

Social



Environment Effects Statement

An [Environment Effects Statement \(EES\)](#) is Victoria's most rigorous and transparent environmental impact assessment. It describes the project, its rationale, and potential environmental and social effects.

Scoping requirements

In February 2025, the Victorian Minister for Planning issued the final scoping requirements for the VNI West EES, setting out the proposed specific matters to be investigated and documented in the EES. While the scoping requirements are intended to cover all relevant matters, the EES can also address other significant matters that emerge during the EES investigations or through consultation.

Social scoping requirements

The EES scoping requirements state that social aspects have been identified as high priority for technical investigations of potential impacts, due to the extensive length of the proposed transmission corridor. The corridor traverses a variety of land uses such as agricultural areas, townships and settlements, airstrips, parks, reserves, and significant environmental assets. The potential for social impacts – whether real or perceived – can influence the wellbeing of individuals, communities, and businesses, as well as social cohesion, with possible long-term consequences and lasting changes.

Matters for investigation

- *Potential significant disruption – both long and short-term – to existing and/or proposed land uses (including agriculture), public infrastructure, and fire and emergency management, with associated economic and social effects*
- *Potential effects on the community and social setting (including wellbeing) of the project area of interest*

Assessment overview and study methodology

The EES Social Impact Assessment will identify and evaluate the project's predicted social impacts on the community. The assessment is taking the following approach:

- Interviews with a wide range of stakeholders from across the project area
- Online surveys
- Drop-in community information sessions
- EES technical studies review
- Secondary data analysis including interactive map data and stakeholder meeting summaries

Scan this QR code to view the complete list of [scoping requirements](#) for the VNI West project





Local input

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

Our engagement in relation to social impact matters as part of the EES has included conversations with landholders, Traditional Owners, Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), and business, community organisation and government representatives. These stakeholders have provided valuable input into existing social conditions and the project's potential effects on the community and social setting.

Themes from our conversations with landholders, local community members, and other stakeholders are outlined below:

Next steps

The Social Impact Assessment will consider all potential impacts of the project identified in the other EES studies to make an expert assessment of the temporary, permanent, and cumulative social impacts that could result from the project. Impacts may be negative (such as loss of visual amenity) or positive (such as increased spending in local businesses). The study will consider measures which could be adopted to mitigate potential negative social impacts. These could include wider community benefits to offset impacts.

Whole of community impacts	Landholder impacts including (Traditional Owners)	Local government
 Visual impact and infrastructure design	 Spiritual impacts (night sky)	 Attracting renewable projects
 Mental health impacts	 Biodiversity	 Economic growth
 Impact of Electric Magnetic Fields (EMF)	 Community engagement	 Housing opportunity
 Vegetation removal	 Compensation	 Infrastructure benefits
 Future transmission projects	 Insurance	 Ratepayer sentiment/relationships
 Organisational trust	 Biosecurity	
 Impacts as a result of landholder decisions	 Aerial agricultural activities	
 Benefits sharing	 Bushfire	
 Project suppliers and partners	 GPS impacts	
	 Flood risk (Kerrang Terminal Station)	
	 Cultural heritage (Aboriginal and European)	

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