

Interactive Map Summary August 2023

Victoria NSW Interconnector West (VNI West) is a project to build a new transmission line between Victoria and New South Wales. It will harness clean, low-cost electricity from renewable energy zones (REZs) in both states and improve the reliability and the security of electricity supply as ageing coal-fired power stations retire.

An interactive map was open for public comment between **27 May to 2 August 2023 (9.5 weeks)**. Participants were able to submit comments for consideration through this online tool or call the project team to add comments.

A total of **4,009** stakeholders and community members visited the map. Of these, 201 users provided a total of **2326** comments. The interactive map was promoted through project updates, social media, newspapers and in person at community events.

Purpose of interactive map

The purpose of the interactive map was to seek community insight on key constraints in the Area of Interest for consideration in the ongoing route refinement process. The map also provided a record of submissions received on the additional February 2023 Consultation Report, specific to each local area.

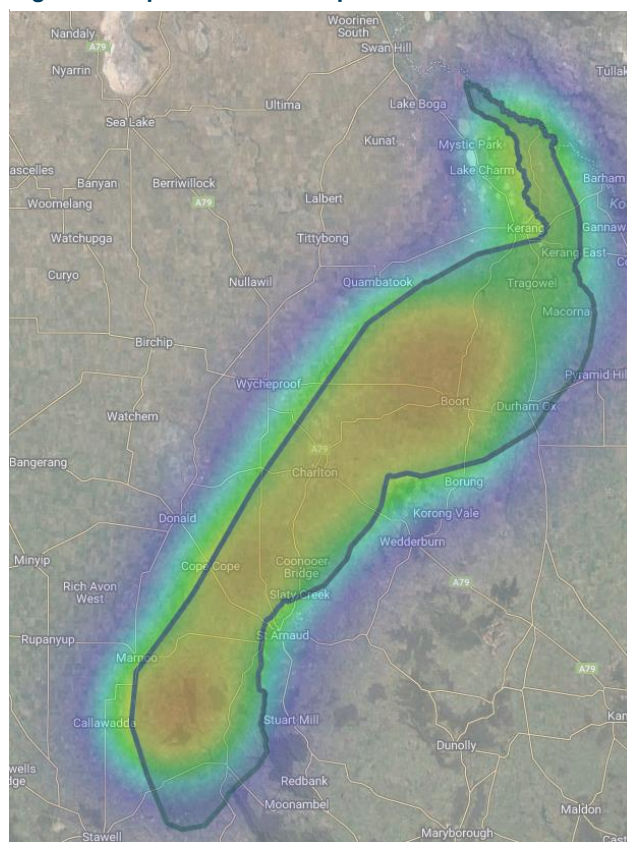
Location of comments

Overall, the largest number of comments were received in the south-west around Kanya, Wallaloo East and Marnoo.

Table 1 - Top ten locations

Location	Count
Kanya	380
Wallaloo East	353
Paradise	130
Charlton	87
Marnoo	83
Minmindie	82
Cope Cope	77
Tottington	55
Barraport	51
Gre Gre	51

Figure 1 – Option 5A heat map of comments



Key themes

Users identified numerous valuable insights for consideration in the route refinement process. These are outlined below.

Land use and agriculture

Of the comments received, **999** contained themes relating to land use and agriculture. Comments identified several constraints for consideration, including:

- Areas of irrigated agriculture
- Biosecurity requirements
- Existing farming infrastructure such as sheds, silos, paddocks and stock yards
- Properties utilising aerial technology (including drones and planes)

Comments also noted concerns on land devaluation, decreased productivity, easement restrictions, division of land, fire safety and land access.

Environmental

933 comments contained insights relating to environmental considerations. Most commonly, comments identified flood prone areas, watercourses, habitats for endangered or native species and areas hosting significant vegetation.

There were concerns that transmission infrastructure may interrupt natural environments and waterways, impact endangered species (particularly birds) and remove vegetation corridors.

Examples of species identified include:

- Swift Parrot
- Lace Monitor
- Growling Grass Frog
- Grew Crowned Babbler
- Australasian Bittern Frog
- Brolga
- Magpie Goose
- Downy Swainson-Pea
- Golden Sun Moth
- Diamond Firetails
- Wedge Tailed Eagles
- Plains Wanderer
- Southern Boobooks
- Curlews
- Grey Billy Button
- Fat Tailed Dunnart
- Brush-Tailed Phascogale
- The Powerful Owl
- Tree Goanna Varanus
- Barking Owl
- Rakali
- Kite Hawks
- Brown Falcons
- Tawney Frog Mouth Owls
- Cuckooshirkes
- Kestrels

Comments also identified specific protected vegetation for consideration, particularly in areas surrounding Lake Meran, Leaghur and Minmindie. Areas containing Buloke Trees, Box Trees and endangered orchids were noted most commonly.

Social and cultural considerations

88 comments identified social and cultural considerations including heritage sites, sites of Aboriginal significance, other cultural sites and locations of artefacts.

Sites of tourism were also noted, with some comments expressing concerns that transmission lines would impact visual amenity and thereby negatively affect tourism.

Examples of identified constraints include:

- Scar trees
- Oven mounds
- Approximate location of the Repat Jaara Baby
- Heritage buildings
- Historic sites
- War memorials



Figure 2 - Scar Tree and Old Mysia Store (supplied on the interactive map)

Existing infrastructure

288 comments identified numerous items of existing infrastructure. Examples include:

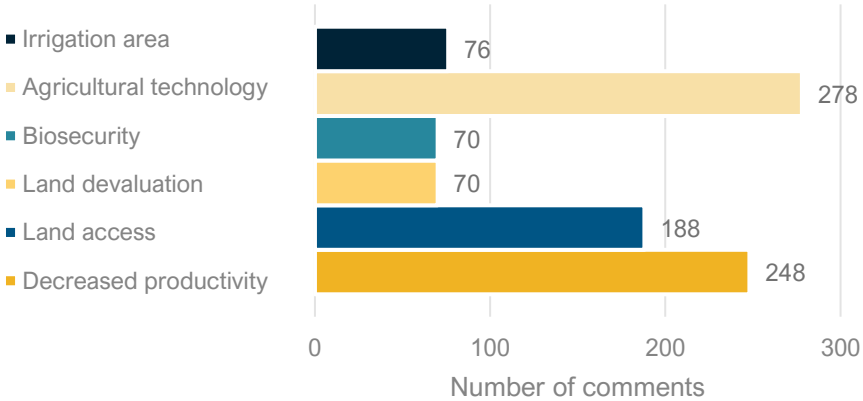
- Quarries
- Buildings
- Mobile towers
- Pipelines
- Roads
- Social infrastructure
- Train lines
- Residential areas and residences
- Agricultural infrastructure
- Fire breaks and water points
- Airports and aerodromes
- Mines

- Tourism infrastructure
- Fire stations
- Weather stations

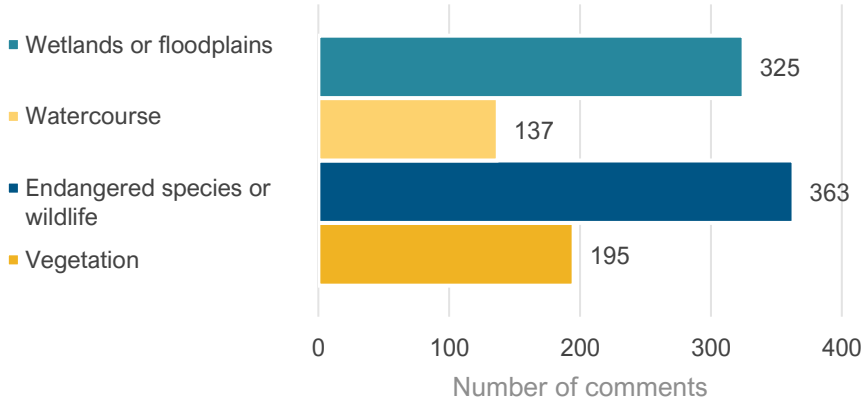
- Underground cables
- Underground artesian wells
- Gun clubs

Comment theme dashboard

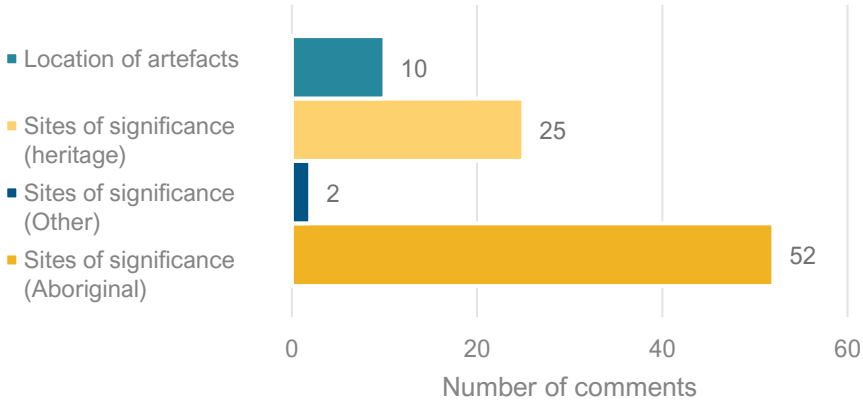
Land use and agriculture



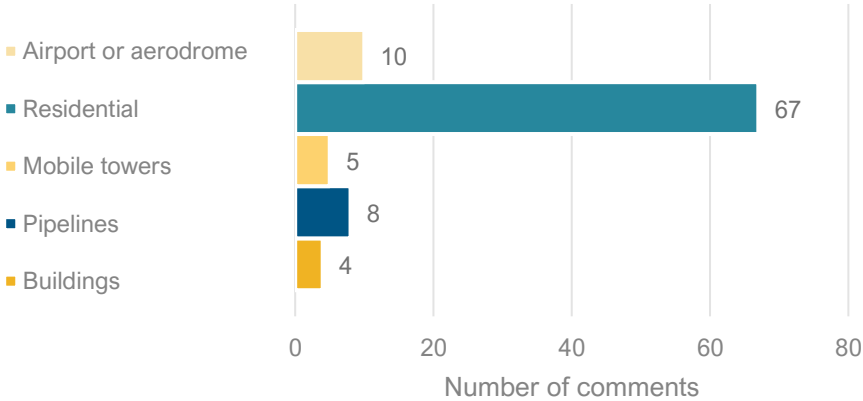
Environmental



Social and cultural



Existing Infrastructure



Next Steps

TCV will continue to engage with the community as the project progresses to provide information and seek input into important considerations such as opportunities for community benefit and ongoing route refinement.

The important insights provided by the community on the interactive map have assisted in the work to narrow the Area of Interest to a draft corridor. This is an area of approximately 2kms wide that runs from the Murray River to Bulgana.

The interactive map closed for further comments on 2 August 2023, however it will remain open for public view. You can visit the site to view all comments received here: <https://vniwest.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/vniwest>

On the 21st of August 2023 our land team began conversations with landholders in the draft corridor for the VNI West transmission project.

Out of respect for farmers and property owners, we want to do everything possible to contact property landholders within the draft corridor before making the details of the corridor public. This may take several weeks.

The draft corridor has been identified following feedback from landholders, community members, Traditional Owners, government agencies and stakeholders, as well as data from ongoing technical, engineering and environmental assessments.

A range of factors have been considered including ecology, sites of known Aboriginal cultural heritage, flooding, landscape, agricultural activities and proximity to residential areas and towns.

In coming months, TCV will refer a refined corridor to the Minister for Planning to consider whether an Environment Effects Statement will be required.

VNI West cannot proceed without planning approval from the State and Commonwealth Governments, which will require comprehensive environmental assessments over the next 12 – 18 months.

The final route for VNI West will not be finalised before 2025 and an easement for the project will not be required over all land in the draft corridor.

TCV greatly appreciates the engagement from landholders, Traditional Owners and communities to date and the important insights provided.