

# Media Release

Date: Monday May 13, 2024



## Announcing a new approach to payments for land access

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) has actioned stakeholder feedback on Land Access Agreement (LAA) payments, increasing the payment to landholders who provide larger areas for survey areas.

Landholders can discuss land access agreements for VNI West, which start at \$10,000 to a maximum \$50,000, with their dedicated landholder liaison officers.

TCV spokesperson, Claire Cass, said the change in the LAA payment reflects the project's ongoing engagement with landholders who communicated the potential impost of survey access on their time.

"These payment changes acknowledge the administrative and time impost for landholders with larger properties, when they are negotiating and providing survey access for their land," she said.

"We are entering voluntary land access agreements with landholders across the ~2km VNI West draft corridor, outlining the terms and conditions for TCV to carry out field surveys on their land.

"The surveys are important to confirm the condition and environmental sensitivities of the land, and to enable us to reduce potential impacts of the project to people and farming.

"Total payments per property will now increase where access to a larger area of land is provided.

"Land access payments now range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per property. The change is retrospective, and landholders who have already entered a LAA may be eligible for additional payments dependent on the access area already agreed to.

"No landholders will receive less compensation because of this change. Our team of landholder liaisons championed this change, and they are the best point of contact for landholders to understand how these payments apply to them," she said.

Where a LAA payment exceeds \$30,000, TCV will look to register a caveat on the property title. The purpose of the caveat is to ensure that any new property owners are notified about TCV's interest in the property. This caveat will not provide TCV with any additional rights outside of the agreed LAA and will expire at the end of the agreed LAA term. This caveat will only come into effect if the land changes hands.

The LAA covers access for field surveys works only, it does not commit a landholder to having transmission infrastructure on their land or indicate endorsement of the VNI West project.

Land access payments are for field studies only. If a property is eventually confirmed as the location for the final easement, a separate process of negotiation will be undertaken for an "Option for Easement" agreement, which will include the amount of compensation and the terms for land access for VNI West construction and ongoing operations.

Further information regarding the VNI West Land Access Agreements can be found in our [Landholder Guide](#) and on the TCV website at [transmissionvictoria.com.au](https://transmissionvictoria.com.au).

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## ***About VNI West***

VNI West is a major project to build a new transmission line between Victoria and New South Wales. It will harness renewable energy in both states and improve the reliability and security of electricity supply as coal-fired power stations retire and energy demand continues to grow.

As coal-fired power stations retire, new renewable energy generation will be built to fill the supply gap. New transmission lines are needed to connect this power with our homes and businesses and improve reliability.

In Victoria, a draft corridor around 2km wide has been identified and will be narrowed down to a preferred easement of 70-120m wide in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2024, subject to project assessment and approvals. The corridor runs from Bulgana to near Kerang and then across the border into New South Wales. Construction is scheduled to commence after all approvals have been obtained, in 2026.

## ***About TCV***

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) is a company created by AEMO Victorian Planning to progress the VNI West transmission project. TCV will discuss the VNI West transmission project with landholders, Traditional Owners and the community to understand local concerns as the project moves toward construction. As AEMO is the system planner and will not physically construct or own the transmission lines, it established TCV to make sure that commitments made in the early stages are captured and honoured across the life of the project. TCV will provide project updates and will work with the community as it progresses this important transmission line. For more information, head to [www.transmissionvictoria.com.au](http://www.transmissionvictoria.com.au).