

Enhanced Support for Landholders: More Certainty, More Flexibility



Delivered by

AusNet



New benefits and increased payments

In response to landholder feedback, we've introduced new financial benefits to provide better support, including a new Voluntary Hosting Benefit, and higher land access payments.

We've also made the Option for Easement negotiation process more flexible to better reflect landholder needs. We acknowledge that the initial proposals provided last year may not have fully met expectations, and we encourage you to engage with us to discuss adjustments to conditions and compensation that better suit your individual circumstances.

By engaging early, you have the opportunity to shape the outcomes that work best for your property and business. Landholders who have already worked with us have been able to secure tailored solutions that reduce disruption and provide greater financial certainty.

This fact sheet outlines:

- The additional payments now available.
- What these changes mean for you.
- How to access these enhanced benefits.

Your Land Liaison Officer is available to discuss the details, answer any questions, and ensure you have the information and support needed to make the best decisions for you and your property.

This document is intended to be read alongside the Landholder Guide: Option for Easement Process and Compensation, which is available on the project website's resources page.

If you have any questions or require an extension to deadlines due to exceptional circumstances, please contact your Land Liaison Officer or the project team.

Why now?

As a landholder, you have the opportunity to secure financial certainty, shape agreements to suit your needs, and ensure your preferences are considered. At this stage of the project, there is greater flexibility to tailor agreements to your specific requirements. However, as the project progresses and the design becomes more fixed, the ability to adapt solutions will become more limited.

Engaging early allows you to protect your interests, reduce uncertainty, and secure the best possible outcomes for your property and business if the project proceeds.

AusNet is committed to working collaboratively with landholders to ensure negotiations reflect individual circumstances while providing greater financial certainty and support.

Respecting your rights, securing your interests

Signing a Land Access Consent (LAC) or Option for Easement (OFE) does not limit a landholder's right to express their views or make a submission about the project through the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process or other formal channels. Landholders remain free to share their perspectives and participate in the approvals process, regardless of any agreements they choose to sign. Engaging early simply ensures that if the project proceeds, you have:

- Financial certainty with agreed payments
- Tailored compensation based on your specific circumstances
- Flexibility to adjust how the project impacts your property, helping to minimise disruptions and accommodate your operations
- A say in access conditions to protect your business, biosecurity, and day-to-day activities.

How you can access increased support

Higher payments for land access

- Landholder Participation Fee: Now \$20,000 upfront (up from \$10,000) for up to 5 days of access.
- If access exceeds 5 days → \$2,000 per extra day (up to a maximum of \$30,000).
- Total land access payments capped at \$50,000 per property.
- Have a current Land Access Consent (LAC)? You automatically qualify for higher payments + back payments.

Option for Easement (OFE): Increased Option Fee

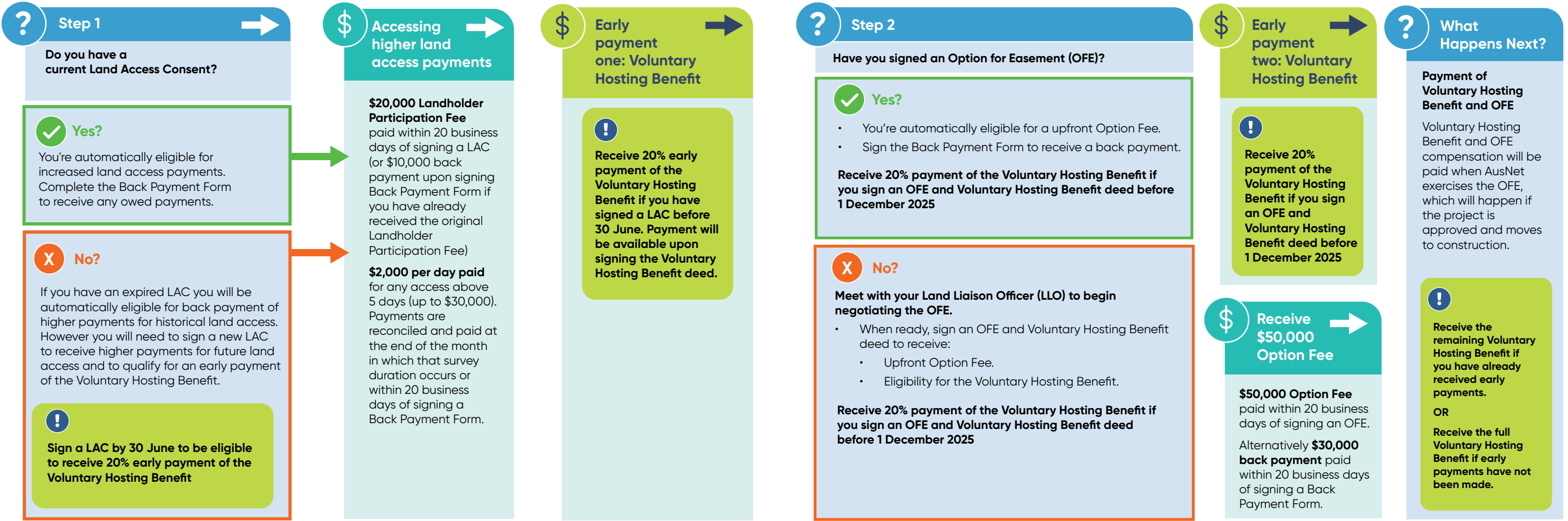
- Increased Option Fee: \$50,000 upfront (\$30,000 of which is an advance of OFE compensation).
- If the project does not proceed, you keep the full amount.
- Paid within 20 business days of both parties signing an OFE.
- Already signed an OFE? You are eligible for a \$30,000 back payment.

New: Voluntary Hosting Benefit

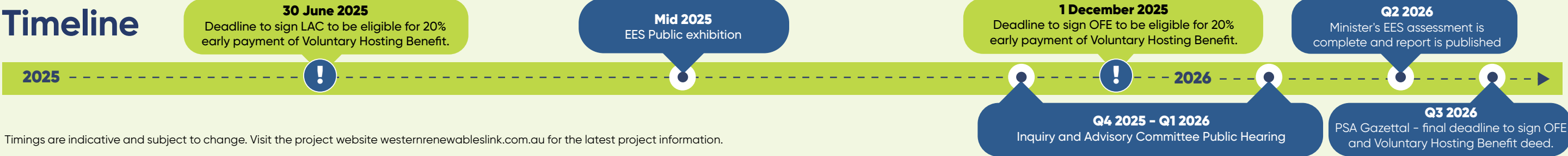
- New benefit now available for all landholders who sign an OFE and Voluntary Hosting Benefit deed up until the project’s proposed planning scheme amendment has been approved and published in the Victorian Government Gazette (currently expected in the third quarter of 2026).
- Payment is property specific (based on easement area).
 - If LAC is signed before 30th June 2025, 20 per cent of the benefit will be available in an early payment.
 - If an OFE is signed before December 2025, a further 20 per cent of the benefit will be available in an early payment.
 - If the project does not proceed, you keep these payments.
 - Alternatively, eligible landholders will receive their full benefit when AusNet exercises the OFE, which will happen if the project is approved and moves to construction.

Support for professional advice

- Landholders can access the \$10,000 Landholder Professional Fees payment and \$1,000 to support LAC review. If you require additional support, AusNet may reimburse reasonable professional fees if they are pre-approved and directly related to OFE negotiations. This could cover:
- Legal Advice – Reviewing contracts, negotiating terms
 - Agricultural Consultancy – Assessing farm impact, biosecurity planning
 - Financial/Tax Advice – Understanding compensation & tax implications
 - Additional support for Voluntary Hosting Benefit legal fees is also available.



Timeline



Providing certainty and flexibility through early engagement

We understand that hosting infrastructure on your property comes with challenges, and we're committed to working with you to find solutions that minimise disruption and meet your needs.

The scenarios below, informed by past negotiations with landholders, show how engaging early and securing a tailored agreement can provide financial certainty, reduced business impacts, and even improve on-farm operations.



Supporting a landholder with irrigation reconfiguration

Landholder A operates a large-scale irrigated cropping farm, and the proposed transmission line route would require adjustments to his irrigation infrastructure. His primary concern was that relocating irrigation pipelines and pump stations would be costly and impact productivity.

After discussions with AusNet, a tailored solution was developed. The landholder's was able to engage and obtain reimbursement of costs for an independent professional farm consultant to redesign his irrigation infrastructure, minimising disruption to farm productivity. The landholder communicated these costs to AusNet through his Option for Easement compensation negotiations which were adopted into the landholder's compensation offer after AusNet verification. Additionally, costs for civil works—such as relocating irrigation pipelines and pumps—were included in his compensation package. This reconfiguration provided an opportunity to upgrade some of the landholder's equipment.

By responding to the landholder's specific concerns, AusNet ensured he could continue his farming operations with minimal disruption, while also providing the opportunity to modernise his irrigation equipment.

As the project progresses and the design becomes more defined, there will be fewer opportunities to adjust agreements—engaging early allows you to explore options that best suit your property and business needs.

If you have concerns about how the project may impact your property, your Land Liaison Officer is available to discuss your options.



Custom fencing and access solutions for a grazing property

Landholders B & C run a cattle farm that will be affected by the project. One of their biggest concerns was maintaining secure paddocks and ensuring safe, separate access for their operations and project personnel.

In response, AusNet developed a flexible agreement that compensated the landholders for relocating fences and gates to suit their farm layout. Instead of using the existing driveway for shared access, the landholders were compensated to build a separate, dedicated access point for the project. They outlined their property-specific biosecurity processes and access limitations during calving season which are to be adhered to by project personnel. This ensured that their livestock and farm operations wouldn't be disrupted by project activities.

By working closely with the landholders, AusNet provided a property-specific solution that met their needs, ensuring their daily operations could continue while minimising unnecessary inconvenience and farming interruptions.



Questions

We recognise that the requirements of each property and landholder are unique. This guide provides general information for landholders about the land access process for field surveys and investigations.

Contact details for your Land Liaison Officer can be provided by the project team on 1800 975 975 or via email info@westernrenewableslink.com.au.

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More information

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

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