



Land access for environmental and engineering studies

Introduction

The project is critical infrastructure required to unlock the renewable energy potential of western Victoria.

The WVTNP proposes a new transmission line starting at Bulgana, near Stawell in Victoria's west, and covering approximately 190km to Sydenham in Melbourne's north-west. The project will enable the connection of new renewable energy generated in western Victoria into the National Electricity Market and increase the Victorian transmission network capacity.

The project is being delivered by AusNet Services, through its commercial division Mondo. AusNet Services currently operates 6,500kms of transmission lines across Victoria.

Purpose of this fact sheet

This fact sheet outlines:

- Why we need access to people's properties.
- The type of scientific and engineering studies that may be completed.
- The process for discussing access and agreeing on conditions landowners may have for people accessing their land (e.g. biosecurity).

Why we need access to people's properties

The WVTNP is still in the early development stages. The proposed project requires Victorian and Commonwealth Government approval as well as extensive community consultation through the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process before construction commences.

The process for preparing the EES for this project, as for any EES, involves detailed field surveys to fully understand the existing conditions and environmental sensitivities of the land within the proposed corridor.

Findings of these studies will be used to guide where the final route will be located by excluding properties in some instances. It is therefore important that the EES contains the most accurate information possible.

Which is why we require access to land to conduct surveys, investigations, and monitoring. These studies will primarily consist of low impact activities with limited ground disturbance and are predominantly based on walk overs and observation.

These comprehensive field studies will help us better understand the environmental impacts that could result from any preferred option for the final route. The studies will also help us identify ways for those impacts to be mitigated or managed.

The exhibited EES will be a key information resource for anyone who wishes to make a public submission, as well as for decision-makers who may need to determine approvals required if the project is to proceed. Further information about the EES and the timelines are outlined in the Environmental and key project approvals fact sheet.

Furthermore, access to land is required to determine an alignment for the transmission line that not only assesses the environmental impacts but importantly strives to minimise the impacts to land use and livelihoods. Your input as a landholder as to how you use your property is vitally important.

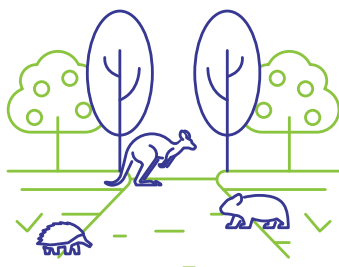
Environmental assessment and key project approvals fact sheet available on the website – www.westvictnp.com.au.

Delivered by



The type of scientific and engineering studies required

Studies are focused on understanding the existing conditions on the land in detail to see what significant environmental and cultural features exist. These studies may include:



Ecology

Ecologists undertake daytime and nocturnal surveys for native flora and fauna. These may be conducted at specific times of the year.



Historical heritage

Archaeologists undertake investigations for evidence of historical heritage.



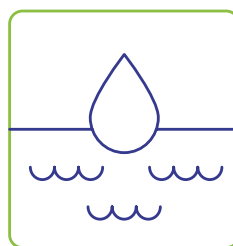
Land and cadastral survey

Surveyors undertake surveys to confirm title boundaries and geographic features.



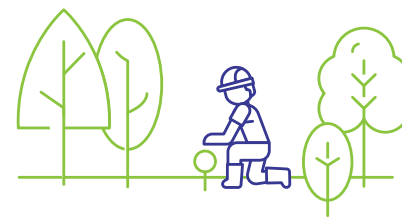
Soil contamination

Environmental scientists undertake investigations to identify areas of potential contamination including collecting soil and groundwater samples for analysis.



Surface water and groundwater

Environmental scientists undertake investigations including the collection of samples and review of groundwater bores.



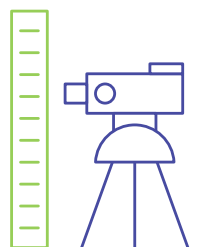
Aboriginal cultural heritage

Traditional Owners and archaeologists will conduct investigations for evidence of Aboriginal cultural heritage including walk overs and small-scale excavations in areas of potential archaeological sensitivity.



Geotechnical

Engineers and scientists will undertake investigations including the collection of samples for the geotechnical engineering aspects of the project.



Visual and landscape amenity

Specialists will photograph existing views and create visual simulations from representative residences and other important viewpoints within or overlooking areas of visual sensitivity.



Land Use

Land liaison officers will be in touch to inspect your property to understand your current land use and operations to assist in refining to a single route.



Your rights as a landholder or occupier of land

We respect your privacy, ownership and use of the land. Where any of the above studies are required within your property, you will be contacted by an AusNet Services representative to identify how we can mitigate the interruption to your property, farming operations and livestock. These agreed conditions will be documented in a land access agreement.

AusNet Services understands the importance of biosecurity to farmers and their farming operations, and respects procedures such as closing gates, avoiding disturbance to livestock, and driving on existing laneways and tracks. An AusNet Services representative will discuss any additional biosecurity measures that may be required on your property including wash-downs or any other protocols reasonably required.

We recognise that entering a land access agreement is a voluntary undertaking and that you may not wish to enter such an agreement with AusNet Services.

However, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss and resolve your concerns by determining appropriate arrangements relating to timing, access, biosecurity arrangements and logistics.

Statutory access rights

Our preference is always to work with landholders to determine access arrangements. However, in circumstances where we cannot reach voluntary agreement, AusNet Services is authorised under law to access and undertake work on land. Where we seek to do this, we will provide landholders with notice at least seven days in advance.

Next steps

We remain committed to working closely with you to minimise interruptions to your property and farming operations.

Your dedicated land liaison officer will be your main point of contact for all matters relating to your property. They will contact you to discuss access to your property, and to determine reasonable conditions of access that will minimise impact to you and your property where possible.





Stay informed

If you are a landholder and have questions, please call 1300 360 795 or email info@westvictnp.com.au. To register for updates, visit westvictnp.com.au.