

Who's Leading VNI West? Understanding Project Partners



At our Regional Pop-Ups, one of the most common questions we're asked is: "Who is actually leading the VNI West project?"

It's a great question – and one that reflects how invested local communities are in understanding the bigger picture. While Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) is leading the development phase, a number of key organisations are playing an important role in progressing VNI West. Here's a quick guide to who's involved and what they're responsible for.

Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)

AEMO is Australia's independent energy system and market operator, and system planner. AEMO's purpose is to ensure safe, reliable and affordable energy and to enable the energy transition for the benefit of all Australians. AEMO was involved in the early planning stages of VNI West and created Transmission Company Victoria to progress this project.

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV)

TCV's mission is to progress VNI West, leading the development phase, ensuring the project is well planned, informed by community consultation and meets regulatory requirements. The Essential Services Commission (ESC) recently granted TCV a transmission license, confirming that TCV has the expertise to guide this phase of the project.

The Development Partner

In the coming months, AEMO will announce the appointment of a Development Partner who will support the finalisation of early works and take on construction and operation of the project. TCV will continue to lead the project through development, working closely with the new partner to ensure commitments, community concerns and insights gathered over the past three years remain central to the project. Before VNI West moves into construction, the intention is that TCV will be acquired by the selected partner. Opportunities to engage with the development partner will be shared once appointed.

VicGrid

VicGrid is part of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change (DEECA) and is responsible for coordinating transmission planning and development of Victorian renewable energy zones. The Victorian Government is introducing reforms under the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF) to change how transmission projects are planned and delivered. As part of these changes, responsibility for planning Victoria's transmission infrastructure will shift from AEMO to VicGrid. These reforms will not impact TCV's role in engaging with the community and delivering the current phase of VNI West. We will keep landholders and communities informed as these changes take shape.

Transgrid

Transgrid is a TNSP, responsible for developing the New South Wales section of the VNI West project. TCV and Transgrid are working closely to ensure project alignment.

Understanding the Transmission Licence

In February, TCV was granted a transmission licence by the Essential Services Commission. This is a standard part of delivering a major transmission project and allows us to continue progressing environmental and planning approvals.

The licence does not change how we work with landholders and communities. TCV remains committed to designing the project with the least impact on people, farming operations and the environment. We will continue working with landholders to finalise voluntary Land Access Agreements, and in the coming months, we will begin discussions around Option for Easement agreements and compensation.

Staying Connected

We want to keep you up-to-date with VNI West through regular updates, covering key topics such as the Environment Effects Statement (EES) and the selection of a new development partner. You can register for project updates, receive the latest news and get information on upcoming events by visiting transmissionvictoria.com.au

