RMCG

VNI West Community Reference Group

August 2026

Chairperson's summary and update

CRG BRIEF UPDATE

The VNI West Community Reference Group (CRG) met for its seventeenth meeting on 18 August 2026 in Charlton. It was great to be back in person to keep up the two-way communication between communities and the VNI West project.

The meeting involved 12 CRG community members who were joined by VNI West Project team members and some VicGrid and Iberdrola Australia observers.

Key topics of discussion included:

- Project Update on the environmental and technical surveys currently underway, the new Stawell Regional Project office, and Options for Easement update including that the payment has been raised to $56,000/ha to align with other projects across the state
- A briefing on the Northern Grampians Mental Health Pilot Program, which will be called Farmgate Conversations and run independently by Grampians Community Health
- An update on the work of the Social Values Reference Group and associated workshop on community priorities
- In general business, we also discussed the infringement fines for denying authorised officers and VicGrid access to their properties for planning and survey work related to the VNI West project.

I thank all CRG members for working in good faith to come back for another interesting and constructive meeting.

The minutes for the July meeting are now available on the CRG website, and the minutes for this August meeting will be reviewed and endorsed by the CRG at its next meeting.

This report has been prepared by:

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