

# Project update

Welcome to the Western Renewables Link April project update. In this update you can learn more about the new landholder guide on easement safety and permitted activities and a new Ballarat project focused on transitioning the city to 100% renewable energy, along with our attendance at the Wimmera Field Days, the updated EES Consultation Plan and new Project Overview video.

## New landholder guide on farming and easement safety

Updated information for landholders about farming and easement safety is now available in the new [Landholder Guide: Easement safety and permitted activities](#) available on the [project website resources page](#).

Key updates for landholders to note include:

- Drones may be allowed to operate within the easement subject to a safety assessment.
- End-guns will be allowed on centre pivot and lateral moving irrigators (large gun-type irrigators will not be allowed).
- An AusNet safety assessment will determine whether a spotter will be required for vehicles and equipment. Generally, equipment up to 8.6m at its maximum height will not require a spotter. The maximum height of vehicles and equipment cannot exceed 8.6m.

The [Landholder Guide: Easement safety and permitted activities](#) provides detailed information on:

- Agricultural, farming and general activities allowed in the Western Renewables Link easement.
- Safety clearances.
- Safety assessments and permits to work.
- Guidelines around transmission tower bases.



### Landholder guide webinar

On 25 March 2024 we hosted two webinar sessions with almost 40 people attending. We presented information on farming with the Western Renewables Link from the updated landholder guide and our panel answered lots of great questions from attendees.

Thank you to everyone who participated and asked questions. A copy of the transcript and webinar recording is available on our [project website resources page](#).

## Push to make Ballarat the first Australian city to be 100% powered by renewables



On 25 March, the Committee for Ballarat announced that together with more than 20 of Ballarat's largest businesses and industries they are commencing a project that could see Ballarat become Australia's first regional city to be powered by 100% locally generated renewable energy.

The Committee for Ballarat, in partnership with AusNet and Mondo, will provide technical support and advice to individual businesses to assess energy use and efficiencies and the potential for new energy solutions.

"AusNet is pleased to partner with Committee for Ballarat and local businesses to develop this pioneering concept. We look forward to working with the Ballarat Energy Network (BEN) to help them achieve their vision of 100% local generated renewable energy," said AusNet General Manager for Distributed Energy, Dhammika Adihetty.

More information about the project is available on the Committee for Ballarat [website](#).



### Have you seen the new Western Renewables Link Project Overview video?

For more information about the project you can watch our newly published Project Overview [video](#).

### Updated Environment Effects Statement (EES) Consultation Plan available

The existing [EES Consultation Plan](#) has been updated to reflect changes to the project and the new EES referral completed in [August 2023](#).

The EES Consultation Plan outlines the guiding principles and objectives of the project engagement program and provides an overview of our planned engagement activities and timeframes until completion of the [EES](#) process.

### Thank you Wimmera Field Days

The Wimmera Field Days was a great event to connect with and speak to the community about the Western Renewables Link.

We had more than 150 conversations with people who were keen to learn more about the proposed route, [farming with the Western Renewables Link](#) and [firefighting with transmission lines](#).

Thank you to everyone who came and spoke with us. We're looking forward to continuing to speak with the community at upcoming events over the next few months.

### About the project

The Western Renewables Link is a proposed new 190km overhead high-voltage electricity transmission line that will carry renewable energy from Bulgana in western Victoria to Sydenham in Melbourne's north-west.

The project is critical infrastructure required to unlock the renewable energy potential of western Victoria as a key Renewable Energy Zone and will help deliver clean and affordable energy to all Victorians.

For more information about the project, visit our [website](#).

### More information

Visit the project website [www.westernrenewableslink.com.au](http://www.westernrenewableslink.com.au) for the latest project information.

### Contact us

[www.westernrenewableslink.com.au](http://www.westernrenewableslink.com.au)  
1300 360 795  
[info@westernrenewableslink.com.au](mailto:info@westernrenewableslink.com.au)

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