

Transmission Licence Application Factsheet

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) is in the process of applying to the Essential Services Commission (ESC) for a Victorian electricity transmission licence. TCV is a wholly owned subsidiary of AEMO created to progress the VNI West transmission project in Victoria.

Why is TCV applying for a transmission licence?

A transmission licence enables the holder to operate transmission infrastructure and transmit electricity in Victoria. Applying for a transmission licence is a regular part of delivering a project such as VNI West. The licence would support the land access, planning and environment approvals works underway as TCV proceeds with its plans to develop, design, build and operate the VNI West project.

What is VNI West?

VNI West is a project to build a new transmission line between Victoria and NSW. VNI West will harness clean, low-cost electricity from renewable energy zones (REZs) in both states and maintain the reliability and security of electricity supply as ageing coal-fired power stations retire and demand continues to grow. In AEMO's 2022 Integrated System Plan (ISP), VNI West was identified as an actionable project that should be progressed urgently and delivered as soon as possible. The 2024 ISP confirmed the continuing importance of the project to Victoria's energy transition.

The VNI West project will:

- Harness renewable energy for Victorians.
- Boost regional economic activity.
- Provide local jobs and business opportunities during construction.
- Support training and skills development in rural communities.
- Strengthen the connection between Victorian and NSW power grids.
- Ensure energy security as coal fired power retires.

What is in TCV's licence application?

TCV's licence application is publicly available on the ESC website <insert link>. At a high level, it includes:

- General information on TCV and VNI West, such as the purpose and scope of the project, and work being undertaken to progress its development.
- Detail relating to the technical capability of TCV to hold a licence, including relevant experience and industry knowledge, appointed consultants and contractors, risk management processes, land access approach and compliance management systems.
- The financial capability of TCV to progress VNI West.
- How TCV and VNI West will promote the long-term interests of Victorian consumers in respect to the price, quality and reliability of electricity.

The licence also outlines plans for AEMO to select a partner to work alongside TCV under a collaborative contracting model to continue delivery of the project, assist with the completion of the early works, and to eventually construct, own and operate VNI West.

What are the next steps in the licence application process?

The ESC will open the licence application to public comment for a period of six weeks. Details on how to make a submission can be found on the ESC website. TCV's application will be formally considered by the ESC once the consultation period has closed. The ESC's decision will be published via Engage Victoria and the Victorian Government Gazette. Those who make a submission will be notified of the decision via email.

What are the next steps for VNI West?

The draft corridor for the project is currently being narrowed to a preferred easement between 70m and 120m wide, with an update planned for September 2024.

VNI West is at the beginning of the environmental and planning approval process, including an Environment Effects Statement (EES) to comprehensively assess the potential environmental, cultural and social impacts of the project. A range of technical studies and assessments will take place over the next 18 months to inform the EES. TCV will consult with landholders, communities and Traditional Owners to understand local concerns as it continues to develop the project through the early works phase.

Construction is scheduled to commence in 2026, subject to the project receiving all required State and Commonwealth approvals.

More information

More information on VNI West can be found on the [TCV website](#).

- [Landholder Guide](#)
- [Fact sheets on farming, fire safety, biosecurity and more](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Reports on engagement to date](#)
- [TCV's Complaints Policy](#)
- [Key Roles and Responsibilities](#)

Where can I find more information?

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