Roles and Responsibilities

VNI West will deliver a new electricity transmission line between Victoria and New South Wales. It will connect Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) in both states and support reliable, secure electricity supply as coal-fired generation retires.

Delivering VNI West

Who is delivering VNI West?

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) is responsible for national electricity system and market operation under the National Electricity Market.

Under these arrangements, each state is responsible for planning its own electricity transmission network. In Victoria, this role transferred from AEMO to VicGrid in November 2025. In New South Wales, it is carried out by Transgrid.

VicGrid is progressing the Victorian section of VNI West, while Transgrid is progressing the New South Wales section.

Victorian section

Iberdrola Australia (Iberdrola) is VicGrid's development partner for VNI West. Iberdrola's local team is supported by the global Iberdrola Group, who have extensive experience delivering large-scale energy infrastructure projects and working with communities in Australia and internationally.

Recognising the importance of regional engagement, the development partner tender process required proponents to demonstrate how they would work closely with landholders, Traditional Owners, and local communities. Iberdrola was selected based on their technical capability and approach to transparent, responsible delivery.

VicGrid is leading the development of VNI West, with Iberdrola supporting project design, procurement, planning approvals, the Environment Effects Statement process, and engagement. If Iberdrola meet expectations, they will be appointed to build, own, and operate the project under VicGrid's oversight. Iberdrola's on-ground presence will grow as the project progresses.

VicGrid is a state-owned business corporation responsible for planning electricity transmission infrastructure and coordinating Renewable Energy Zones (REZs). It leads the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF) and the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan, which guide long-term investment in clean, reliable energy.

VNI West is not being delivered under the VTIF framework, but its principles — including strategic land use, place-based engagement, and benefit sharing — are being applied where appropriate.

For VNI West, VicGrid is leading land access, planning, and environmental approvals. VicGrid will continue working with landholders, Traditional Owners, and the community to understand local concerns, provide regular updates, and incorporate feedback into route refinement where possible.

For more information, visit **www.vniwproject.com.au**.

New South Wales section

Transgrid is the transmission network service provider for New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. It plans, builds, owns, and operates electricity transmission infrastructure across both jurisdictions.

Transgrid is progressing the New South Wales section of VNI West.

For more information, visit **www.transgrid.com.au**, call **1800 955 588** or email **VNIW@transgrid.com.au**.

Other entities

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

AEMO develops the Integrated System Plan, which sets out the infrastructure needed to maintain a safe and reliable electricity supply for all Australians as the energy system transitions, and to meet future demand and government emissions targets through to 2050.

The **Essential Services Commission (ESC)** is Victoria's independent regulator for essential services, including energy, water, and transport. Its role is to protect the interests of Victorian consumers by regulating price, quality, and reliability, and by licensing electricity and gas generation, transmission, and supply.

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

The ESC has issued an enforceable Land Access Code of Practice (LACoP), which sets out how transmission companies must engage with landholders when accessing land under Section 93 of the Electricity Act 2000. VicGrid will comply with the LACoP when accessing land for VNI West.

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

As part of this role, it oversees bushfire mitigation programs and, in 2023, published a report on transmission lines, bushfire management, and community safety. The report outlines how community safety is addressed through the design and development of transmission networks.

The **Australian Energy Regulator (AER)** is responsible for protecting energy consumers by regulating electricity and gas markets in southern and eastern Australia. It enforces the laws of the National Electricity Market and spot gas markets to support safe, reliable, and affordable energy.

The AER also administers the Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T), a public cost-benefit assessment that helps ensure consumers do not pay more than necessary for major transmission projects.

The AER works closely with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on energy matters under the Competition and Consumer Act 2010.

AusNet is Victorian transmission network service provider that owns and operates more than 6,500 kilometres of electricity transmission lines across the state.

In addition to maintaining and developing Victoria's transmission and distribution networks, AusNet is contracted to deliver the Western Renewables Link (WRL). WRL is proposed to connect to VNI West at a new terminal station near Bulgana.

For more information about WRL, visit **www.westernrenewableslink.com.au**, call **1300 360 795** or email **info@westernrenewableslink.com.au**.

Contact us

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If you need an interpreter, please call 13 12 50 and reference VNI West. If you are deaf and/or find hearing or speaking with people on the phone difficult, please contact the National Relay Service on voice relay number 1300 555 727, TTY number 133 677 or SMS relay number 0423 677 767.