

# Project update

Welcome to the Western Renewables Link December 2023 project update.

## A word from our General Manager



Malcolm Tinkler – General Manager

This year has been critical for the project, and I'd like to express my gratitude to those who have provided their feedback, engaged collaboratively with us and helped us facilitate field surveys to assess environmental impacts.

Next year will be a significant year for the project as we finalise and submit the Environment Effects Statement (EES), which informs the project's planning and environmental approvals. The EES process will offer the opportunity for you to read studies and provide feedback on the project and the impact assessments presented, which will be considered by the Minister for Planning.

My personal goal and commitment to you for 2024 is to keep you informed on the project's progress, by regularly communicating and being transparent about the project as it evolves.

I'd like to wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday period.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the team at [info@westernrenewableslink.com.au](mailto:info@westernrenewableslink.com.au) or 1300 360 795.

The Western Renewables Link is critical infrastructure required to unlock the renewable energy potential of western Victoria as the state transitions to cleaner, more sustainable energy.

Important progress has been made on the Western Renewables Link during 2023, as we continued working with landholders and community members to plan and co-design the project.

## What's happened throughout 2023

Throughout this year the Western Renewables Link project has continued to refine the design and planning for the project.

Here is a snapshot of progress this year:

- [National Electricity \(Victoria\) Act 2005 \(Vic\) Ministerial Order February 2023](#)
- [Community Consultation Group meeting March 2023](#)
- [Landholder guide: Option for Easement process and compensation March 2023](#)
- [Biosecurity fact sheet April 2023](#)
- [Community pop-up stalls April-May 2023](#)
- [Australian Energy Market Operator Victorian Planning Project Assessment Conclusions Report \(PACR\) for VNI West May 2023](#)
- [Community Consultation Group meeting June 2023](#)
- [Environment Effects Statement new referral August 2023](#)
- [Release of community engagement summary report August 2023](#)
- [Community Consultation Group meeting August 2023](#)
- [Project scope changes released including 500kV transmission line from Sydenham to Bulgana and terminal station changes](#)
- [Permitted vehicle and equipment heights fact sheet September 2023](#)
- [Project overview fact sheet September 2023](#)
- [Community information sessions October – November 2023](#)
- [Community webinar 2 November 2023](#)
- [Community webinar 28 November](#)
- [Landholder compensation and payments fact sheet November 2023](#)
- [CFA information about firefighting near transmission lines December 2023](#)

## Project planning and design refinements



**7**

Major route alternatives and multiple corridors investigated



**>4,500**

Individual tower moves



**>95**

Changes to the proposed route

## Ongoing community engagement



**900+**

Individual meetings with landholders



**1850+**

Phone calls to landholders



**5780+**

Project emails to stakeholders



**105,000+**

Visits to the project website

## Community engagement in 2024

We recognise the impact the Western Renewables Link will have on the environment and community and understand landholders and communities have concerns about the project. We will continue to engage, involve and inform you as we finalise the EES, with further engagements proposed in the new year, culminating in the submission of the EES in 2024.

There will be opportunities for the community to submit formal responses and feedback on environmental impacts, which include consideration of social, cultural and economic impacts. Submissions can be made during the public exhibition period of the EES.

We will provide further information about the EES process and associated planning approvals for the proposed Western Renewables Link early next year, including how you can navigate the EES process and make a submission.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the project, please visit our [website](https://www.westernrenewableslink.com.au), email us at [info@westernrenewableslink.com.au](mailto:info@westernrenewableslink.com.au) or call us on 1300 360 795. For landholders on the proposed route, your allocated Land Liaison Officer continues to be your main point of contact. If you do not have their contact details, then please contact us on the above email address.



### 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](https://www.westernrenewableslink.com.au).

### More information

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

### Contact us

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