

Media Release

Friday 8 September



Incident at Gre Gre

On Wednesday 30 August two TCV landholder liaisons were involved in a threatening incident near Gre Gre in north-west Victoria.

The two people working on behalf of the VNI West project team were on a public road when they were surrounded by a group of people who blockaded their car with vehicles and farm machinery. They were prevented from leaving for 50 minutes and required local police assistance.

VNI West Project, Director Sam Magee said: “Two members of our team were on their way to an appointment with a local landholder, as part of current efforts to contact all landholders in the draft corridor for the project.

“The landholder had spoken with them by phone the previous day and had agreed to meet and receive some written information.

“We understand that some people are strongly opposed to VNI West, and we respect their views and their right to peacefully protest. For TCV, constructive engagement is demonstrating respect for all landholders and community members.

“However, threatening behaviour is not okay. It is at odds with the constructive and respectful conversations which we have had with many people across the region, regardless of personal views and opinions.

“It is disappointing that individuals have been personally targeted as they go about their work, and we ask that the safety of our people be respected,” he said.

The route for VNI West has not been finalised. The TCV land team has recently started contacting landholders in a draft corridor around 2 kilometres wide, which will be narrowed to a final easement between 70 metres and 120 metres wide by 2025.

Sam Magee said: “It is important that landholders have the opportunity to provide information about their land and land-use as we work to find the route that will have the least impact on farms and farming. This information will help to identify the best location for the transmission project, making sure that land use can be taken into account.

“By meeting with TCV’s landholder liaison team, a landowner is in no way implying support for the project or their agreement to have transmission lines on their property.

“Our landholder liaisons are looking for a simple, initial conversation which will help us to verify the information we have gathered so far as we work to refine the route for the project. It is also an important opportunity for landholders to ask questions and raise any concerns directly,” he said.

TCV is committed to engage respectfully. Our plans for contacting landholders have been widely communicated, including through the media. We are in the process of contacting all landholders within the draft corridor as a priority before we make details of the corridor public.

Ends...

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About TCV

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) is a new company created by AEMO Victorian Planning to progress the VNI West transmission project. TCV is currently in the process of applying for a transmission licence in Victoria, which is a normal step for providers of electricity transmission infrastructure in the state.

A transmission licence enables the holder to transmit electricity and operate the transmission infrastructure, and will also support the land access, planning and environment approvals work-

TCV will discuss the VNI West transmission project with landholders, Traditional Owners and the community to understand local concerns and ensure that commitments made in the early stages are captured and honoured across the life of the project. TCV will provide early project updates and will work with the community on this important transmission line. For more information, head to www.transmissionvictoria.com.au.

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