

# Terminal Stations

## What is a terminal station?

You probably already know what a terminal station looks like even if you didn't know its name. You've likely driven or walked past one of the **60 plus terminal stations located in Victoria - this common electricity infrastructure is dotted throughout cities, regional towns and agricultural land, and is also often referred to as a substation.**

Terminal stations play a critical role in delivering secure and reliable electricity, converting electricity from high voltages to lower voltages so that it can be delivered through powerlines that supply homes and businesses.

Terminal stations contain electrical equipment which can transfer power between different voltage levels, stabilise voltage levels along the transmission line, move electrical energy from one point to another, and monitor and protect the transmission network.

## Is it dangerous to live near a terminal station?

Terminal stations are designed and constructed to minimise risk to the public, staff and the environment.

However, terminal stations contain high voltage electrical equipment and live electricity, which can be dangerous. For this reason, a terminal is generally secured within a locked fence, with a locked access gate, surveillance cameras and remote-controlled floodlights, and is closely monitored to restrict access and ensure community safety.

### Terminal Stations and EMFs

While terminal stations can be a source of electric and magnetic fields (EMFs), they are designed to ensure electric and magnetic field levels are below the international standard reference levels in all areas during operation.

There have been almost 3,000 studies carried out in relation to EMFs and the scientific evidence does not establish that exposure to EMFs found around the home, the office, near transmission infrastructure or other common electrical sources is a hazard to human health.

In Australia, the Government safety body ARPANSA advises that *"There is no established evidence that the exposure to magnetic fields from powerlines, substations, transformers or other electrical sources, regardless of the proximity, causes any health effects."*

For more information please see the "Electricity and Health" fact sheet on the [ARPANSA website](http://www.arpansa.gov.au) [www.arpansa.gov.au](http://www.arpansa.gov.au).



### Do terminal stations pose a fire risk?

Terminal stations do not pose any specific fire risk. As they are transmitting high voltage electricity, terminal stations are carefully designed with high security and measures in place to ensure they don't pose any risks to surrounding areas.

If there is a fault on site, including from a major fire emergency, automatic protection systems will shut down the terminal to remove any electrical safety risks. Terminal stations are generally remotely operated, and can be shut down remotely if required.

### Is a new terminal station planned for VNI West?

A new terminal station near Kerang in Victoria is required as part of the VNI West transmission project. TCV has signed a contract to purchase a property near Tragowel which - subject to planning and environmental approvals - is the proposed location for the new terminal station.

Expected dimensions of the proposed facility would be around 300m x 800m, leaving considerable areas of open space.

TCV must undertake an extensive planning and assessment process before the project is approved for construction, including a broad range of environmental and technical assessments such as noise and lighting studies. TCV will work closely with near neighbours and the local community to seek feedback and provide information throughout this process.

Construction of the new terminal station cannot commence until all appropriate environmental and planning approvals are obtained and will not begin before 2026.

## Contact details

Visit our website: [www.transmissionvictoria.com.au](http://www.transmissionvictoria.com.au)  
Contact us at: 1800 824 221 or [enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au](mailto:enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au)

