

Welcome to the Western Renewables Link project update. Here you can read about the latest updates on the project’s initiatives for landholders and communities, the Environment Effects Statement (EES), which is currently targeted to begin this winter.



Progress update:

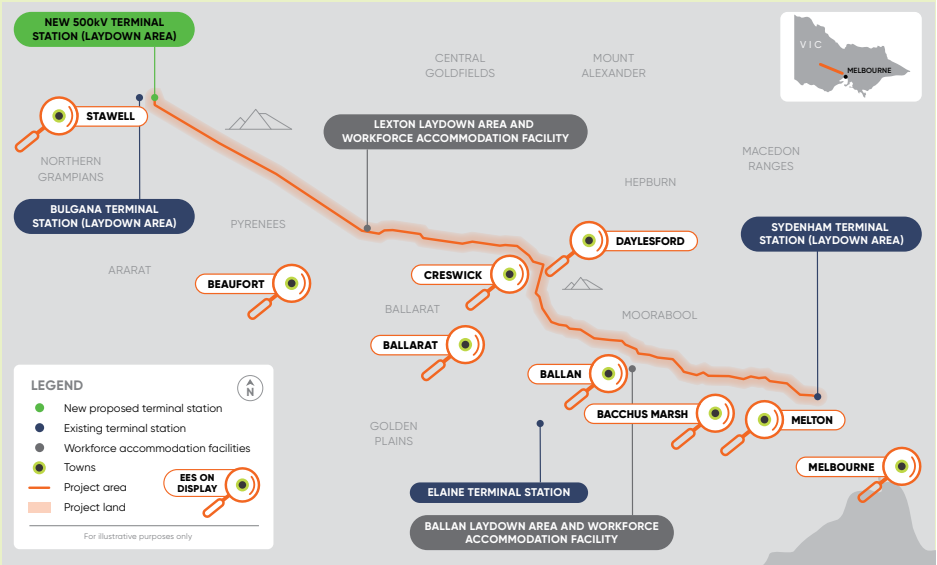
Preparing for public exhibition of the EES

We’re continuing to prepare for the public exhibition of the Environment Effects Statement (EES), which is currently targeted to begin this winter.

During the exhibition period, community members and landholders will be able to review the full EES and make a formal submission. Anyone making a submission may also request to be heard at the independent inquiry that follows.

To make the EES as accessible as possible, physical copies of the documents will be available at nine locations across the project area during the exhibition period.

We will also host a series of information sessions where you can review the materials and speak directly with technical specialists. We’ll share more details on these events in the coming weeks. We’ll continue to keep you informed as plans progress and look forward to sharing the next steps with you soon.



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Supporting local solutions

Solar energy for Ballarat Community Health

New rooftop solar panels at five of Ballarat Community Health's locations will help save on power bills and improve the operational efficiency of the health and wellbeing provider.

In partnership with [Ballarat Community Health](#) (BCH), we have installed rooftop solar panels at five of its sites, helping to reduce long-term energy costs and support more sustainable service delivery. Once in place, the systems will allow BCH to draw a significant portion of its power from renewable sources.

The installations follow a detailed energy review across all BCH locations to identify which solutions would have the greatest energy-saving impact. The upgrades will ease operational costs for BCH, allowing more resources to be directed to local health and wellbeing services.

We have engaged local contractors to carry out the installations, supporting local jobs and local investment in the greater Ballarat region.

This collaboration reflects the project's ongoing focus on working with local organisations to deliver practical improvements that support community outcomes now and into the future.



Final Voluntary Hosting Benefit offers being shared

The majority of Voluntary Hosting Benefit offers have now been issued, with the final few to be shared in meetings scheduled over the coming weeks. This marks a key milestone in our ongoing conversations with landholders and reflects the significant work done to support fair and transparent engagement.

We'd like to thank landholders for their feedback, time and openness throughout this process. We recognise that these are significant decisions, and we remain available to support individual discussions as the process continues.

Following calls from landholders for increased recognition of the role they play in the proposed project, we introduced the Voluntary Hosting Benefit. This new payment is separate from compensation under the Option for Easement process and from the [Victorian Government's landholder payments](#) announced in February 2023. It is designed to acknowledge the broader contribution landholders make in hosting infrastructure that is essential to the energy transition to net zero.

Alongside this, we've continued to refine our approach to land access and easement agreements, making them more flexible and responding to what we've heard from landholders.

Feedback from consultation has informed us that communities want to see support provided earlier, not solely during construction. In response, we've brought forward our community benefit sharing program so that funding can start to flow during the project's development phase. More information will be available soon.

We remain committed to listening, adapting, and working respectfully with those most affected by the project.

For more information, we've developed a [new fact sheet](#) outlining the Voluntary Hosting Benefit and how landholders can access the different types of increased support.



Want to speak with a member of our team?

We're committed to engaging with the community and will continue to consider all feedback.

We encourage anyone interested or affected to contact the project on our dedicated number 1800 975 975 or email us at info@westernrenewableslink.com.au.



About the project

The Western Renewables Link is a proposed new 190km overhead high-voltage electricity transmission line that will carry renewable energy near 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.

More information

Visit the project website westernrenewableslink.com.au for the latest project information.

Contact us

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