VNI West Community Reference Group

February 2026

Chairperson's summary and update

CRG BRIEF UPDATE

The VNI West Community Reference Group (CRG) met for its fourteenth meeting on 17 February 2026, bringing together community members and senior representatives from VicGrid. Eight community members joined the closed door discussion in the first hour to prepare questions for VicGrid VNI West Team. Notes for this session are recorded in confidence.

For the second part of the meeting, CRG community members were joined by Mick Douge (VNI West Program Director), Mark Gledhill (VNI West Senior Project Manager), Amy Pepper (VNI West Lead, Communications, Engagement and Social Performance), Ali Driscoll (VNI West Senior Advisor Engagement), and Geoff Caine (Regional Director North West, VicGrid).

Key topics of discussion included:

- Transmission Company Victoria responsibilities have now been transferred to VicGrid VNI West. All management is now under VicGrid.
- Land Easement and Access Packages (LEAP) will be updated to reflect the name change. VicGrid are working on providing these packages in a digital format.
- 86 landholders have appointed legal representatives through the LEAP process, which is funded through VicGrid.
- VicGrid are negotiating access to properties so surveys can be completed for the Environmental Effects Statement. Access will proceed using the Section 93 process which involves Authorised Officers.
- Emergency management plans for extreme weather events, including the State Emergency Management Plan Energy sub plan.
- Planning for the CRG meetings for 2026, proposed future meeting topics included:
  - What we mean when we refer to “community” and what it means for benefits, impacts and social cohesion
  - Introduction to Iberdrola, the development partner
  - Insurance, risk and liabilities discussion with the Insurance Council of Australia
  - Victorian Transmission Plan overview and update, including discussion about the cumulative impacts of energy and lessons from the water sector
  - Environmental Effects Statement key periods for community input

As always, I appreciate the contribution of members to this forum for two way communication between community and the project.

The minutes for the February meeting will be reviewed and endorsed by the CRG at its next meeting.

This report has been prepared by:

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