

RMCG

VNI West Community Reference Group

14 August 2024

Chairperson's summary and update

CRG BRIEF UPDATE

The VNI West Community Reference Group (CRG) met for the fifth time on Wednesday 14 August in Charlton. Thirteen CRG members attended, and six apologies were received.

For the first hour, CRG community members met with the Chairperson and Secretariat without the attendance of observers or guests, to allow time to discuss and review the operation of the CRG. Notes for this session were recorded in confidence.

Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) and other observers joined the second part of the meeting. Claire Cass (General Manager Victorian Network Services), Merryn York (Executive General Manager – System Design) and Samantha Smith (Manager Project Community and Stakeholder Engagement) from AEMO provided a background presentation, program update, answered questions and listened to concerns of the CRG. Key topics of discussion included:

- Appreciation of the time and commitment of the CRG in engaging about the project and recognition of the real and significant impact of the project on communities
- An update about the land access agreement, transmission license application, Environmental Effects Statement and route refinement processes
- An update about the Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSP) tender that will result in the AEMO selecting a partner to work alongside TCV to continue to develop the VNI West project, assist in the completion of the early works, and eventually build, own and operate VNI West
- Concerns about the project, including about the level of compensation for hosting Transmission lines versus hosting renewable energy infrastructure, neighbour compensation and communication
- A commitment by TCV to involve the CRG more in coming project milestones and broaden its influence, including through involvement in communications and engagement activities through the EES, involvement in Sponsorships and Donations Program and social procurement associated with the project tendering.

The minutes for the August meeting will be endorsed by the CRG at its next meeting. The minutes from CRG's fourth meeting in May will be available on [TCV's website](#) from 2 September 2024.

This report has been prepared by:

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