

# Environment Effects Statement

TCV is required to prepare an Environment Effects Statement for the VNI West project .

The EES will be assessed by the Victorian Minister for Planning and an independent panel, following a public submissions and public hearing process.

As part of the EES process, we are undertaking extensive technical studies, including field surveys and investigations, along with landholder, community, and Traditional Owner consultation.

The project must complete the EES process and obtain relevant Victorian and Commonwealth approvals before construction can commence.

## What is the goal of the Environment Effects Statement (EES)?

An Environment Effects Statement (EES) is the most rigorous environmental impact assessment process in Victoria. The EES process is administered by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on behalf of Victoria's Minister for Planning under the Environment Effects Act 1978.

The EES process is used to assess projects with potentially significant effects on the environment. It supports transparent, rigorous and integrated consideration of potential adverse effects that inform approval decisions.

For more information on the EES process, please refer to the Department of Transport and Planning website at [www.planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments](http://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments).

## Types of matters assessed in the EES

EES studies will be wide-ranging, and may address areas such as:

Social	Flooding
Bushfire	Aboriginal cultural heritage
Noise and vibration	Electrical and magnetic fields
Transport	Economic
Landscape and visual amenity	Agricultural and forestry
Geology	Surface water and groundwater
Air quality	Biodiversity
Land use and planning	Historic heritage
Greenhouse gas and climate change	Aviation

## How can the community provide input to the EES process?

The Department of Transport and Planning Victoria (DTP) will release the list of matters to be investigated and proposed studies in a draft scoping requirements document. Landholders and community members will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the EES study program before the scoping requirements are finalised.

A key opportunity for members of the public to provide input on the scoping requirements is the Department's formal public submissions process, which will run for a minimum of 15 business days. Details of this process can be found on the DTP website.

TCV will promote awareness of the opportunity to provide a submission to the EES draft scoping requirements. Throughout the EES process, we will continue to actively engage with local communities and landowners within the draft corridor for VNI West. This will include providing information about the investigations and assessments to inform the EES. Information and engagement opportunities will be promoted through regional advertising, targeted meetings, community information sessions, email updates and via our website.

Once the assessments are finalised and the EES prepared, it will be exhibited for public comment for a minimum of 30 business days. It is likely that a Public Hearing will also be conducted by an Independent Panel.

## TCV and the EES process

Studies and assessments to inform the EES and project design will take place in 2024 and 2025. Consultation is an important part of the EES, and TCV will engage with the community throughout this process. This process is overseen by the DTP. A Technical Reference Group (TRG) will be appointed by the Minister to provide advice and oversight throughout the process. We plan to submit the EES to the Minister in 2025.

## What is a Technical Reference Group?

A Technical Reference Group (TRG) will be convened by the department to provide advice throughout the EES process. The membership of a TRG comprises representatives from government agencies, regional authorities, municipal councils, and Registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with statutory, policy, or technical interests in the project. The proponent participates in TRG meetings by providing information and promoting, discussing, or responding to project and EES issues.

