

24 August 2023

TCV is aware that residents in north-west Victoria have been approached by an unidentified market research company in recent days, with questions around transmission and the VNI West project.

TCV has not commissioned this research. Project Director Sam Magee said:

“We do not know who is conducting this research or why it is being undertaken. It is not TCV, AEMO or anyone directly affiliated with our project (including VicGrid).

“Our land team are in the process of contacting farmers and property owners in a draft corridor for the VNI West transmission project, which averages 2km wide and runs from the Murray River to Bulgana. There are currently around 350 landholders on our list to contact.

“We would like to reassure the community that anyone calling from TCV, including our land team, will always clearly identify themselves up front when calling a landholder or any member of the public.

“These conversations with individual landholders are important not just for TCV but for landholders - it’s an opportunity for farmers to ask us all their questions specific to their property and start to understand how they may be affected.

“TCV is very interested in obtaining feedback and insights from the community, including on opportunities for community benefits sharing.

“We are not conducting any market research at this time. If we do conduct market research, we will always be open and transparent with people that we are the party undertaking the research.

“An important new forum for the community is the Community Reference Group (CRG), which is being set up now. The CRG will have its first meeting in September, and will provide important local perspectives, feedback and input as the project progresses.

“It will also provide a forum for questions and concerns to be raised by local representatives on behalf of the community, and help identify opportunities for community benefits sharing,” he said.

Ends

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About TCV