

# Project update

Welcome to the Western Renewables Link new project update. Here we'll regularly share a summary of current project activities to keep you informed.

## Recent project activities - October 2023

We have recently let landholders and the community know about changes to the scope of the Western Renewables Link project, which is now a proposed 500kV transmission line from Bulgana to Sydenham.

Throughout October, we have hosted community information sessions along the proposed route. We also ran a community information webinar on 2 November and have another webinar scheduled for 28 November.

We are continuing to work with landholders in relation to proposed tower locations and compensation, and we are continuing to conduct field surveys to inform project design and construction planning.



## Community information sessions

Throughout October, our team met with community members along the proposed route, during information sessions at Ararat, Waubra, Stawell, Ballarat, Bacchus Marsh and Melton, as well as at the Elmore Field Days.

We've had more than 250 conversations about the project, including on key topics of interest such as farming, bushfire risk and compensation.

An information session scheduled at Newlyn did not proceed due to a planned protest. We apologise again to community members who had planned to attend, and encourage them to contact us at [info@westernrenewableslink.com.au](mailto:info@westernrenewableslink.com.au) for an individual meeting.

If you've missed any of our in-person sessions or webinars and you would like more information, we have one more webinar scheduled for November. You can [register for upcoming webinar](#) on the project website

### Community information webinar

Tuesday 28 November, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

[→ Register](#)



## What does the change in project scope mean?

Increasing the capacity of the transmission line from 220kV to 500kV for the full length will enable the Western Renewables Link to carry more electricity. The proposed 500kV line will be capable of carrying more than 3,000MW of energy to power up to 1 million homes. The project released information about these changes in the scope for the community on 22 September, which is available to view on our [website](#).

More information about the project is available in our updated [Project overview fact sheet](#).



## Ongoing field surveys

We have been conducting field surveys along the proposed route over the past 3 years to assess environmental conditions and inform project design and planning. These surveys help to identify the project's potential environmental impacts and inform measures to avoid, minimise and manage adverse effects. Survey findings will be included in the technical reports for the Western Renewables Link Environment Effects Statement.

Field surveys have included biodiversity, Aboriginal cultural heritage, historic heritage, surface water and groundwater and landscape and visual impacts. Over the past year, we have also been undertaking geotechnical and cadastral surveys to inform construction planning for the project.

Did you know we have a webpage listing for all upcoming field surveys on public land, as well as aerial surveys? You can view the information [here](#).

More information about our approach to field surveys is available in our [Landholder Guide: Land access for field surveys and investigations](#).

## Firefighting and transmission lines

We recognise that any impact to fire risk and the ability to fight a fire where there are transmission lines on the property is a key concern for landholders and communities.

Victoria has more than 6,500 kilometres of existing transmission lines and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) has experience in firefighting around this type of infrastructure.

We're working closely with relevant government authorities and organisations, including the CFA, in relation to this project and the potential impacts on fire risk and firefighting efforts through several forums.

View the following resources for more information about firefighting and transmission lines:

- [Firefighting and transmission lines – CFA](#)
- [Electricity transmission lines, bushfire management and community safety – Energy Safe Victoria](#)
- [Managing fire risk, electricity transmission network – AusNet Services](#)

### 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

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