

# Submission to the Developing a Land Access Code of Practice Draft Decision

## Submission received through Engage Victoria

From 15 June to 27 July 2023, the commission accepted submissions on our draft Land Access Code of Practice via Engage Victoria. On 17 July 2023 we hosted an online public forum on the project, followed by an in-person forum with landholders on 25 July 2023. We have used these submissions to inform our final decision.

**Date submitted: 21/07/2023**

**Name: City of Melton**

**Stakeholder/interest group: Government body**

**Q6. Do you consider that the current proposed obligations in the code of practice provide enough clarity on what is expected from transmission companies when accessing land? Do the proposed obligations provide sufficient flexibility to develop new transmission projects and undertake significant upgrades?**

**Q7. Do you agree to the code of practice applying to all stages of a new transmission project in which section 93 access may be required?**

**Q8. Do you identify any issues with the proposed scope of the code of practice – that it would apply to all new transmission projects and significant upgrades on existing transmission projects?**

The City of Melton supports the Draft Land Access Code of Practice and commends the ESC for the development of the code to-date. It is encouraging to note that much of the points raised in the City of Melton's previous submission to the Making a Land Access Code of Practice: Consultation Paper, was acknowledged and incorporated into the draft code. Key points raised in our previous submission which were reflected in the draft code of practice include:

The enforceable nature of the code of practice and the nomination of the Energy and Water Ombudsman Victoria (EMOV) to manage enforcement of the code.

The application of the code expanding from a geographic area (greenfield land) to the electricity transmission companies. This is important due to the uncertain nature and location of future transmission projects.

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**Q9. Do you have any comments on the proposed general communication and engagement obligations on transmission companies before accessing land?**

**Q10. Do you have any comments on the proposed information and notices that should be provided by transmission companies to affected landowners and occupiers before accessing land under section 93 of the Act or entering into a voluntary access agreement? Should any information be added, removed or amended?**

**Q11. Do you consider that the proposed timing of 10 business days is sufficient period for a Notice of Access?**

**Q12. Do you have any comments on the proposed maximum access period?**

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The requirement to provide information to landowners and minimum notification time frames.

**Q13. Do you have any comments on the proposed risk mitigation obligations in the draft code of practice?**

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Additional training requirements and obligations for transmission company employees and contractors to ensure they have an appropriate skillset for land access.

**Q14. Do you have any comments on the proposed specific risk mitigation obligations in the draft code of practice related to biosecurity protocols, fire risk management and health management?**

**Q15. Do you have any comments on the proposed complaints handling and dispute resolution obligations in the draft code of practice?**

**Q16. Do you have any comments on the Energy and Water Ombudsman Victoria (EWOV) being the proposed dispute resolution scheme? Are there other dispute**

**resolution bodies we should consider? What would be the costs and benefits of those options?**

**Q17. For what period of time should transmission companies be required to retain records related to land access?**

**Q18. What scope of records should transmission companies be required to retain?**

**Q19. Are the proposed reporting requirements appropriate to monitor compliance with this draft code of practice? If no, what reporting should be required? Do you have any comments on whether the monthly reports should be used for additional purposes?**

**Q20. Is there any additional information we should consider on the expected costs and benefits of the draft code of practice?**

**Q21. Are there any other issues with implementing the code of practice we should consider?**