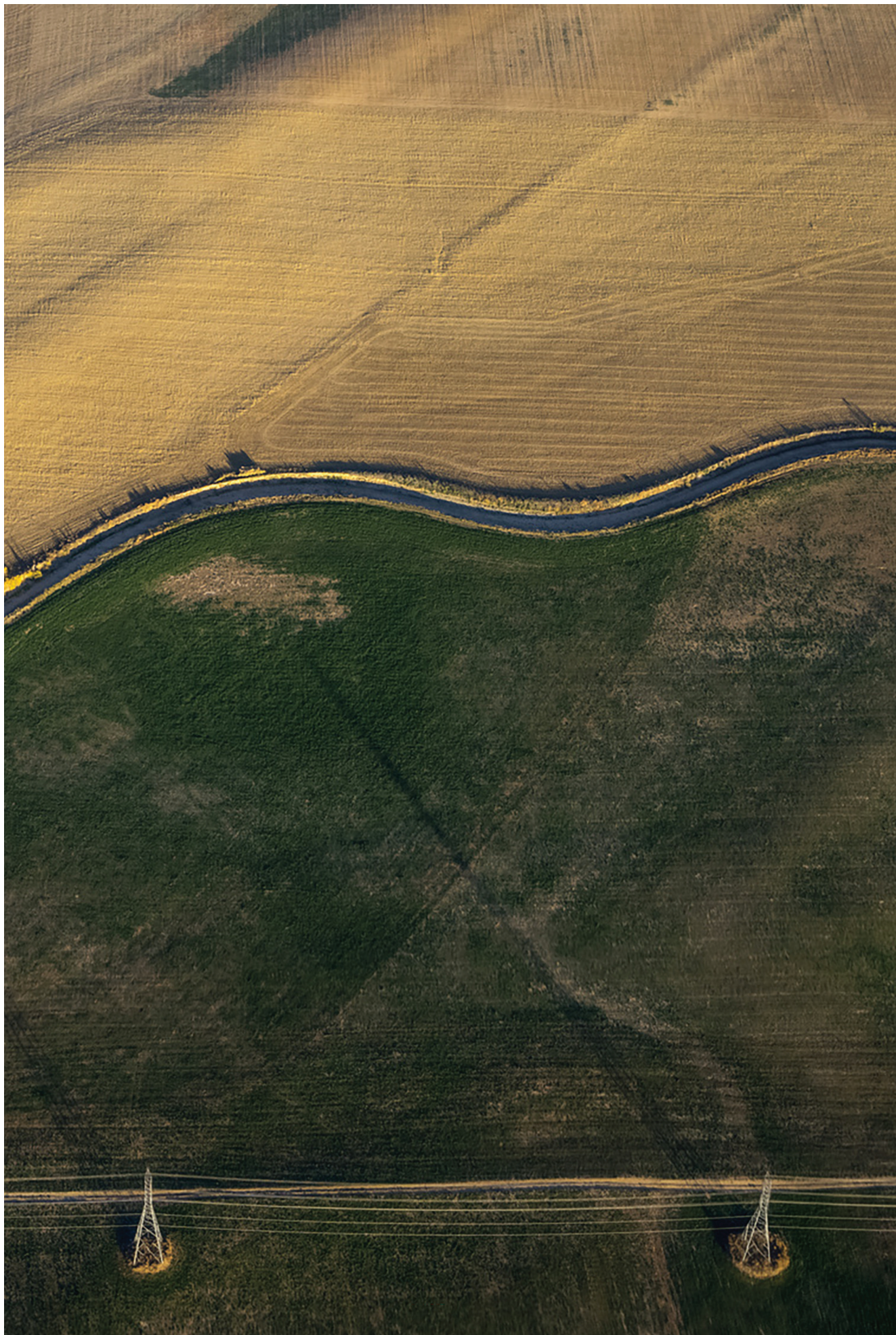
There are a number of ways landholders may be eligible for payments throughout the life of the project. We're committed to ensuring you understand what these are and how they apply to your circumstances.

These may include:

- Payments for granting survey access
- The Landholder Benefit Payment
- Easement Compensation
- Construction Licence Fee payments
- Option Fee
- A separate payment from the Victorian Government

More detail on compensation and payments is included in Parts 2 and 3 of this Guide.

Up next: Part 2 of the Landholder Guide explains what access is needed, how survey activities will be carried out on private land, and what to expect from us throughout this process.



Part 2:

Land Access Overview



Purpose

This section explains how land access works for the VNI West project and outlines the field surveys needed to better understand the project area. It also shows how landholders can help shape access arrangements when choosing to grant voluntary access.

Contents

- Field surveys and investigations
- The Environment Effects Statement (EES)
- Voluntary land access and access payments
- Land access under statutory powers

To plan and assess the project properly, we need access to both private and public land to carry out surveys and investigations. These activities help us understand the current conditions across the VNI West project area.

The aim is to better understand environmental sensitivities – including flora, fauna, agricultural land use, visual impacts, and technical or social considerations – to inform route planning and project design.

The findings from these investigations will directly inform the project's impact assessments. They also help TCV identify a transmission route that minimises disruption to landholders, the environment, and culturally significant areas – while ensuring the project remains cost-effective for Victorian energy consumers.

Why Private Property Access is Needed

Field Surveys and Investigations

Before finalising the proposed easement and infrastructure route, we use a range of tools to help identify areas that may be environmentally or culturally sensitive. These include desktop research, database information, specialist studies, and aerial imagery. In some cases, this information suggests that a private property may contain certain features that need closer investigation.

To confirm and expand on this information, on-site field surveys are required. These surveys have been underway for VNI West since October 2023.



**~240-kilometre
proposed route**



**~220 impacted
properties**



**More than 505
field surveys
completed
(188 on private
property)**



**Over 160 access
agreements in
place across the
wider project
region**

On private land, field surveys are designed to be low-impact and carefully managed. They are not intended to disrupt your daily activities or cause damage to your property.

Typically survey activities may include:

- Site walkovers
- Photography
- Small-scale, fully remediated earthworks
- Water and soil sampling
- Use of fauna and noise monitoring equipment

A detailed list of survey activities – including how they're done and what to expect – is available in the *Land Access: Technical Survey Activities* (transmissionvictoria.com.au/fact-sheets-policies) fact sheet.

Environment Effects Statement (EES)

Under Victoria's [Environment Effects Act 1978](#), certain developments are required to go through a formal assessment of potential environmental impacts. This assessment is known as an [Environment Effects Statement \(EES\)](#).

In April 2024, the Victorian Minister for Planning confirmed that an EES is required for this project.

The EES is Victoria's most comprehensive and transparent environmental impact assessment process. It allows community members, stakeholders, and decision-makers to understand how the project will be delivered, and what its potential environmental impacts might be.

In February 2025, the Minister issued the final scoping requirements for the VNI West EES. These outline the specific matters to be investigated, including:

Biodiversity and habitat		Surface Water	
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage		Groundwater	
Land Use		Geology and Contaminated Land	
Social		Roads and Transport	
Economic		Aviation	
Agriculture		Air Quality	
Bushfire		Noise and Vibration	
Historic Heritage		Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)	
Landscape and Visual		Waste Management	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change			

VNI West will require Commonwealth, State and other approvals prior to any construction commencing, including:

- Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC)
- Environment Effects Statement (EES)
- Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA)
- Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs)

Learn more about approvals on the TCV website here: transmissionvictoria.com.au/about-vni-west/project-overview

What to Expect When We Access Your Property

If we need to access your property to carry out investigations for the project, we will consult with you beforehand to understand any property-specific requirements. Your Landholder Liaison will work closely with you to make sure access is managed respectfully, safely, and with as little disruption as possible.

The below table outlines key areas we consider before and during access of your property:

Access/Vehicles



Access will follow the terms set out in your Landholder's Access Agreement, or Enablement and Access Deed (if one is in place). We aim to keep vehicle movement to a minimum and will use existing tracks wherever possible.

Equipment



Your Landholder Liaison will let you know what equipment may be needed on your property, where it will be placed, and how long it will remain on site.

Biosecurity



We take biosecurity seriously and want to ensure your land remains protected. You are encouraged to work with your Landholder Liaison to identify any biosecurity requirements specific to your property. If you have signed a Land Access Agreement or Enablement and Access Deed, we – and anyone working on our behalf – are required to follow your reasonable access conditions.

Please share a copy of any Biosecurity Management Plans in place for your property. Further biosecurity information, including our policy, factsheet, and the Land Access Code of Practice (LACoP), are available on our website: transmissionvictoria.com.au

Fire Risks



We assess fire risk before starting any field work.

- On **Catastrophic Fire Risk days**, no field work will take place.
- On **Extreme Fire Risk days**, only limited and approved works may proceed.

If conditions change, we will reassess and adjust activities accordingly.

Health Risks



Before accessing your land, a safety and risk assessment is completed. This includes identifying potential health risks, like exposure to vector-borne or biological diseases. We monitor public health alerts and will work with you to record any personal safety concerns in your access agreement.

More information on TCV's Human Health Risk Management policy is available on our website: transmissionvictoria.com.au

Who Will Do the Work?



Independent specialists – including experts in ecology, cultural heritage and geology – will conduct the field surveys and investigations.

Most activities are low-impact and involve little or no ground disturbance, largely relying on visual inspections. If sub-surface studies are required (such as soil samples via boreholes and test pits), we will discuss it with you in advance. Any ground disturbance will be backfilled and reinstated in line with our agreement.

Landholders are welcome to be present during field activity days. Your Landholder Liaison can help coordinate suitable times.

Animal Welfare and Other Activities



We understand your land may be used for animal care, farming, or other important activities. Your Landholder Liaison will work with you to determine the best time for access – avoiding impacts on livestock movement or farming activities.

We will also consult with you beforehand to understand and protect any areas of cultural heritage on your property.

Commitment to Project Safety



We are committed to delivering this project safely – and with as little disruption to your property as possible. If any damage does occur, we will work with you to address it.

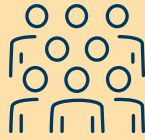
To report damage:

- Contact your Landholder Liaison
- Email enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au, or
- Submit a report through our website. The submission should include:
 - Description of the damage
 - Photos
 - When and where it occurred (date, time, and location)
 - Any other relevant details

Your Landholder Liaison can provide you with a copy of our **Land and Property Damages Policy** and guide you through the next step.

Landholder Rights and Project Commitments

When we are seeking access to your property to undertake field surveys – either through voluntary agreement (see “*Land access under voluntary consent*” below), or by using legal land access powers under section 93 of the **Electricity Industry Act 2000** (Vic) (EI Act), which are discussed further under the heading “*Land access using statutory powers*” below) – both landholders and TCV have specific rights and responsibilities.



Landholders have the right to:

- Provide or refuse voluntary consent for property access. If voluntary consent is not provided, TCV may, where required, exercise legislative powers to access your property.
- Receive specific information about proposed surveys before any access notice is issued.
- Receive clear information about your rights and TCV’s obligations under access agreements, Section 93 of the EI Act, and the LACoP.
- Be informed of proposed access dates and details, including who will be accessing your property and when.
- Verify identification of all persons entering your property.
- Provide feedback or request changes and have these considered in good faith with a timely response from TCV.
- Be consulted on how risks like biosecurity, fire, and health will be managed during access.
- Have reasonable requests regarding access understood and adhered to by TCV.
- Expect privacy and confidentiality to be maintained at all times.
- Receive compensation for any damage caused by field surveys and investigations, where that damage cannot be rectified.
- Request information on any incidents that occur during access.
- Request and receive outcomes from land access investigations (excluding any information which may be personal information, confidential, or commercially sensitive).
- Make a complaint to TCV regarding access and, if unsatisfied with the response, escalate the matter to an external dispute regulation body such as the Energy and Water Ombudsman (Victoria) (EWOV), subject to eligibility.



Our Commitments to You:

- Comply with all relevant laws when accessing private land.
- Follow the LACoP, including consulting with landholders before entering into land access agreements or using section 93 EI Act powers.
- Respond promptly to landholder enquiries about property access.
- Respect access protocols set out in access agreements, where in place.
- Ensure all personnel carry project ID, which will be presented on request.
- Minimise disturbance and avoid damage wherever possible when undertaking surveys and investigations.
- Repair or compensate for any damage caused while undertaking field surveys and investigations.
- Maintain public liability insurance that covers all field surveys and investigations to be conducted on private property.
- Handle complaints in accordance with our complaint handling process and offer dispute resolution support where required.
- Ensure that all project representatives contacting you about land access have the appropriate skills, training and qualifications.

Land Access Under Voluntary Consent

Working Together to Agree on Land Access

TCV's preference is to work in partnership with landholders to agree on access through voluntary consent, in accordance with your access requirements and the LACoP. This means we'll seek your permission before carrying out field surveys on your property.

We understand that land access requests can raise important questions or concerns. We're committed to open, respectful communication – listening to your needs, understanding your preferences, and working with you to find the most suitable approach.

If you agree to allow TCV access to your property, all access will be carried out in line with the LACoP and the terms of your signed access agreement.

Some landholders may have previously entered into a Land Access Agreement to allow TCV to access a property. From June 2025, we will provide landholders with an Enablement and Access Deed – a separate agreement that also includes land access rights.

The below table outlines these two agreements, which TCV will rely on if you voluntarily permit access to your property:

Land Access Agreement – Up to June 2025	Enablement and Access Deed – June 2025 Onwards
A Land Access Agreement (LAA) is offered to private property landholders and is the key document that explains who, when and how TCV and its project consultants – such as ecologists or geotechnical specialists – will access your property.	From June 2025, landholders may be eligible for the Landholder Benefit Payment by signing an Enablement and Access Deed. This Deed replaces the LAA for new agreements and provides formal access rights where no LAA is already in place. It includes an Access Licence that sets out how any access to your property will occur – including your specific requirements. The access payment amount remains the same as under the LAA. However, if you've already received an LAA payment, a second payment under the Deed will not apply.

The terms of your Land Access Agreement or Enablement and Access Deed can be amended during the agreement period – as long as both you and TCV agree to the changes.

Land Access for Field Surveys and Investigations

The table below outlines the process involved if you choose to grant TCV voluntary access to your property:



Payments for Voluntary Access

If you agree to provide access to your property, you may be eligible for payments that recognise the time, effort, and inconvenience involved. These include Access Payments and reimbursement of Legal Fees.

Below is an overview of each payment type:

Payment Type	Document	Summary	Term	Amount
Access Payment	Land Access Agreement (LAA) (pre-June 2025)	Provided for participating in the survey access process. Only one payment is made per property, even if there are multiple landholders.	2 years	\$10,000 for properties with up to 299 acres of land being accessed (\$5,000 per year for 2 years). Properties with 300 acres or more of land being accessed may be eligible for additional payments. Your dedicated Landholder Liaison will work with you to determine additional payments you may be eligible for. No land access payment will exceed \$50,000.
	Enablement and Access Deed (post-June 2025)	The Access Licence within the Enablement and Access Deed will contain a payment for participation in the survey access process, recognising the inconvenience for allowing/ facilitating voluntary access to land.	3 years	Payment terms remain the same as the LAA above, however, will not be paid again if an LAA is already in place. In addition to the Access Payment, signing the Deed provides landholders with eligibility to be receive 20% of the Benefit Payment.
Legal Fee Payment	Land Access Agreement (LAA) OR Enablement and Access Deed	For landholders to seek independent legal advice relating to their access agreement or the Enablement and Access Deed.	N/A	Costs for professional fees will be reimbursed by TCV. Please contact your Landholder Liaison for more information.

Land Access Using Statutory Powers

Our preference is always to work with you to reach an agreement on property access that suits you. Land access is required for important field survey activities that help inform impact assessments for VNI West.

Land Access Under Victoria's Electricity Industry Act 2000 (Section 93)

If you choose not to provide consent, TCV, as an electricity transmission company, may seek to access land under section 93 of the EI Act.

We will only consider this when:

1. We have made repeated and genuine attempts to contact and work with landholders. This includes a minimum of three separate contact attempts over at least two months;
2. Voluntary access negotiations remained unsuccessful after a minimum engagement period of two months; and
3. Access is necessary to undertake surveys or assessments required for the project, such as access during spring and summer 2025 to complete time-sensitive ecological surveys.

Under the EI Act, specifically section 93(1), it is lawful for TCV and its authorised persons to undertake surveys and other necessary activities associated with VNI West in accordance with the requirements in the EI Act and the ESC LACoP.

Section 93(1) of the Electricity Industry Act states:

"For the purposes of this Act, an electricity corporation, subject to this Act— (a) may enter upon any lands and sink bores and make surveys and do any other acts or things necessary for sinking bores or making survey and (e) may do all other things necessary or convenient for constructing, maintaining, altering, or using any works or undertakings of, or under the control of, the electricity corporation."

Section 93(1) of the act further states that section 93:

"So applies subject to any provision of a Code of Practice about the entry on land..."

Essential Services Commission: Land Access Code of Practice

The Essential Services Commission (ESC) developed the **Land Access Code of Practice** (LACoP) (esc.vic.gov.au/electricity-and-gas/codes-guidelines-and-policies/land-access-code-practice) to regulate land access by licensed electricity transmission companies, like TCV.

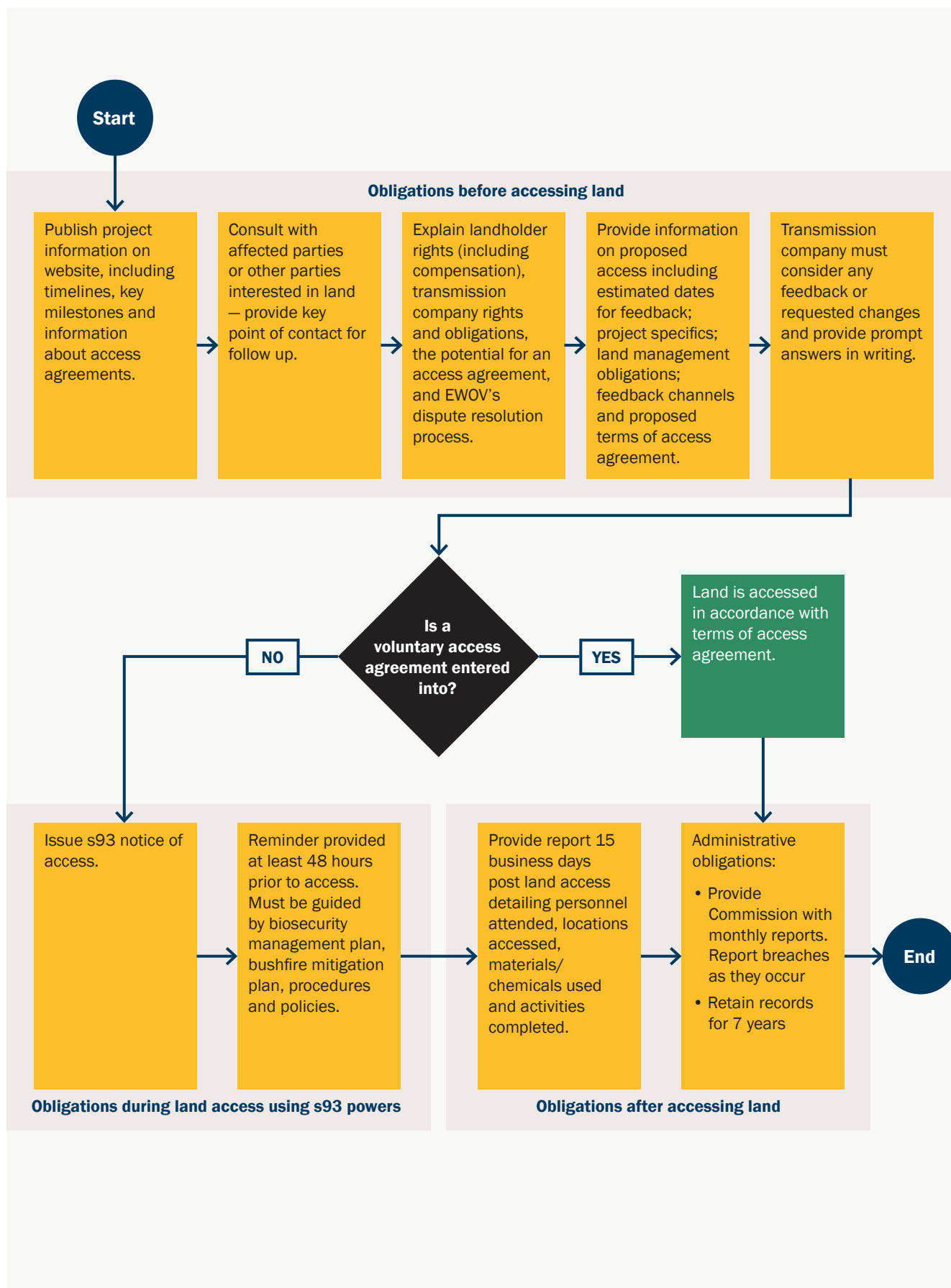
The code sets out the rules and processes that companies must follow when accessing — or seeking to access — private land, either through voluntary agreement or using statutory powers under the EI Act. It outlines the requirements to be followed before, during and after land access, with the aim of minimising disruption and ensuring landholders and other interested parties receive clear communication and fair treatment.

As an electricity transmission company, TCV is legally required to comply with the Land Access Code of Practice.

If you have a concern about whether TCV is complying with its obligations under the Code, and your concern cannot be resolved directly with TCV, you may escalate your complaint to the Energy and Water Ombudsman (Vic) (EWOV) — an independent dispute resolution body. More information about EWOV and how to lodge a complaint is available at www.ewov.com.au.

Land Access Pathways

The diagram below outlines the steps TCV follows when working with landholders to arrange access to private property. It shows how we approach land access – from early conversations to finalising agreements.



Compliance in Undertaking Land Access Using Statutory Powers

When voluntary agreement with a landholder cannot be reached, TCV may access land using Section 93 of the EI Act. This process must follow strict legal and procedural requirements.

The following table outlines how TCV ensures land access is conducted lawfully, respectfully, and transparently.

Note: Landholders can choose to enter into a voluntary access agreement (through a Land Access Agreement or Enablement and Access Deed) at any time during this process.

Step	Description	Timeframe
1 Provide the Access Licence (Enablement and Access Deed)	TCV will first attempt to negotiate voluntary land access by providing landholders an Enablement and Access Deed as part of the Land and Easement Access Package. Landholders can choose to enter into a voluntary agreement at any time before access under Section 93 takes place (step 8).	Provided to landholders with their <i>Land and Easement Access Package</i>
2 Understanding Landholder Requirements	TCV will make multiple efforts to contact you to discuss voluntary land access through agreement. This includes a minimum of three documented engagement attempts over at least two months.	A minimum of two months
3 Requesting Access: Information and Landholder Feedback LACoP Clause 5 & 6	TCV will provide landholders with details on proposed access dates, project specifics, land management obligations, feedback channels, and proposed terms of any access agreement. We will consider feedback or requested changes from landholders and provide prompt answers in writing.	At least 20 business days before the Notice of Access is issued
4 Send Notice of Access under Section 93 LACoP Clause 7	If agreement is not reached, TCV will prepare to access land (in accordance with Section 93 of the EI Act) by first sending a Notice of Access outlining: • The access period • Specific planned dates and times of access during the access period • Types of activities that will be undertaken • Where activities will take place • Authorised personnel • Any equipment and chemicals to be used • Land management and biosecurity requirements • Access points and landholder rights under Section 93 and the LACoP A Notice of Access will be valid for a maximum access period of six months (specified within the Notice of Access).	Sent at least 10 business days prior to the start of the access period
5 Notification to the ESC Transmission Licence Condition: Part C section 16.1 (a)	A copy of each Notice of Access is emailed to the ESC within three business days of issuing the notice to all affected parties, in accordance with clause 7 of the LACoP.	Within three business days of issuing the notice
6 Send Reminder Notice LACoP Clause 7.1.3	A reminder notice must be sent to landholders at least 48 hours before each proposed entry (except in the event of an emergency). This notice must be sent in writing unless the landholder has given permission to receive notice by another means. The notice should contain all details of the proposed access including, but not limited to, contact details, works to be undertaken, access points, and the date/time for access. Attempts (via phone or text) will be made to ensure the landholder has received the notice and understands its contents.	At least 48 hours before each proposed entry

Key



TCV's Access Commitments



ESC LACoP Compliance



ESC Licence Conditions for TCV

Step	Description	Timeframe
7 Notification to the ESC Transmission Licence Condition: Part C section 16.1 (b)	A copy of reminders sent to each affected party under clause 7.1.3 of the LACoP is emailed to the ESC at least 48 hours before each proposed access during the Access Period.	At least 48 hours before each proposed entry
8 Property Accessed for Survey Activities LACoP Clause 9	TCV undertakes access using Section 93 powers. When TCV staff or contractors enter your property under these powers, they must: • Have the relevant skills, training and qualifications to perform their allocated tasks and comply with obligations under the EI Act and LACoP • Respect your privacy, property, and existing infrastructure • Adhere to any biosecurity, fire safety, and access conditions you've communicated • Minimise disturbance and conduct all activities safely • Carry and present official identification • Provide an access report upon request • Upon written request from an affected party, provide outcomes of surveys and relevant investigations in relation to land owned or occupied by that affected party (subject to limited exceptions) If you believe that access was not carried out in accordance with these requirements, you can raise a complaint with TCV. If the issue is not resolved to your satisfaction, you may escalate the complaint to EWov.	At least 10 business days after initial Notice of Access is issued
9 Landholder Notification LACoP Clause 9	TCV must notify landholders of any biosecurity or health incidents immediately via direct consultation or phone call. TCV will notify landholders in writing when land access has concluded.	
10 Access Report LACoP Clause 9.6	TCV will provide a report 15 business days after land access is complete. The report will include: • Number of personnel in attendance each time your property was accessed • Locations accessed • Any materials or chemicals used on the property TCV can provide landholders with survey results (providing not confidential or commercially sensitive) on request.	15 business days after land access is complete
11 Remediation and Compensation LACoP Clause 6.1	In accordance with TCV's obligations under the EI Act, we will take all reasonable precautions to minimise damage to your property during land access. Where damage is unavoidable, we will remediate it as soon as possible. You are entitled to compensation for any damaged caused during surveys or investigations that cannot be remedied. If an agreement on compensation cannot be reached, the matter will be determined in accordance with the <i>Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986 (Vic)</i>. If you are not satisfied with how TCV responds to your complaint about property damage or compensation, you may escalate your complaint to EWov for independent dispute resolution.	We will pay compensation that is assessed as payable within 20 days of the Deed of Settlement and Release being executed and exchanged between the landholder and TCV



Part 3:

Easements, Benefits and Compensation

Purpose

This section outlines how land may be acquired for the VNI West project, including the process for entering into an Option for Easement, the circumstances under which compulsory acquisition may occur, how compensation is calculated, and what other payments may be available to you.

TCV will only seek to acquire an interest in your property if transmission infrastructure needs to be located on your property. In these cases, access and easement arrangements will be formalised through agreements with the landholder.

Because only the owner of the land can legally grant an easement, all information about the Land Easement and Access Package will be directed to the owner in the first instance. If other individuals or entities have a legal interest in the land, they may also need to provide their consent before the owner can enter into either the Enablement and Access Deed or Option for Easement.

Contents

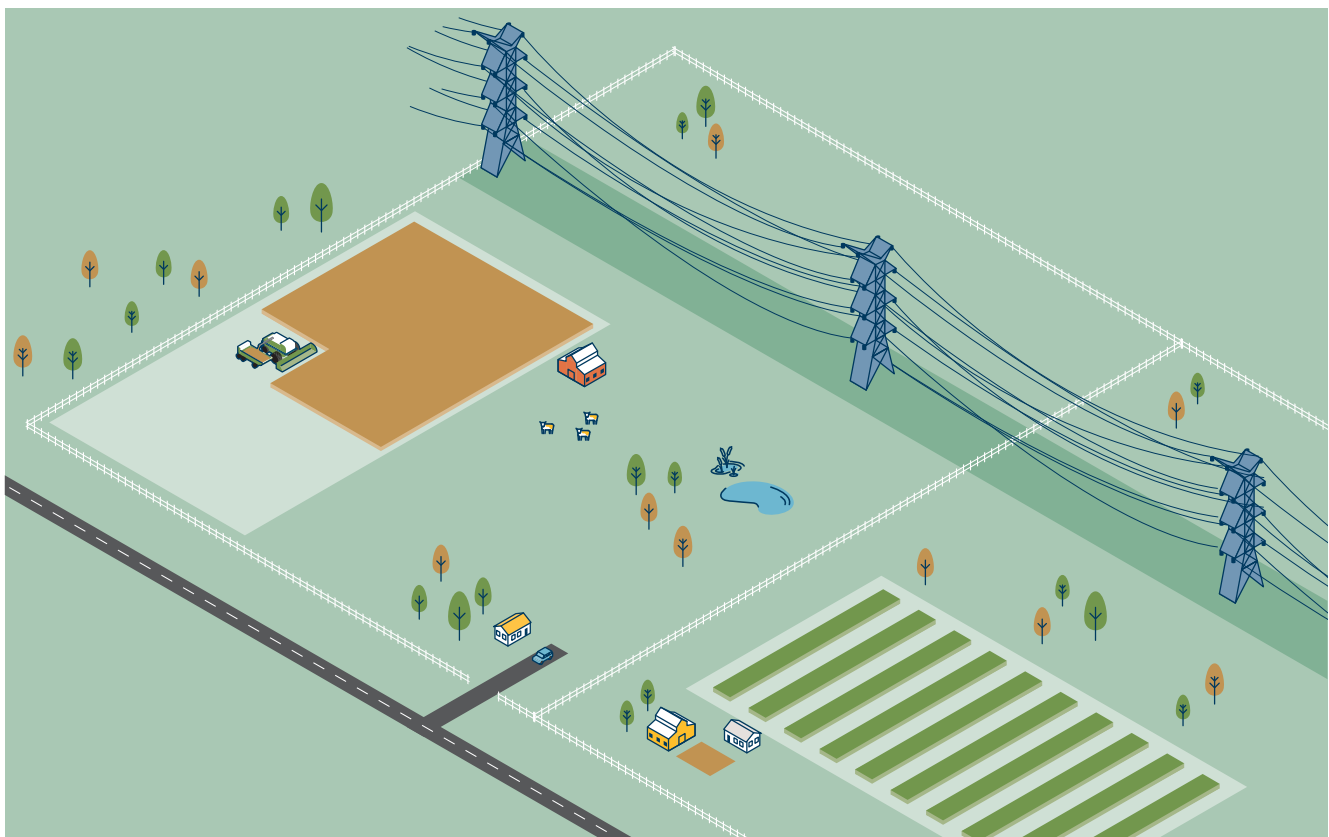
- Transmission Easements for VNI West
- Managing Your Property
- Your Land Easement and Access Package
- Valuation, Compensation and Benefits
- The Option for Easement Process
- Statutory Acquisition Process
- Privacy, Contacts and Complaints

Transmission Easements and Your Property

What is an Easement?

An easement is a legal right that allows someone to access, use, or occupy part of a property owned by another person/party for a particular purpose. An easement is registered on the property's title, so it appears in official land title searches.

Once registered, an easement remains in place unless both the landholder and the person or entity it was granted to agree to change or remove it.



This diagram is for illustrative purposes only

Having an Easement Over a Property Title

For VNI West to move forward, TCV must secure easements over certain properties to allow for the construction and operation of power lines used to transmit electricity. Easements will only be sought on properties where transmission infrastructure is proposed to be built.

If an easement is acquired over your land, you will remain the legal owner of the property. However, use of the affected area will be subject to the terms of the easement agreement.

Why is an Easement Needed?

If transmission infrastructure is proposed for your property, an easement of approximately 70 metres in width will generally be required. This easement provides the legal rights needed to build and operate the transmission line.

Before the easement is formally registered, TCV will also need access to a construction licence area. This area is typically 100 metres wide and includes the future 70-metre easement within it. If the option is exercised, the broader area is used temporarily during construction and allows TCV to carry out works before the easement is finalised.

After construction, ongoing limited access may be required to operate and maintain the transmission line. This mostly involves accessing the easement corridor, particularly in areas that can't be accessed by road.

Once construction is complete, the final 70-metre-wide easement will be registered on the land title. This provides the legal rights to keep the infrastructure in place, carry out inspections and maintenance, and ensure public safety around the transmission line.

Can you continue to farm under and around transmission lines?

Yes. There are many farming activities which can take place in a transmission line easement such as broadacre cropping, running livestock and planting orchards.



6,500km

of transmission lines currently operate in Victoria many of which co-exist with farming and agriculture

For information on farming with transmission, please head to the TCV website and access our 'Farming with Transmission Fact Sheet'.

Living with an Easement on Your Property

Working closely with landholders is an important part of determining the final easement route. Your feedback helps TCV identify the most suitable placement for transmission towers and lines, and can assist in reducing impacts on farming, business operations, and the overall use of your land.

For safety reasons, there are some restrictions on how land within a transmission easement can be used. These typically relate to maintaining safe clearance from transmission lines and other infrastructure. However, many agricultural activities can continue within the easement, depending on the specific terms of the agreement.

Landholder Liaisons are working with landholders to discuss specific farming and agricultural activities and provide advice as to which activities are restricted or need further assessment or permitting.

For more information, please see the Farming and Transmission Fact Sheet on the TCV website (transmissionvictoria.com.au/fact-sheets-policies).

In March 2024, Energy Safe Victoria published guidelines on working and farming near transmission infrastructure, which provides details on issues like transmission line height and easement widths to ensure safe operation in all conditions.

For more information about these guidelines please visit esv.vic.gov.au

Managing your property with the VNI West project

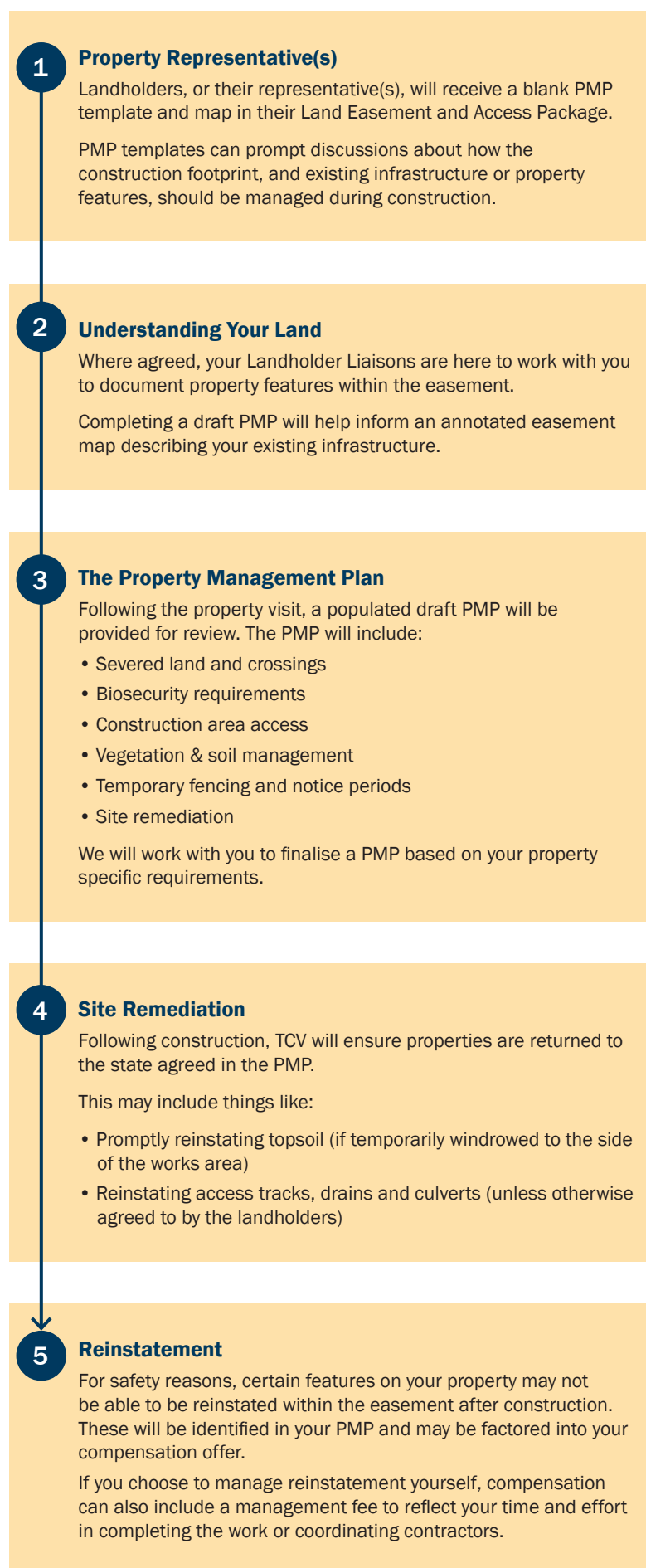
The Property Management Plan (PMP) is developed to give landholders confidence in how their property will be looked after during the VNI West project. A blank PMP template is included in every Land Easement and Access Package to help landholders begin thinking about what matters most when it comes to managing their land.

Throughout each stage of the project, Landholder Liaisons are working directly with landholders to understand how each property is used. The goal is to minimise disruption and ensure the needs of each landholder are recognised and addressed.

The PMP records any existing infrastructure on the property that may be affected by construction. Once agreed, it sets out how that infrastructure – and the broader property – will be managed during the construction phase. This includes how any damage will be remediated or how areas will be reinstated once construction is complete, as well as arrangements for the ongoing operational phase.

The table below outlines the steps involved in preparing a Property Management Plan:

The table below outlines the steps involved in preparing a Property Management Plan:



Things to consider in designing your Property Management Plan include:



Severed Land and Crossings

In some cases, a transmission easement or access track may temporarily cut off parts of a property, making them inaccessible during construction.

Landholders will be consulted on how to manage this, with options including temporary crossing points (outside of high-impact activity periods), fencing, or additional compensation (rent) for not using the area during construction.

Vegetation and Soil Management

If vegetation clearing is required, landholders can request specific approaches, including:

- Vegetation removed entirely from their property
- Vegetation retained in protection zones where possible (more feasible in construction areas than within the easement)
- Felled timber left on site for firewood
- Top and subsoil stored separately
- Input into how grading works are carried out

Any replacement tree planting will be discussed and agreed upon with landholders on a case-by-case basis.

Fencing and Notice Periods

Landholders can propose that construction areas and access track(s) be fenced – either temporarily or permanently – and can nominate their preferred fencing type.

Any fencing or gates removed for construction will be reinstated after works are complete, in consultation with TCV.

These preferences can be recorded in the PMP.

How Long Does the PMP Last and Can it Change?

The Property Management Plan (PMP) remains in place throughout all key phases of the VNI West project – including construction, reinstatement, remediation, and ongoing operations.

Either the landholder or TCV can request changes to the PMP at any point before or during construction, as long as both parties agree to the proposed updates.

If an easement is required on your property, both parties will commit to following the PMP. This commitment is formalised through the Option for Easement (OfE), which outlines responsibilities during construction, and the Memorandum of Common Provisions (MoCP), which applies during the operational phase of the project.



Your Land Easement and Access Package

TCV has prepared a **Land Easement and Access Package** (Package) for landholders whose properties fall within the proposed VNI West Project Easement.

The package includes proposed easement terms, details on the Benefit Payment for landholders, indicative compensation amounts, and supporting documents to help you to make informed decisions at every stage of the process.

Your dedicated Landholder Liaison will guide you through each document in the package. They're here to help you understand your access obligations and can also assist you in accessing professional services for independent legal or financial advice if required.

A summary of the documents included in the package is provided on the following page.

Document Name	Document Description
Cover Letter	A personalised letter tailored to you, your property, and your circumstances. It provides a brief overview of your Land Easement and Access Package.
Landholder Payment Estimate	A summary of the compensation offer for your property, including allowances for each compensation element. These amounts are calculated in line with the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act (LACA).
Enablement and Access Deed	The Deed is a formal agreement that allows TCV to access private land. Under this agreement: • TCV is granted access to the property for surveys and preliminary investigations • Once the Deed is signed, the landholder is entitled to receive 20% of the Benefit Payment • TCV and the landholder will negotiate the Option for Easement, which will be granted once the form of the Option for Easement is agreed, and a legislative amendment to allow TCV to hold an easement-in-gross is passed
 Access to your property will be required during the development phase of the project to carry out essential surveys. Voluntary access can be arranged through the Enablement and Access Deed or a Short Form Access Agreement, right up until the date access is needed. Critical ecology surveys will begin in spring and summer 2025, with access to some easement properties required from September.	
Land Access: Technical Survey Activities	A guide explaining the range of field survey activities taking place on public and private land, the purpose of these activities, and how TCV uses independent specialists to carry them out.
Option for Easement (OfE)	Gives TCV an option to take an easement and build transmission infrastructure on a property in return for payment. It also outlines access rights prior to and during construction.
 Landholders have until July 1, 2026 to negotiate their Option for Easement (OfE), recognising the complexity of the process and support needed along the way.	
Term Sheet (OfE documentation)	Sets out key terms of the OfE, payment amounts and indicative plans for access during construction and operation. Once agreed, this forms the basis of the OfE.
Memorandum of Common Provisions (MoCP) (OfE documentation)	Outlines the rights and obligations of TCV and the landholder once the easement is in place. It sets out terms and conditions for permitted and restricted activities within the easement.
Easement Diagram (OfE documentation)	A draft map showing the proposed easement, construction licence area, and any areas excluded under the OfE. After construction, a final version called the Easement Instrument Plan will confirm the easement area and be used to register it on the property title.
Property Management Plan Template (OfE documentation)	A template used to record existing infrastructure that may be impacted by construction. It outlines how that infrastructure will be managed during works, and how the property and any impacted items will be reinstated after construction. The PMP helps ensure landholders are confident in how their property will be managed and remediated throughout the project.
Property and Asset Map(s)	An updated map of your property or properties, showing proposed tower locations.

Considering an Offer Before Project Approval

Some financial benefits are only available to landholders who sign agreements within the Package. By engaging with TCV early and entering into agreements, landholders can:

- Secure additional benefits – Signing the Enablement and Access Deed entitles landholders to 20% of the Landholder Benefit Payment. An additional 20% will become available to landholders who sign the OfE agreement before July 1, 2026. The remaining 60% is payable to landholders if the OfE is exercised.
- Lock in CPI-linked price escalation – The Package ensures your benefits and compensation will be adjusted in line with the Consumer Price Index.
- Have more control – Early agreements give you the opportunity to negotiate terms that work best for you.
- Help shape project impacts – Engaging early allows you to provide input that can reduce disruption to your property, even if you haven't signed an OfE.

Compensation, Valuation and Benefits

Calculating Initial Compensation for Landholders

Each Land Easement and Access Package includes a Landholder Payment Estimate, based on a property-specific valuation carried out by a qualified independent valuer.

To ensure compensation is fair and reflects the real impact on your property, landholders are encouraged to think about how the proposed easement may affect their operations and share this information with the valuer. Your input is essential in helping TCV understand the full impact of the project on your land.

The Landholder Payment Estimate included in your Package is an initial estimate only. Assumptions have been made in preparing this figure, and further details – along with access for a site visit – will help refine the offer to better reflect your property's unique characteristics.

What is the Role of a Valuer and What is the Valuation Process?

A qualified valuer appointed by TCV will assess your property using principles set out in the LACA and the Valuation of Land Act 1960 (Vic). They will also consider how the proposed easement might affect how your land is used. Valuation professionals will work with landholders to understand the impacts of the proposed easement on their property.

Your Landholder Liaison can help coordinate the valuation process, including:

- **Meeting with the valuer** – You can speak with the valuer before the assessment to explain how your property is used and raise any concerns.
- **Allowing a property inspection** – With your permission, the valuer can inspect the site to better understand its features and condition.

This collaborative approach helps ensure that compensation is tailored to the specific nature of your property and its use.

Seeking Your Own Independent Valuation

Landholders are encouraged to seek independent advice about the compensation offer they receive. TCV will reimburse reasonable costs for obtaining an independent valuation.

The Australian Property Institute (API) is the leading professional body for property valuers. To support landholders, the API has created a dedicated referral directory for the VNI West Project, making it easy to find local, qualified valuers and agronomists with relevant experience.

- You can access the referral directory at:
api.org.au/expressions-of-interest-independent-valuers-for-landholders-affected-by-vni/
- The API can also be phoned on 1800 111 API (1800 111 274)
- Web: transmissionvictoria.com.au
Email: enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au
Free call: 1800 824 221

Compensation offers are based on what's known as market value depreciation – the difference between the property's value before and after the easement is acquired. Valuers will also consider other potential losses (where applicable), including:

- Loss in market value
- Loss of special value (such as unique property features)
- Loss due to disturbance
- Loss due to severance (if part of the property becomes difficult to access or use)

These elements of compensation are described in more detail below:

Market Value	Disturbance	Severance & Depreciation	Special Value
Compensation is based on the difference in the market value of the land before and after the easement is acquired. This includes the reasonable 'highest and best use' of the land, based on what is physically and legally possible. For example, where permitted by planning controls, this might include subdivision into individual lots.	Covers financial losses that occur as a direct, natural, and reasonable result of acquiring the easement. This could include lost income from farming operations affected by construction. Losses need to be assessed by an appropriate expert and are typically included in the market value payment.	Covers the devaluation (reduced value) of remaining land or property improvements (like a house), outside of the identified easement. Also access restrictions caused by the easement 'sever' previously connected areas or disrupt land use. For example, if the transmission infrastructure permanently impeded the ability for lateral irrigators to reach land on the other side of the easement.	Refers to financial value that is unique to the landholder, not the general market. It recognises when a property feature has specific economic value to you, even if it wouldn't increase the property's resale value. E.g., a house with consulting rooms might have added value to a doctor-owner, but not to the wider market. This is based on practical, economic use, not sentimental value, and is usually included in the market value calculation.

TCV encourages landholders to obtain independent advice from a qualified valuer. TCV will cover reasonable costs associated with this independent valuation.

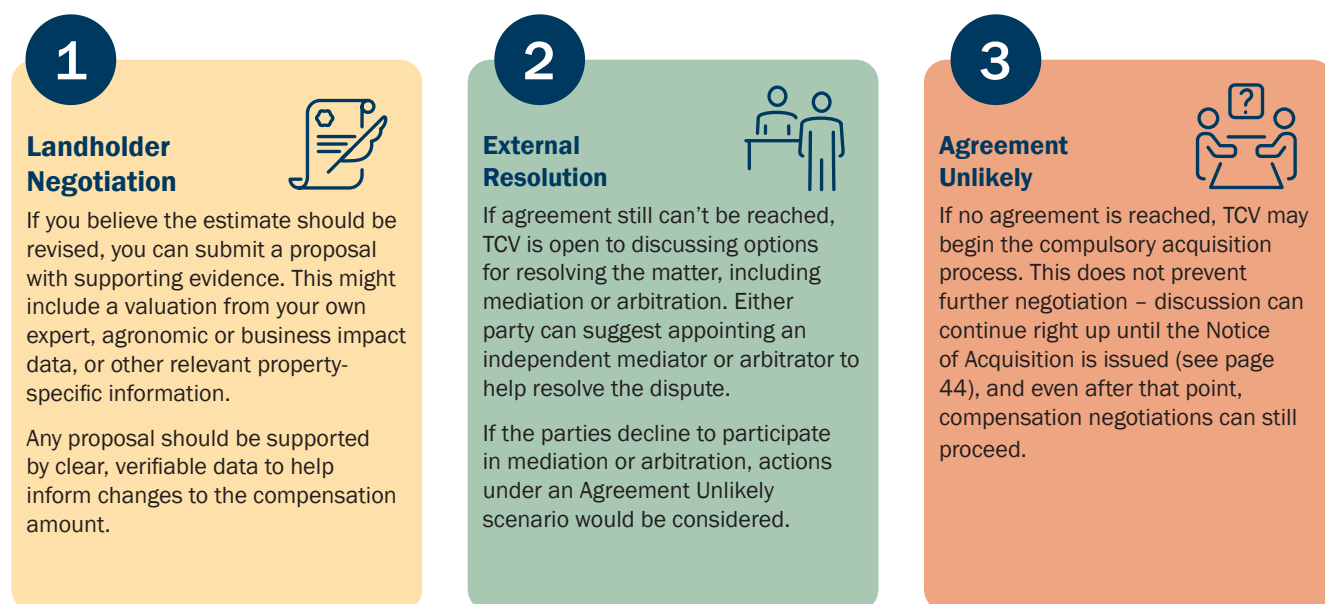
Valuers engaged by landholders must complete their assessments in line with relevant legislation and the Australian Property Institute's Professional Practice regulations.

If you choose to engage a valuer, they may be asked to meet with TCV's appointed valuer to support their valuation. Landholders will also be asked to provide TCV with a copy of the independent valuation.

Shaping a Valuation Specific to Your Property

If your independent valuer disagrees with the valuation-informed Landholder Payment Estimate provided in your Land Easement and Access Package, you are encouraged to speak to your Landholder Liaison. They can help arrange a meeting between your valuer and TCV's valuer to discuss any differences in their assessments.

If you choose not to accept the Landholder Payment Estimate, there are three possible next steps:





Access to Professional Advice

If you own property along the VNI West route, you are strongly encouraged to seek independent professional advice during the easement negotiation process. This may include services from qualified valuers, lawyers, accountants, tax specialists, insurance advisers, or agronomy services.

Having your own experts helps ensure you receive informed advice and achieve the best possible outcome. These professionals can help review agreements and documentation, explain your options and negotiate on your behalf.

TCV will reimburse all reasonable professional expenses, regardless of whether an agreement is reached.

Legal Advice

The Law Institute of Victoria (LIV) is the peak body for the Victorian legal profession. They have an online referral service which enables you to search for lawyers who are local, and/or specialise in property and planning law.

This can be found at
www.liv.asn.au/referral

The LIV can also be phoned on
03 9607 9550



Benefits and Compensation Available to Landholders

The below table outlines details of the payments available to landholders under the Package.

Document	Payment	Amount	Payment timings	What is it for
Enablement and Access Deed	Landholder Benefit Payment	\$46,000 per hectare of transmission easement (pro rata, rounded to the nearest 100m ²)	20% on signing the Enablement and Access Deed (within 20 business days of signing) 20% on signing an Option for Easement by July 1, 2026 (within 20 business days) Remaining 60% on exercising the Option for Easement (within 20 business days)	Recognises the landholder's role in enabling critical infrastructure. Payment is unlocked by entering the Enablement and Access Deed
Option for Easement	Option Fee	\$50,000 (\$30,000 of this amount to be deducted from the Easement Compensation Payment if the option is exercised)	Within 20 business days of signing	Grants TCV an option to acquire an easement over the nominated area on the Easement Terms
	Easement Compensation Payment	Property specific	80% payable on the option being exercised by TCV Remaining 20% after easement registration on the property title (unless agreed otherwise in the OfE)	Based on market value, special value, severance, disturbance, and depreciation (per LACA), as assessed by TCV's qualified valuer, and in negotiation with any relevant experts on behalf of the landholder
	Professional Costs	Up to \$5,000 (Enablement and Access Deed) Up to \$10,000 (OfE, (whether or not an OfE is agreed) Costs likely to exceed these thresholds to be discussed with your Landholder Liaison	Enablement and Access Deed reimbursement is payable within 20 business days of entering into the Deed (subject to cost evidence and tax invoice, if applicable) OfE negotiation reimbursement payable within 20 business days of executing the OfE (subject to cost evidence and tax invoice, if applicable)	Reimbursement for professional advice (legal, valuation, agronomy, etc) in the negotiation of the Enablement and Access Deed and the OfE In addition, TCV to contribute to legal fees (up to agreed amounts) where TCV causes the landholder to incur legal costs in other circumstances (e.g. TCV requires the landholder to assist in registering the easement)
National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005	Victorian Government Landholder Payment	\$8,000 per kilometre per year of new easement, paid annually over 25 years (indexed to inflation)	Annual payments begin once eligibility has been approved by VicGrid	This payment is separate to payments under the Package Payments are made in accordance with Part 7 of the National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005, to compensate landholders for hosting key infrastructure

Document	Payment	Amount	Payment timings	What is it for
Option for Easement	Construction Licence Fee	Property specific	Annually, in advance, from the date the option is exercised	Covers temporary use of land inside and outside the easement during construction (negotiated on a case-by-case basis)
	Option Extension Fee	\$15,000	Within 20 business days of exercising the extension	Payable if TCV extends the OfE option exercise period for an additional year
	Associated Easement Registration Costs	On a case-by-case assessment	Reimbursement within 20 business days of easement registration (subject to cost evidence and tax invoice, if applicable)	Covers costs in event that landholders incur additional costs as part of registering the easement on the title
	Associated Mortgagee Consent or Third-party Consent Costs		Reimbursement within 20 business days of providing a relevant third-party consent deed (subject to cost evidence and tax invoice, if applicable)	Covers costs in event that landholders incur additional costs as part of obtaining mortgagee or third-party consent to the Enablement and Access Deed, OfE, registration of easement on title, or entering into a tripartite deed required for TCV financing
	Associated approvals costs		Reimbursement within 20 business days of the landholder providing the requested cooperation to TCV (subject to cost evidence)	Covers costs in event that landholders incur additional costs in assisting TCV obtaining any approvals for the Project
	Costs to changes to the Easement Area or Construction Licence Area		Reimbursement timeframes vary, depending on the relevant change to the easement or construction licence area	Covers costs in negotiating a material change to the easement area or construction licence area and any consequential changes to compensation payable
	Costs of Assignment		Reimbursement within 20 business days of the landholder complying with TCV's request for assistance (subject to cost evidence and tax invoice, if applicable)	Covers landholder costs for assisting in transfer, novation, or assignment of the Enablement and Access Deed, OfE, or easement



All payments outlined in this table and throughout the Landholder Guide are subject to the terms and conditions of each relevant agreement.

Consumer Price Index

The Benefit Payment, Easement Compensation Payment, and Construction Licence Fee are subject to annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments. These reviews occur each year following the anniversary of signing the Enablement and Access Deed or OfE, where relevant.

Payment Scheduling

TCV is open to working with landholders to adjust the timing and method of compensation payments to better suit individual needs. For example, a landholder may choose to receive their compensation as annual payments spread over seven years. Requests like this can be discussed with your Landholder Liaison.

Changes to the Option for Easement

The OfE includes a process to agree on minor adjustments to the Indicative Easement Plan after construction. If the proposed changes are more significant, they may require a review of the property's compensation.

Similarly, if the Construction Laydown Area identified in the OfE is changed, it may result in an increase to the Construction Licence Fee paid to the landholder.

What is the Process for Voluntary Easement Acquisition?

Below is a general overview of the easement acquisition process where a landholder has chosen to negotiate and agree to this pathway. The exact process may vary depending on each landholder's circumstances and individual negotiations.

The table also outlines the key payment milestones. It does not include conditional payments detailed in the Benefits and Compensation table on page 38.

Professional costs associated with negotiating the Enablement and Access Deed and the Option for Easement may arise at different points throughout the stages outlined below.

Before the Land Easement and Access Package is Provided	
Gathering Property Information	Compensation Assessment for the Easement
Property-specific information helps inform the compensation assessment included in the Option for Easement proposal. It also helps TCV identify ways to protect or work around land use and existing infrastructure during construction, where possible. This may be used to inform the Property Management Plan (PMP).	An indicative compensation assessment is prepared by a qualified valuer, in line with the LACA and the <i>Valuation of Land Act 1960 (Vic)</i> , this is your Landholder Payment Estimate. With your input, the valuer may inspect your property to better understand potential impacts, like disturbance to existing use or farming operations.
Eligible Payments: - Land Access Agreement (LAA) payment – for providing access - Professional Costs – for negotiating access	
Refer to page 38-39 for more information	Refer to page 35 for more information

Land Easement and Access Package		
Land Easement and Access Package presented	Landholder Review	Negotiation and Agreement
Landholders are provided with a package containing: • Cover Letter • Landholder Payment Estimate • Landholder Guide • Enablement and Access Deed • Land Access: Technical Survey Activities • Option for Easement (OfE), including: • Memorandum of Common Provisions (MoCP) • Easement Diagram • Property Management Plan Template • Property and Asset Map(s) • Term Sheet Landholder Liaisons will assist landholders with delivery and walk-through of documents. TCV would prefer to deliver the Land Easement and Access Package in person. If this is not possible, and consent has been provided to discuss with your legal advisor, farm manager or other representatives, the information will be provided via a sent package.	Landholders are encouraged to seek independent professional advice (e.g. valuation or legal) and will be reimbursed for any related costs by TCV. Feedback on the package can be provided via your Landholder Liaison.	Once the Land Easement and Access Package has been provided, your Landholder Liaison will support you through the negotiation process, with input from TCV's legal and valuation advisers. TCV that negotiations are often iterative. Both parties – including landholders and their advisers – will work through issues to reach agreement on compensation and conditions. If you disagree with the Landholder Payment Estimate, you can provide supporting information, such as an independent valuation. This may lead to a revised offer, as outlined in the table on page 36. Your Landholder Liaison can also help coordinate discussions with mortgagees or other third-parties that hold an interest in your property. Their consent is required before entering into agreements with TCV. This includes any occupier of the land or person who has lodged a caveat over the land. Review deadline: To be eligible for the Landholder Benefit Payment, the Enablement and Access Deed must be signed by July 1, 2026.
	Eligible Payments: Professional Costs – Up to \$5,000 in negotiating the Enablement and Access Deed Professional Costs – Up to \$10,000 in negotiating the OfE (whether or not an OfE is agreed)	Eligible Payments: Access Licence Fee payment – when the Enablement and Access Deed is signed 20% of Landholder Benefit Payment when Enablement and Access Deed is signed Option Fee \$50,000 (within 20 business days of signing the Option for Easement) 20% of Landholder Benefit Payment when Option for Easement is signed Professional Costs – in obtaining third party consent from others with interest in the land

Facilitation of Option for Easement, Benefits and Compensation

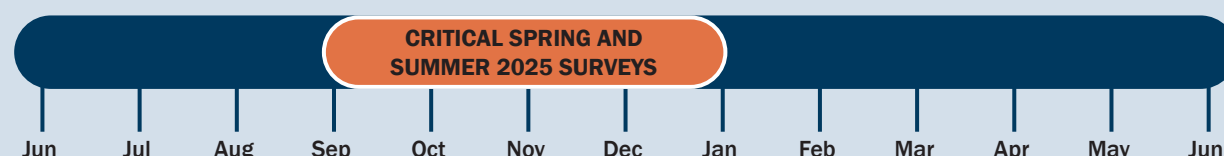
To be eligible for the Benefit Payment, you must provide a signed Enablement and Access Deed before 1 July 2026. Landholder Payment Estimates will continue to be negotiated.

June 2025

June 2026

Access for Surveys

Access to your property will be required during the development phase of the project to carry out essential surveys. Voluntary access can be arranged through the Enablement and Access Deed or a Short Form Access Agreement, right up until the date access is needed. Critical ecology surveys will begin in spring and summer 2025, with access to some easement properties required from September.



Project Approval, Construction and Completion

Exercise Option for Easement	Construction	Completion of Construction and Registration of Easement
TCV will notify landholders of its intention to exercise the Option for Easement (OfE). This process would generally occur following the completion of the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process. Landholders will receive a formal option exercise notice, which confirms the easement has been acquired and grants TCV access to the property for construction in accordance with the terms of the OfE. From this point forward, both parties are bound by the terms of the easement. If the option is not exercised within the agreed period, it will either expire or terminate as outlined in the OfE. In that case, landholders will retain all payments received, including any access, benefit, or option payments. The option must be exercised by TCV within three years of the date the OfE was signed (the Option Expiry Date).	During construction, access to your property will be managed in line with the OfE and the agreed Property Management Plan (PMP). All construction activities will comply with statutory approvals and the obligations set out in both the OfE and PMP. TCV will keep landholders informed throughout the construction process and will notify you in advance when access to your property is required.	Once construction is complete, TCV will carry out any remediation works agreed upon in your Property Management Plan. A licensed surveyor will prepare a final Easement Diagram. Once confirmed through the Easement Instrument Plan, the easement will be registered on your property title.
Eligible Payments: 60% of the Benefit Payment when option taken 80% of Easement Compensation Payment	Eligible Payments: Land Rehabilitation Payment Construction Licence Fee (annually during construction)	Eligible Payments: 20% of Easement Compensation Payment Victorian Government Landholder payments begin

Statutory Process – Compulsory Acquisition

TCV's strong preference is to reach voluntary agreement with landholders to acquire transmission easements through the Option for Easement (OfE) included in the Land Easement and Access Package. This approach gives landholders an opportunity to engage early and ensure their property-specific concerns are considered.

We understand this process can be complex and emotionally challenging. Our goal is to work with you transparently and respectfully, giving you the information and time you need to make the right decision for your situation.

Participation in the OfE process is entirely voluntary. If a landholder decides not to proceed with a negotiated agreement, TCV (as an electricity corporation) may apply for approval from the Governor in Council under the *Electricity Industry Act 2000 (Vic)* to compulsorily acquire an easement over private land.

Before taking this step, TCV will provide clear written notice to affected landholders. This notice will explain what compulsory acquisition means, including how it may affect any compensation or access payments offered under a voluntary agreement.

Landholders may continue to negotiate with TCV to enter into an OfE agreement at any time before a Notice of Intention to Acquire (NOITA) is issued under the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986 (Vic)* (LACA)

Please note, while OfE negotiations may continue after a NOITA is issued, any compensation payable from that point forward must comply with LACA requirements. The Landholder Benefit Payment associated with the Enablement and Access Deed is not available under compulsory acquisition.

Landholders can enter into voluntary negotiations for an Option for Easement (OfE) up until Step 4 in the compulsory acquisition process (outlined in the table below), when the formal NOITA is issued.

The statutory process for compulsory acquisition of an easement is governed by the *Electricity Industry Act 2000 (Vic)* and the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986 (Vic)*. The key steps are outlined in the table below:

Step	Description
1 Agreement not reached	Application for the compulsory acquisition statutory process may commence if a landholder declines TCV's offer to enter into an Option for Easement (OfE), or agreement cannot be reached despite good faith negotiations.
2 Seek Governor in Council approval	TCV may then apply to the Governor in Council to compulsorily acquire easements under Section 86 of the <i>Electricity Industry Act 2000 (Vic)</i> .
3 Notice of intention to acquire	The compulsory acquisition statutory process will formally commence on issue of a Notice of Intention to Acquire (NOITA) the easement, in accordance with the process set out in the <i>Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986 (Vic)</i> (LACA). The NOITA would include details of the interest to be acquired, including a diagram of the easement.
4 Notice of Acquisition	At least two months after a landholder receives the notice of intention to acquire, TCV will publish a Notice of Acquisition in the Victorian Government Gazette and in a local newspaper. A copy will also be served to the landholder within 14 days. Once the notice is published in the Victorian Government Gazette, the easement is formally created and automatically vests in TCV.
5 Compensation & entry into possession	Compensation Within 14 days after the Notice of Acquisition is published in the Victorian Government Gazette, TCV will provide the landholder with a revised compensation offer for the easement. This offer will include a certificate of valuation prepared by an appointed valuer, in accordance with the <i>Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986 (Vic)</i> (LACA). After receiving the compensation offer, the landholder must notify TCV whether they: • Accept the offer (by providing TCV with a notice of acceptance, or • Dispute the offer (by submitting a notice of claim) in accordance with the LACA. If a resolution cannot be reached, the matter may be referred to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) or the Supreme Court of Victoria for determination. Entry into Possession TCV will provide landholders with required advance notice prior to the first entry onto the property to commence the use of the easement.
6 Registration	TCV will register the easement on the title of the land, this will typically occur following construction and cadastral survey of the easement area.

Property Management Plan

A Property Management Plan (PMP) will be agreed with you to outline practical, property-specific measures aimed at minimising the risk of damage to either your property or our infrastructure.

These measures might include things like:

- Exclusion zones, where only certain activities are permitted
- Specific conditions around how and when we may access the site

The main purpose of the PMP is to prevent damage and avoid unreasonable disruption of activities – either yours or ours.

Insurance

TCV continues to work closely with the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) to understand how transmission infrastructure may affect insurance coverage for landholders, both those with proposed infrastructure on their property and those neighbouring the VNI West Project Easement.

TCV and VicGrid will continue to consult with external parties (including the ICA and individual insurers where appropriate), to provide clearer information for landholders and neighbours about any potential insurance implications.

Because insurance policies and advice can vary depending on individual circumstances, landholders are encouraged to speak directly with their insurance company or broker. This advice can also inform compensation discussions.

TCV and its contractors will maintain public liability insurance.

For more information, read our Transmission Infrastructure and Insurance Guide, available at:

transmissionvictoria.com.au/fact-sheets-policies

Privacy and Complaints or Disputes

Use of Personal Information

We are committed to protecting your personal information in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth). Our information systems are designed, operated and maintained in accordance with international standards and best practice for data security. We periodically review our information security practices to ensure personal information is protected from misuse, loss, or unauthorised access, modification and disclosure.

Unless required by law, we take reasonable steps to destroy or permanently de-identify personal information when it is no longer required.

How Records are Kept

Information about landholders – including meeting notes – is stored in TCV's stakeholder management system. This information is only shared with TCV's experts when relevant to matters such as access, design or project approvals.

Field survey and investigation findings may be used in project approval documentation, but they will never include personal information.

Our Privacy Policy

For details on how your personal information is handled, refer to AEMO's full Privacy Policy, available at: aemo.com.au/en/privacy-and-legal-notice/privacy-policy

Under the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth), you have the right to request access to your personal information. You can make this request through the TCV website.

If you have questions about the way we handle your personal information, please contact us by:

Calling AEMO's Information and Support Hub on 1300 236 6000 during usual business hours
Phone: TCV on 1800 824 221
Email: enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au

Complaints

TCV is committed to complying with the Land Access Code of Practice (LACoP) developed by the Essential Services Commission, which sets out clear obligations and standards for how we conduct land access.

We encourage landholders to raise any concerns or complaints directly with their Landholder Liaison as the first point of contact.

If a complaint cannot be resolved to your reasonable satisfaction, you can escalate it to TCV management. Details of the internal escalation process are outlined in the Enquiry and Complaint Handling Policy available on the TCV website.

Complaints can be made by phone, email or by letter. Please refer to the Complaints Policy on the TCV website (transmissionvictoria.com.au/fact-sheets-policies) for further information how to lodge a complaint and what details to include.

Contact details to make complaints to TCV are outlined below:

Free call: 1800 824 221

Email: enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au

Post: Manager Project Stakeholder and Community Engagement GPO Box 2008,
Melbourne VIC 3000



How Will Land Access or Acquisition Disputes Be Resolved?

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your complaint to the project team, and depending on the nature of the complaint, you may escalate your concerns to an external body:

- The Energy and Water Ombudsman of Victoria (EWOV)
- The Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC)

(See contact details in the section below)

If your complaint relates to an agreement between you and TCV (such as a Land Access Agreement or Option for Easement), you may also use the dispute resolution process outlined in that agreement.

Energy and Water Ombudsman of Victoria (EWOV)

EWOV (ewov.com.au) is a free, independent, and fair dispute resolution service for Victorians. It can receive complaints about the way a transmission company proposes to, or has, used its rights to access private property. EWOV can help you and TCV reach a resolution based on the facts or determine a fair and reasonable outcome to a complaint.

Free call: 1800 500 509

Email: ewovinfo@ewov.com.au

Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC)

The AEIC (aeic.gov.au) provides information about how to make a complaint, best industry practice and resources for landholders. The Commissioner may handle complaints from concerned community residents who live in proximity to proposed or operating wind farms, large-scale solar farms (5 MW or more), energy storage facilities like as large-scale batteries (1 MW or more), and new major transmission projects. The AEIC can be contacted by:

Free call: 1800 656 395

Email: aeic@aeic.gov.au

For more information on complaints and dispute resolution please refer to transmissionvictoria.com.au

Useful contacts

Outlined below are some resources which may be helpful if you're looking for further information about VNI West and the material included in this Landholder Guide:

Australian Energy Market Operator

aemo.com.au – including information on the Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T) process for this project.

Energy Safe Victoria

energysafe.vic.gov.au – including information about the safe design and operation of high voltage transmission networks in Victoria.

Environment Effects Statement Process in Victoria

planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments/environmental-assessment-guides/environment-effects-statements-in-victoria – including information about the regulated environment assessment process in Victoria.

Essential Services Commission

esc.vic.gov.au – including information about the regulation of transmission licenses in Victoria such as the Electricity Transmission Company Land Access Statement of Expectations and the Land Access CoP.

Community Support Services

We understand the prospect of new transmission infrastructure has caused stress for some landholders and community members. We acknowledge the genuine impact this project may have and recognise that, for some, it may affect mental health and wellbeing.

While we will do our best to mitigate impacts to mental health through respectful and transparent engagement, professional support may be more helpful in some case. If you or someone you know is struggling, we encourage you to reach out to the free, confidential counselling service engaged by TCV.

Converge International

Converge International is a 24/7 mental health and wellbeing service, offering access to over 1,800 qualified clinical professionals. The service is designed to help with a wide range of wellbeing issues and is completely confidential.

While TCV funds the service, it does not see or have access to personal your personal information. Converge will only collect the information needed to provide support.

Please call 1300 687 327 and reference 'VNI West'.

Additional support for landholders is available through the following organisations:

Organisation	Services	Details
RFCS Victoria West	Financial counselling, small business and wellbeing support for farmers and regional businesses	1300 735 579 www.rfcs.com.au
Head to Health	Easy access to digital mental health and wellbeing services, information and support	1800 595 212 headtohealth.gov.au
Beyond Blue	Free online and telephone helpline for people seeking mental health information or qualified support	1300 224 636 beyondblue.org.au
Lifeline	Provides access to 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention services	13 11 14 lifeline.org.au

Translation and Interpretation

If you need an interpreter, please contact the project team and we will make the appropriate arrangements.

Call 1800 822 241 or email enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au.

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.

Glossary

Australian Energy Market Operator	The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) is Australia's independent system and market operator and system planner.
Benefit Payment	The Benefit Payment for VNI West refers to the per-hectare payment available to landholders. Landholders are eligible to receive 20% of the Benefit Payment upon signing the Enablement and Access Deed. The Benefit Payment recognises the contribution of landholders in supporting critical infrastructure and aims to ensure compensation is fair, transparent, and respectful.
Compulsory Acquisition	Compulsory acquisition refers to the legal process whereby an authorised entity compulsorily acquires an interest in land for public use. Landholders in Victoria are entitled to compensation if this occurs. Compulsory acquisition is often used to secure land necessary for projects like roads, solar or wind farms, and other infrastructure.
Conditional Payments	Conditional payments are case-by-case payments based on a landholder's unique circumstances. Examples of conditional payments include construction licence fees or easement registration costs.
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a statistical measure of the average price change over time for consumer goods and services. CPI is widely used as an economic indicator and is a key tool for measuring inflation.
Draft Corridor	The Draft Corridor for VNI West refers to the 2-kilometre-wide area identified in October 2023 as the likely route for the project.
Easements	An easement is legal right to access or use part of another person's land for a specific purpose, like operating public infrastructure. The easement is registered on the land title to ensure it is accurately shown in searches of the land title. The easement can only be changed or removed with consent from both the landholder and grantee of the easement.
Enablement and Access Deed	The Enablement and Access Deed is a formal agreement that allows TCV to access land for surveys and preliminary investigations. It includes details about the Benefit Payment and negotiating an easement under the OfE.
Environment Effects Statement (EES)	An Environment Effects Statement (EES) is Victoria's most comprehensive environmental assessment process for major projects. The EES identifies and evaluates potential environmental impacts to impact project design.
Essential Services Commission (ESC)	The Essential Services Commission (ESC) is an independent statutory authority responsible for regulating essential services in Victoria, including energy. The ESC helps ensure services are safe, reliable, and affordable.
Energy and Water Ombudsman (Victoria) (EWOV)	EWOV is an independent and free dispute resolution service for electricity, gas, and water complaints in Victoria. EWOV can consider complaints related to land access, including how a transmission company proposes to, or has, accessed private property.
Insurance Council of Australia (ICA)	The Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) is the national body representing the insurance sector in Australia. It advocates for policyholders and works to highlight the importance of insurance to the economy and society.
Land Access Code of Practice (LACOP)	The LACOP is mandatory set of rules and standards that licensed electricity transmission companies in Victoria must follow when accessing or seeking to access or acquire private land.
Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986 (LACA)	The LACA is a law outlining how land can be compulsorily acquired in Victoria and how compensation must be assessed and provided.
Option for Easement (OfE)	The OfE is a legal agreement that gives the project team permission to acquire an easement over land at a future date. It also sets out the rights and conditions that apply during construction and access.

Project Easement	The Project Easement is identified as the least constrained location for the 500 kV transmission line infrastructure, reflecting up-to-date consultation and assessments. The Project Easement is approximately 240 kilometres long and 70 metres wide, except for two locations where the easement widens to accommodate additional infrastructure.
Property Management Plan (PMP)	The PMP outlines how your property will be managed and protected during access, construction, and remediation. It forms part of your agreement with TCV.
Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T)	The RIT-T is a national framework used to identify the transmission investment option that delivers the greatest net economic benefit. Where relevant, it also ensures that reliability standards set by jurisdictional or Electricity Rules are met. The RIT-T provides a consistent process for assessing all transmission investments, removing the previous distinction between projects driven by reliability needs and those delivering market benefits.
Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)	REZs are designated areas of the state that not only have abundant renewable energy resources – like wind and sun – but are also appropriate for development from a land use and environmental perspective. REZs may contain renewable energy infrastructure including solar and wind projects, and batteries for storage, and will be connected to the transmission network in an orderly and efficient way.
Terminal Station	A terminal station is a key component of the electrical grid and is crucial in ensuring a stable and safe electrical supply. Victoria is home to over 60 such facilities, designed to facilitate the transition of electricity from high-voltage transmission lines to lower-voltage distribution networks that directly serve homes and businesses.
Transgrid	Transgrid is a Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSP), which builds, owns and operates electricity transmission in NSW and the ACT. Transgrid is developing the NSW section of VNI West.
Transmission Company Victoria (TCV)	Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) is a new company established by AEMO to deliver VNI West. TCV will engage with landholders, Traditional Owners, and the wider community to understand local concerns and ensure that any commitments made early in the process are upheld throughout the life of the project.
Transmission Licence	A transmission licence authorises the holder to operate transmission infrastructure and transmit electricity in Victoria. TCV holds a transmission licence to support the development and delivery of the VNI West project
Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSP)	In September 2024, a tender process was launched to identify a TNSP with the capability and capacity to help complete early works, and ultimately, construct, own and operate VNI West. Before construction begins, the plan is for the selected TNSP to acquire TCV. It has always been AEMO's plan to find a TNSP to build, own and operate VNI West.
VicGrid	VicGrid coordinates the overarching planning and development of Victorian Renewable Energy Zones and oversees transmission investment decisions.
Western Renewables Link (WRL)	The Western Renewables Link (WRL) is a proposed new 190km overhead high-voltage electricity transmission line that will carry renewable energy from Bulgana in western Victoria to Sydenham in Melbourne's north-west. The project is critical infrastructure required to unlock the renewable energy potential of western Victoria as a key Renewable Energy Zone and will help to deliver clean and affordable energy to all Victorians.

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Important Notice

This document or the information in it may be subsequently updated or amended.

This document does not constitute legal or business advice and should not be relied on as a substitute for obtaining detailed advice about the National Electricity Law, the National Electricity Rules or any other applicable laws, procedures or policies or investment or business decisions. The Australian Energy Market Operator Limited (AEMO) and Transmission Company Victoria Pty Ltd (TCV) have made every reasonable effort to ensure the quality of the information in this document but cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness.

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- are not liable (whether by reason of negligence or otherwise) for any statements or representations in this document, or any omissions from it, or for any use or reliance on the information in it.

Contact us

Website: transmissionvictoria.com.au

Email: enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au

Free call: 1800 824 221

Facebook: @TransmissionVictoria

X: @TransmissionVic

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