RMCG

VNI West Community Reference Group

August 2025

Chairperson's summary and update

The VNI West Community Reference Group (CRG) met for its twelfth meeting on 19 August 2025, which brought together community members and senior representatives from TCV. Nine community members joined the closed door discussion in the first hour to prepare questions for visiting guests. Notes for this session were recorded in confidence.

For the main part of the meeting, CRG community members were joined by TCV senior representatives Claire Cass (GM Victorian Network Services and Delivery), Mick Douge (Program Director), Mark Gledhill (Senior Project Manager), Amy Pepper (Lead, Engagement and Social Performance), Ali Driscoll (TCV Senior Advisor Engagement), Colin Homes (TCV Lead, Environment and Planning) and Evan Morris (Engineering Lead). There were also five observers.

The CRG had the opportunity to ask questions of the meeting guests. Key topics of discussion included:

- Project update stating that:
  - the Environmental Effects Statement process is underway
  - Easement offers were delivered and 70% of landholders were engaged
  - TCV is in the process of finalising a development partner
  - Stakeholders have provided feedback which led to changes such as the introduction of a Landholder Benefit Payment (separate form compensation), Increased access payments for landholders, and ongoing advice from the Social Values Reference Group on benefits
- Overview of the Environmental Effects Statement process and expert study requirements
- Answers to machinery height restrictions and permit requirements, which was requested at the last meeting. There is a 5m height restriction. For machinery over 5m, a permit is required. This is based on Energy Safe Victoria Guidelines.
- Machinery height permits
- The proposed VNI West Visualisation Tool that will enable landholders to visualise the VNI West infrastructure
- The scale of community benefits, noting that the Social Value Reference Group is the current mechanism to help advocate for and guide investment in communities

- Landholder payments and tax implications for landholders – past queries on this were still in the process of being resolved with the State and the tax commissioner.

The CRG is a place for two way communication between community and TCV. Please get in touch if you would like to know more or become involved.

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