

Western Renewables Link Community Webinar

25 March, 2024 - 7pm

Transcript

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Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Hello and welcome to today's second webinar regarding farming with Western Renewables Link transmission lines. My name's Jen Lilburn. I'm an independent facilitator. I'm a community engagement facility specialist, and I'm also a farmer my husband and I have a farm just near Ballarat.
- I'm based in Geelong. However Ausnet has asked me to facilitate the session tonight. This is the second one that that we have run today. It'll be the same information that was provided this morning. It is jam packed with information, and we will be very much trying to answer all of your questions as we go through.
- And thank you, Jed, for the next slide.
- So, after acknowledgement of country, and some introductions to the presenters and little bit of housekeeping and explanation about how to submit questions while then be handing over to various project specialists to present information, and Carolyn will be talking more about what those presentations include. In a little while we will have Q&A. Questions and answers at the end of the night. But I'm going to

try and sneak in as many questions as I can in between speakers, so that we don't have all the questions at the end. So please get your questions in as they occur to you.

- Thank you. Jed
- AusNet has asked me to acknowledge country on their behalf. Ausnet acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which the proposed Western Renewables Link will operate and pays respect to the elders, past, present, and emerging. AusNet recognises the role of each Registered Aboriginal Party and Traditional Owners in the management, protection and promotion of cultural heritage connection to country cultural awareness and land access
- AusNet will continue to work in partnership with First Peoples State Relations Victoria and the recognised Registered Aboriginal Parties of the Barengi Gadjin, Eastern Maar, Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung), Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Traditional Owners Corporations, to deliver the project.
- And I'm standing on Wadawurrung land tonight in beautiful Geelong.
- Thank you Jed.
- So thanks again for joining us. Apparently there's some quality television on tonight. So thank you for spending the next hour and a half hearing about Western Renewables Link.
- Tonight we'll have Carolyn, who'll be giving us a project overview Denis easement, safety and permitted activities. Darryl will then take us through information regarding farming with the proposed transmission lines, and then Mick, landholder engagement.
- And of course the questions at the end of that you'll see on the side there that we are using the Q&A. Function. I'll show you how to do that in a moment. But no, just be aware that no one will see your questions. You are very welcome to provide an anonymous question.
- However, if we don't get to all of the questions, the team will be emailing the remaining questions to the people who raise those questions. And so if you don't provide a name, we can't link it with your email address, which you use to register for tonight, and so therefore we can't respond to the question after the session.
- The questions will also inform additional FAQs frequently asked questions on the project website. You would have heard that the presentation tonight is being recorded. It will be available on the website as will a transcript of tonight.
- And I shall ask you to go to the next slide, please, Jed.

- So how to ask questions. If you can't see Q&A. Two little 2 little chat boxes on the bottom of your screen. Just hover your mouse at the bottom of your screen, and the QA. Panel will appear. Just need to click on that. QA. Panel, and type in your question, and please press send. Once you press, send that in. That question will be sent through to the team. I will be able to see them on my screen here, and we will answer some of the questions, as I say, throughout the presentations, or in between the presentations and the remaining at the end.
- This afternoon we got to. I think we had 4 or 5 questions left, so we are trying very hard to get through all of the questions.
- If you have trouble navigating the whole. Q&A function.
- just email your question to that email address, that is at the bottom of the screen there, stakeholder engagement at Western renewables Link.com.au, that's actually the same email as you would have received a reminder about tonight and confirmation of registration. So same email address.
- Thanks, Jed and I'm going to pass over to Carolyn the approvals manager. Now to give us a project overview. Thank you.

00:05:49.990 --> 00:05:53.059

Carolyn - Approvals Manager

- And thanks, Jed, if we can have the next slide.
- What is the Western Renewables Link Project? This is a high voltage. 500 Kilovolt transmission line from Bulgana in Western Victoria, near Stawell all the way through to Sydenham Terminal Station. The purpose of the project is to unlock renewable energy that's being generated in Western Victoria through wind farms and solar farms, and proposed battery projects and provide that electricity effectively into the national electricity market, into the eastern seaboard grid.
- So it is an overhead project, consisting of steel lattice towers and AusNet, has been contracted by the Australian Energy Market Operator to deliver this project, including the approvals and the design, and ultimately be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Western Renewables Link.
- It is double circuit all the way, and we are looking at building a new 500 kilovolt switch yard near the existing Bulgana Terminal Station, and connecting into the Sydenham terminal station, just on the western outskirts of Melbourne.
- Thank you, Jed.

- there's been some recent project updates that you will see on our website. And that is following the decision from the Australian Energy Market Operator in the Victorian Government last year that this project would be 500 kilovolts all the way through from Bulgaria to Sydney, previously the western portion of the transmission line, was going to be 220 kilovolts.
- So for that, we need to build a new switch yard near Bulgana, in close proximity to the existing Bulgana terminal station, and we also need to make sure that there are infrastructure there that enables us to take the connections, some of which are at 220 kilovolts, and upgrade them, or step them up to 500 kilovolts because we are 500 kilovolts all the way. We no longer need to tie into the Waubra Terminal station, so you'll see there on the map there's a bit of a purple blob there. And we're looking at bypassing the Waubra Terminal station. And we're currently discussing and negotiating and working with farmers in that area to determine a proposed route through that purple area there, and the previous terminal station that was proposed for north of Ballarat at Mount Prospect is no longer required, because we are now 500 kilovolts all the way.
- You'll also see that we have chosen the Southern option around Hepburn Lagoon for a long time. There we had 2 options, a Northern option, and a Southern option, and we have selected the Southern option to go immediately south of Hepburn Lagoon and around Birches Creek in that area.
- And the other change to the project is that we now, the Sydenham terminal station rebuild, was supposed to be part of this project, due to the fact that this project has been delayed. That rebuild process has become critical and more urgent. And there's now a separate approvals process for the rebuild of Sydenham Terminal Station there will still be connection works as a result of this project into Sydenham, but the actual rebuild of the terminal station immediately north of the existing terminal station will be occurring more quickly than the construction of this project.
- Thank you, Jed.
- We've received a lot of feedback from the community and individual landholders on the proposed route, and as a consequence of that, the proposed route continues to be refined. We know that there is an existing proposed route an updated one on our website. But that will be further updated in the next couple of months to demonstrate some of those changes that have resulted. As a consequence of engagement and consultation with individual landholders, with communities and with other stakeholders, such as community, such as government

agencies and authorities and a lot of this work has occurred as a consequence of the field technical surveys that have been done for the environment effects statement. And so when we've found more environmental values and environmental assets and also cultural heritage assets that has required some refinement in in the proposed route.

- The proposed route was developed to give certainty to landholders and the community. And it's the basis on which the Environment Effects Statement is based upon.
- But the key thing to understand is that the route is not actually final until we receive a decision from government in terms of the approval of this project. So we're putting forward a proposed route, and that will be the basis of the Environment Effects Statement. But the final route will actually be determined by the approval process.
- Both landholder and community feedback has influenced the investigation of 7 major route alternatives and multiple corridors throughout the project area. And even outside of the project area. there's been a total of 95 transmission line designs and more than 4,700 individual tower moves.
- So it's important to understand that a lot of things have changed throughout the last 3 to 4 years that the project has been investigated and studied.
- Western Renewables Link is currently being designed with a higher minimum ground clearance of at least 15 metres, which is significantly more than most of the 6,500 kilometres of existing transmission lines in Victoria, and that is in response to farmers.
- And their machinery that need to move underneath the lines, but also in discussions with individual landholders and agencies around what is actually required in order to be able to move. For example, freight, rail and roads and things underneath the transmission line.
- A key goal of the project is to make sure that we're building long term social and economic legacies in our local communities that extend long beyond the project's construction. And that's an important component of the project.
- Thank you, Jed.
- Lots of questions from lots of different landholders right along the proposed route, and many of their queries have been around farming, and what can occur in terms of aerial operations, the use of aircraft, the use of drones, cropping and harvesting, potato farming in particular in the middle section of the proposed route, where we have some very valuable horticultural land fencing also about GPS and differential

GPS that's occurring in many farming operations. And we know that some of this technology is moving very quickly, and we're ensuring that we're answering the questions that people have around some of those pieces of equipment, farming, machinery, whether it be harvesters, augurs, whether it be tractors for sowing, whether it be silos, all of those sorts of things, and we've also looked quite closely at vehicles and equipment that are used by not just farming operators, but other land uses, and also critically, irrigation particularly in those horticultural areas. We have centre pivots, lateral irrigators, gun irrigators, all of those things need to be explored.

- We've also looked at what happens when you're living with proposed transmission lines, easement, including buildings and dwellings. What happens during construction, landscaping. What happens with metallic structures, and what happens with parking of plant and equipment underneath the transmission line within the easement.
- We look more closely at easements themselves, what they are and why they are needed and what is the requirement for Ausnet to have ongoing access to the easement for operations and maintenance, safety clearances have been a key concern of people, and the safety assessments that have been conducted by Ausnet and permits to work.
- Other things that we've looked at have been electromagnetic fields, the insurance associated with easements, and what happens with proposed development on the easement.
- I would suggest that everyone has a look at the new landholder Guide Easement Safety and permitted activities which is now on the website. And that was published last week. So there's new information there that updates what has been there in the in the previous guide. That's a couple of years old. Thanks, Jed.
- So this webinar is going to focus on easements. And what occurs during easements?
- What are the safety clearances and what needs to be observed
- And we're having a closer look at farming within the or under the proposed Western Renewables Link transmission lines, and that relates to farm machinery, irrigation, spraying, GPS and DGPS, fencing. And that includes metallic fencing obviously as well. And we're also looking at what occurs with landholder engagement and what stage that we are up to, and there'll be plenty of time for questions at the end of the session.
- Thank you, Jed.

00:16:28.520 --> 00:16:52.819

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thank you very much, Carolyn and there haven't been any questions that have come through for you yet, Carolyn. But there has been one question, and that is, will a transcript of questions and answers be available post session. There will be a transcript of the full recording. So I read out the questions, and the presenters answered the questions. All of that will be part of the transcript.
- You'll also be able to access the recording and the PowerPoint presentation. So please share that information with your neighbours, with your community, and we'll talk more at the end of the session about if you have any, follow up questions.
- So I am now going to pass over to Denis in the absence of further questions.
- Denis is senior easements officer. Over 40 years experience. I think that's dating you, Dennis. Sorry experience in the electricity industry. And in transmission over to you. Thank you.

00:17:30.970 --> 00:17:44.039

Denis - AusNet Easements Officer

- Thanks, Jen. Yes, my title is the senior easements officer, but I think the senior part refers to my age. So but I have been around a while, and I do know a lot of the electricity industry and working many different areas so distribution, transmission, of course and generation. And yeah, so I've been around a while.
- But my main role is to look after the existing transmission line easements across the State. And as Carolyn mentioned before. We've got some 6.5,000 kilometers of transmission lines that criss-cross the State and predominantly all of those lines pass through rural areas, farming areas, crown land, national parks, and once those lines get towards Melbourne there is a an out of circle of 500 kilovolts, lines that go around Melbourne and there are some residential areas that are quite close to those lines.
- But predominantly, it's all about farming. And those real problems that we're looking at the moment. And certainly for this project WRL it is predominantly going through rural land.
- So what is an easement.
- Well, easements are needed for the construction and safe operation of the proposed transmission line.

- And it's basically a corridor of land or right of way that enables access provides the necessary legal framework for the assets associated with the project worked on WRL to be located on that land by somebody else.
- So it's a right that's held by someone. To access, occupy, and use part of the land on by someone else for a particular purpose.
- In this case our purpose is to transmit electricity.
- The landowner continues to have ownership of and use of the easement land in terms of the Easement agreement allow the landowner to continue doing many of the activities that are being done at present while providing a safe and secure environment for the purpose of transmitting electricity.
- So it is an important framework, and it does give certainty to both the owner of the land and to the easement owner, which would be AusNet.
- It sets out all the requirements and responsibilities that are necessary in the relationship between the owner and AusNet, and it is a partnership. We do concentrate very seriously on activities that are carried out within the easements, and we certainly try very hard to make sure that there's little inconveniences caused as possible.
- Okay, next slide, thanks.
- So as far as Ausnet's access to the easement is concerned. As we've said there are many 1,000 kilometres of existing transit mission lines across Victoria and of course, all of those towers and lines need to be inspected. To make sure that they're operating efficiently and making sure that faults are kept to an absolute minimum.
- So we need to inspect the lines at least once a year, generally from the air, and by either helicopter or fixed screen airplane. And then we need to do a ground patrol on the lines at least every 5 years, so that might involve a person climbing, or a number of people climbing the towers to have a very close look at all of the hardware that's associated with the tower.
- So, as I mentioned, we maintain relationships with the landowners to facilitate land uses and farming practices. And it can be lots of things. I mean, we, have relationships with many landowners and farmers. But we also have relationships with people who have an easement going across their backyard in metropolitan Melbourne. So now they might contact us. Because they want to build a new garden shed or and with relationships extending to the rural communities, it's probably a bit more involved because we're looking at people running businesses like farms. And we appreciate that the very solid activities that need to continue on

some properties, access roads and tracks need to be constructed to build and maintain the transmission line, and to enable access afterwards for maintenance and other purposes.

- So that doesn't necessarily mean that there will be an access road to every tower, but certainly to some of the ones that may be not as easily accessed, due to, or greater conditions or whatever the access tracks might need to be installed.
- Thanks. Next slide.
- Okay, so let's get on to the permitted activities in the proposed WRL easement. There are certainly some restrictions on the land that's used for an instance, and the main one that that we point out is is the fact that we don't allow buildings like residential houses or extensive shedding that might contain flammable materials and that sort of thing.
- On these notes houses and other buildings like shedding do pose a definite fire risk. And we're always hearing about. An unfortunate situation where our support is caught on fire somewhere around, and the fire brigade's call. For so with that sort of situation, a house or building fire that has a very detrimental effect on the transmission line due to smoke and heat which may cause the line to trip or shut down totally.
- So we're very mindful about making sure that you can get clear of those types of buildings and structures.
- But as far as other activities concerned, and particularly with the farming activities, and as Carolyn mentioned earlier that we've got the line. The new line will be designed with a 15-metre minimum ground clearance.
- So that's going to allow lots of farming activities to continue such as grazing in agriculture, cropping and potato, growing market gardens, orchards, horticultural nurseries, except the buildings, as I just mentioned certainly water storage dams and operation of irrigation equipment.
- With respect to dams, we need to make sure that any dam wall that's installed maintains that 15 meter minimum ground clearance to the lowest conductor or wire and also the proposed water level of the dam can't be any closely enough 15 meters to the to the conductor and just as a as an added note that that 15 meters is the conductor at its maximum operating temperature. So that's in the hottest conditions. And it's the the maximum amount of load going through the lines.
- So on any given day, generally throughout most of the year, the line will actually be a lot higher than 15 metres off the ground.

- Okay, thanks. Next slide.
- So safety clearances and safety assessments.
- With the 15 metre ground clearance we've
- We've established that we can have vehicles and equipment up to 5 meters in height and they'll be allowed to travel and operate under the transmission line without any restriction or any permit required from AusNet. So they're basically free to operate free to travel. And we don't need to be notified about any of those items of equipment.
- So in a bit of context, allowing a vehicle and equipment up to 5 meters in height that enables any vehicle, truck, or farm equipment that can legally be driven on Victoria's roads, which is the maximum height of 4.6 meters.
- To then come from the road and go across the easement without any issues whatsoever.
- And that doesn't matter whether the access track for the farm is being built at midspan or anywhere along the long span.
- Now for vehicles of equipment that are over 5 meters and less than 8.6 meters.
- These will generally be allowed as well, but we do need to do a safety assessment to establish what the maximum height of that equipment is and what its maximum reach can be.
- So if that equipment physically can't go above 8.6 meters. Well, we'll just provide a written permission for that equipment to be used, and that's the end of it. We won't be needing to issue a permit or require spotters, or anything like that for those items and equipment.
- However, if the equipment does have the capacity to go above 8.6 meters in height.
- We'll need to enter a situation where we need to assure permit to work for that to happen.
- Because there are many instances where operator era equipment, or if somebody passes out while they're operating the equipment and inadvertently does extend above 8.6 meters. Then we have a potential safety issue. So a permit to work will be issued. Permits are very easy to obtain through AusNet and but we'll establish the need for the permit one when we do a safety assessment on that equipment. It's only higher than 5 meters.

- Yeah, just having a look at that diagram to the right. Just gives you a bit of an indication of what can be done on the easement. And, as I said, this is at the worst case mid span under maximum operating temperature conditions.
- So we've got no problems in the green area anything up to 5 metres in height, totally permissible, and without any notification.
- The apricot area between 5 and 8.6 meters generally that equipment will be allowed this as soon as we've provided a safety assessment and check the maximum height of that equipment and its configuration, and the Red Zone at the top. That's the area that we have to stay out of and if you've got anything that's got the potential to go into that red zone. Then a permanent to work will need to be issued.
- Okay, thanks. Next slide.
- So we can arrange a safety assessment easily so from owners, employees contractors they need to be aware of all of the psychic portions. So it's there's a few ways of making contact. So firstly, if you're going to be digging the normal requirement for digging anywhere in Australia now is to call before you dig Australia. It's a mandatory process, and by putting in that before you dig inquiry, notification will come to Ausnet. If you're if you're having to be digging within the easement or any of our easements.
- So that's a way of getting an automatic contact to us. Will, as soon as we get that notification you'll be sent a response with a direct contact to Ausnet to have further discussions with us.
- But you can arrange a safety assessment at any time without having to have any work proposed.
- So if you're thinking about carrying out works, or you think about buying some new farming equipment, or if you want to check. If your existing farming equipment is okay.
- You just need to send an email to ptw@ausnetservices.com that I use, and the PTW. Just stands for permit to work, and you don't necessarily be having to be applying for a permit to work. But we'll be able to make an assessment and advise you on whether a permit or not is necessary and of course your land liaison officer has got all of the information, and I can certainly provide you with a lot of details, and they'll put you in touch with us if any further details required.
- And I think that's the last slide in this section.

00:30:44.200 --> 00:31:04.497

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thank you, Denis. One of our participants has a very keen eye, and has noticed that you've got commercial in confidence on the top of your slides. Denis' slides are marked commercial in confidence and confidential, but this is a public webinar and confidentiality cannot apply. Perhaps when you did.
- When it gets loaded onto the website, we can ensure that that is taken off.

00:31:14.410 --> 00:31:17.101

Denis - AusNet Easements Officer

- Yes, absolutely. It's not commercial in confidence.
- That would have been labelled that as internal documenting normally labels most prepared documents, commercial in confidence. That's a slight oversight. I expect it's certainly not in confidence. And we are wanting as much of this information to go out to the general public as possible.

00:31:39.360 --> 00:31:48.769

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thank you. And thank you also to the person who just alerted us to that issue. We didn't pick it up in in the early session today
- is hosting renewable energy projects, i.e. wind or solar, a permitted activity.

00:31:57.450 --> 00:32:01.498

Denis - AusNet Easements Officer

- So hosting within the property that the transmission line is?

00:32:02.120 --> 00:32:03.049

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator:

- Assuming that is the question

00:32:04.600 --> 00:32:17.710

Denis - AusNet Easements Officer

- Look, there are. There are some standards regarding clearances between wind farms or wind turbines and transmission lines. And we we're dealing with the situations right across the state at the moment.

- It's largely dependent on how tall the tower is for the turbine, and how long the turbine blades are so basically, if the turbine were capable of falling over it has to miss the transmission line. That's the bottom line.
- So there are some requirements as far as siting those are concerned, but there's no rule against hosting generation equipment on the same property as a transmission line.

00:32:53.178 --> 00:33:00.809

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- And the one of the team is picked up potentially. That put that question was meant to reference within the easement.

Denis - AusNet Easements Officer

- So just Oh, no! Within the no, no, it won't be allowed within the it's obviously would be impossible to have a wind turbine within the easement as far as solar is concerned, we don't allow solar panels within transmission line management say that because there is an issue with the very long lengths of cabling that are connecting all of the solar panels together and that cabling would be under the effects of static electricity which would cause and induce voltage in that wiring, so we don't allow any solar panels within transmission line easements at all but certainly the rest of the property is open to as much of that is as possible.

00:33:50.520 --> 00:33:56.650

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thank you. And another question came through about solar panels. So thank you for answering that question. At the same time I think we might pop over to you.
- Now, Daryl is an agricultural specialist with 20 plus years experience as a farm business consultant.
- Thank you. And thanks very much, Denis. No doubt we'll come back to you later with more questions

00:34:14.659 --> 00:34:16.010

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Over to you, Darryl.

00:34:16.010 --> 00:34:24.719

Daryl - Agricultural Specialist

- Yeah, thanks, Jen, and thanks Denis. Yeah. My name is Daryl. And my role in this project is to provide agricultural support to the project and I guess in my day to day job doing farm business management, business management consultant. I have a number of clients who have transmission lines on their properties, and who have continued to farm those easements, you know, throughout over a number of decades.
- But there are some restrictions and some guidance on what can and can't happen there, and part of that is to help go through that and effectively answer as many questions as we're able to as well.
- But I guess just a general comment is that most farming operations can occur within the easement.
- We'll go through a little bit more detail shortly. But with the exception of the footprint of the tower which obviously is out of production and part of the compensation process that goes forward with constructions of these types of projects, but generally within the agent. Most agricultural activities can continue.
- Next slide, please.
- So along the along the proposed route there's a number of different types of agricultural activities. There's cereal cropping, grazing. horticulture, potatoes in particular, and all those different agricultural pursuits say, as those pictures show. There's different types of machinery used in those activities.
- But as Denis very clearly explained, anything that's below that 5 meter height can continue and operate without any further requirements in terms of permissions, and the like, but so certainly when it becomes between 5 and 8.6 meters there is that. That safety assessment that needs to be done. So that's the biggest driver here. So all about maintaining the safety of the people involved in working close and within transmission line easements, and in on a whole, generally that once that permission is provided. Then there's no need to change that, unless otherwise advised. So guess where there might be a change. If you know the equipment was to change in nature and extension to its current set up, then they might need there will we need to be another safety assessment. Completed.
- And, as Dennis pointed out, too, normally, that's a fairly straight forward process. Up to the 8.6, it's when something can or could possibly go beyond that 8.6 is when that permit to work, requirement is required.

- The other thing, too, I guess, in that in design and the development of the project.
- You know, there is an attempt to try and understand. You know the activities on farm and looking to minimise the location of the towers that can help and can continue the farming operations as least impacted as possible. There will still be some impacts, is not denying that, but trying to work closely with landholders to try and get the best outcome possible.
- Next slide
- Irrigation is another one of those key activities that occurs along the route particularly in in the horticultural growing areas around Ballarat and the like. So irrigation equipment, like lateral move irrigators and pivot irrigators they are permitted. With under transmission lines, as you can see by those photos, what is will be prevented to be used under the easements is the high pressure rain gun irrigators is illustrated in those pictures. They do and can pose a potential arcing risk with the height of the water stream. And so those 12 irrigators will be prevented. For use under the under the easements. Yeah. Part of that part of the implementation. The project in implications to irrigation infrastructure, and the like will be part of that compensation disturbance process. There might be some reconfiguration required on in certain spots. But, as mentioned before, there's an attempt in that design process to minimize the impact on existing infrastructure.
- Okay, Next slide.
- Aerial spraying is another one that we need to be aware of and careful about.
- So aerial spraying, whether it's fertilizers or sprays, or whatever it might be, is in being employed often on farming operations. Often when it's too wet to get there physically on land with land based equipment.
- So the use of manned aircraft to do spray operations is a prohibited activity within the transmission line easement. And again, it's all a safety driven position.
- The use of drones is becoming increasingly adopted in the farming world and will be permitted with the right permissions. Yeah, it's making sure the operators of have got there you know sound equipment and got their own safety agricultural protocols to where they need to be. But they will be a mitigating option with the fact that we can't use manned aircraft when we're for spraying activities within the easement.
- And next slide
- another factor, another key technology that farms use the GPS systems and effectively, there is minimal implications with GPS with transmission lines. I'm not the

technical expert in the GPS world, but effectively the frequencies are different. They can be some multi pathing that can occur if you're very close to the tower. Similarly, as you would experience, being really close to any steel structure shed, or silo, or all the like.

- But that's that really needs to be quite close, like within about 3 meters. So there's minimal implications. If a base station on a farm is having some, there's some relaying issues, or whatever they, you know that part of the process would be to relocate those base stations to avoid those sort of things which, again, which we under and covered, you know, within the compensation and disruption process that is part of the implementation of the project
- next slide. Thanks, fencing, and absolutely must on our farms and we'll have fencing that can that will go across the easements run along parallel with the easements.
- But we do need to apply some safety measures with those fences. Again, all the particular detail will be provided to, you know individual farms with their individual circumstances. But we need to keep a sort of minimum distance from the towers themselves.
- There's earthing requirements that need to be part and parcels of the majority of fences that are involved in in the easements and most electric fences, and the lock will be unaffected by the by, the easement. And guess you know, generally the fences are not something that's gets put up and down on a regular basis. So in that you know first initial construction, phase, and all of the detail requirements that will be part of that construction will apply to those fences a lot that will be part of farmers. Infrastructure going through the operational phase. I think that that's the end of my slides, Jen.

00:43:30.739 --> 00:43:40.810

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- That's the end of your slides, Daryl and they have been no questions that have come in that have been specific to your presentation.
- So I would encourage participants, we are going through till 8 30, providing there are questions. So please bring your, roll your questions in, so that we can answer what has been concerning or confusing you up until now.
- There is one question that has come through so far. So thanks very much, Daryl. This one, I think, probably, is best directed to Carolyn.

- Why were there multiple options for route at Hepburn and other locations along the WRL, and these were publicly advertised. And yet in the Myrniong area, where there was a single narrowed, proposed route corridor, it was moved in the August 2021 route update without any notification or public notice of an alternative route being considered to areas completely out of the narrowed corridor of investigation. How does that fit with a transparent engagement process? Especially when it could appear the route change being considered, had been known for quite some time by AusNet.

00:44:53.150 --> 00:45:21.830

Carolyn - Approvals Manager

- Thanks. Jen.
- The question relates to a change that was made at Myrniong. But first of all, I'll speak about those areas where we had existing options. And there was 2 options at Melton Aerodrome, and there was also the 2 options at Hepburn Lagoon and the reason why the 2 options were made public was that we weren't able to in some cases particularly around Hepburn Lagoon, able to get access to do the required field surveys. And so we were carrying both options through the environment effects statement process.
- So we were assessing both options until we had enough information where a decision could be made. In the case of Myrniong. There were a number of reasons as to why the route changed in that area. Part of it was the investigations that we were doing around environmental values and environmental assets that we had identified and also social values and assets. There was a lot of concern around from the people at Myrniong that the route was very, very close to the township, and, moving it further away reduced the landscape and visual amenity impacts of the project.
- And there was also some concerns that had been raised around the environmental values in terms of biodiversity for that Myrniong area. So the route will continue to change.
- And that is part of the role of the Environment Effects Statement is to identify environmental values and assets, and the public have certainly played a part in that.
- In the pinpoint data, by providing us with information and locating that on the map, on our website and that has been particularly useful and has influenced the

proposed route. But others have been discussions with individual landholders or government agencies and authorities, or in the case of Myrniong, there were concerns from the community regarding the landscape and visual impact as well, so that route was moved for a number of reasons. There weren't multiple options put into place there because we weren't carrying through both those options through the Environment Effects Statement.

- Thanks, Jen.

00:47:25.370 --> 00:47:27.553

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thanks very much. Carolyn.
- How many participants. there are currently 10 participants online, apparently a couple more started but have since dropped out.
- I'm going to pass over to Mick. We've got another 3 questions, but I think we'll pass over to Mick to just round off the presentations, and then we'll launch into the remaining questions.
- So Mick is the land engagement manager. He manages a team of land liaison officers who are working with landholders to host the infrastructure. Thanks.

00:48:00.460 --> 00:48:01.340

Mick - Land Engagement Manager

- Thanks, Jen.
- Good evening. Just wanted to give you an update that currently, we're rolling out options for easement to landholders impacted by the proposed route.
- What we are finding is that for those people who are interested in talking to us, they're taking up the options.
- The offer to engage and work with us to identify the opportunities that both Daryl and Dennis spoke about regarding not just the construction, but also the operational side of things, so identifying that micro-siting of towers, talking about infrastructure. proposed plans for paddocks cropping issues. Anything like that gives us gives us an opportunity to make an informed decision around how we can best position this line.
- So there are elements of the offer which cover off the compensation, and include not just the diminishing impact of the of the transmission on your property, but also the disturbance elements that creates and what that means for you.

- So I guess in general, what we'd like to try and get you to do is, if you feel that your voice isn't being heard, or you have a direct impact, and you would like to engage with us then contact us. You should be aware of who your land liaison officer is, if not certainly reached out to those numbers down the bottom and we'll make sure someone gets you as soon as possible, so those opportunities will be taken, sent back to the business. In some instances we're not always able to fix everything, but people have identified that, you know, sometimes positioning it here near a fence isn't exactly the right thing for your operation, so happy to work with them.
- We've also identified moving towers out of cropping paddocks and putting them into grazing paddocks. And these little things have helped mitigate the impact on the farmers operations. So yeah, we just encourage you to reach out as anytime we can.
- Thanks, Jen.

00:50:27.130 --> 00:50:45.469

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thanks very much, Mick. So we've got 4 questions left. So please. Any other questions we would be very keen to answer. So the first question,
- Where does the liability lie in the event that something goes wrong, such as a tower collapse, or line causing fire?
- I'm not sure who was best placed to answer that

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- I might get if all the presenters to just show their faces.
- Now to Denis, you're going to have a go at that one.

00:50:57.941 --> 00:51:02.759

Denis - AusNet Easements Officer

- Well, look just speaking from the existing easements that we have across the State there certainly is some coverage for any mishap that occurs as a result of operational maintenance of the line. So there's no question. Ask if there's something that's been caused by the line, whether it's a fault or a failure of the tower. Then certainly that will be covered by the by the asset owner being AusNet.
- If something occurs on the easement that's not related to the line. Then that's a different story. That would go with the land and the lands insurance. But Carolyn

might have some additional information on that regard, and Mick as well. Mick will be looking at these sort of things from an engagement perspective.

00:51:54.140 --> 00:51:58.269

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Okay, so I'll go to Carolyn first, and then, Mick, if there's any further comments.

00:51:58.580 --> 00:52:13.282

Carolyn - Approvals Manager

- In relation to fire. Basically we can't find any records of there being a bushfire started by a transmission line. Certainly, there are findings from the Royal Commission around distribution lines but they are very different to transmission lines. So the real risk around fire being started from a transmission line is certainly something that's being addressed as part of the Environment Effects Statement. And we also look at the bushfire risk associated with the construction and operation of a transmission line throughout the landscape, which is important in a lot of people's eyes. Previous webinars we've spoken about the bushfire risk. If people are interested, they can go to our website and have a look at that information. Thanks, Jen.

00:52:53.320 --> 00:52:56.340

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thanks, Carolyn. Anything further, Mick, or is it being covered.

00:52:57.919 --> 00:53:10.840

Mick - Land Engagement Manager

- Look, I just want to highlight that liability is a big issue for our landholders. And you know we would encourage you to talk to your insurance companies around that coverage if it's identified that you know you were to be incurring further costs in relation that would come under a disturbance element of payments. And we would calculate that out. So yeah, that's it. Just to final bit. Thanks, Jen.

00:53:27.820 --> 00:53:29.000

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thanks, Mick.

- Okay, this question is addressed to Denis. But I'm interested also in in Carolyn's take on it.
- Denis. Why hasn't equine land use been recognized? Will us not be addressing this, the WRL will directly impact many harness and thoroughbred training and breeding properties as well as pleasure. Horse land uses at Melton Pony Club
- AusNet are aware of an incident during one of their surveys that injured a valuable racehorse from a horse owner's point of view, a transmission line will be incompatible.

00:54:06.220 --> 00:54:11.339

Denis - AusNet Easements Officer

- Yes Carolyn, that might be best for you to answer that one. I'm haven't been involved in that particular.

00:54:11.590 --> 00:54:40.670

Carolyn - Approvals Manager

- Sure, sure, and we acknowledge that. Yes, it was a very sad incident. Involving a very valuable racehorse that had occurred in that Melton area. One thing, I would say, is that equine land use has certainly been recognised, not just by the agriculture and forestry specialist report for the Environment Effects Statement, but also the land use and planning report and the social impact assessment report.
- We understand the importance of horses and equine industry to Victoria's economy, and also as an important land use in the proposed route area. There certainly are some significant properties there, and significant businesses that are associated with horses not just grazing, but there's obviously breeding. And, as mentioned by the question, everything from harness, trotting, thoroughbred racehorses, eventers, and also the Melton Pony Club, but it certainly has been recognised by the project and has been recognised in those specialist reports, and the impacts upon the equine industry are certainly looked at very, very closely as a consequence of the development and construction and operation of the Western Renewables Link.

00:55:42.130 --> 00:55:43.090

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Yeah. Carolyn.

00:55:43.300 --> 00:55:56.050

Daryl - Agricultural Specialist

- And I just might add further to there. And yeah, certainly unfortunate in regards to that horse. But one of the really important thing is with any of the activities that occur, part of the the study. And then the you know, potential construction of this of these lines is is that individual property, access management plans are developed and consultation with Mick's team and the land office to actually really identify specific things that really need to be addressed at an individual property basis. And so that's just where it's really critically important to talk, to Mick's team to to be aware of certain things and to avoid, you know, instances like that what might happen there. So I just wanted to make that point.

00:56:32.410 --> 00:56:53.629

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thanks very much, Daryl. I'm interested in the implications of WRL for the Sydenham Terminal station and the subsequent sections of the HV. Lines. Will the existing HV lines that go further south, east and northeast be expanded or upgraded to cater for the additional power transmission that might be for you? Carolyn.

00:56:54.210 --> 00:57:09.210

Carolyn - Approvals Manager

- Okay, certainly the existing lines going in and out of Sydenham will continue to go in and out of Sydenham. However, the Sydenham terminal station will move to immediately north of its current position and it's still within the same property, but just immediately north of the existing terminal station, so they won't necessarily be upgraded. However, there are new connections as a result of what used to be known as the Melton renewable energy hub, and it's now the Melbourne Renewable Energy Hub, will be going into Sydenham, but as a direct result of Western Renewables Link, there will be new towers that will be going into Sydenham for Western Renewables Link, and they're not associated with those going north and south which I think were mentioned in the question.
- They'll be coming in from the west of the transmission line of the terminal station.

00:57:55.930 --> 00:57:59.810

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Yeah, the question, I think, talked about southeast and northeast. So yes.
- Thank you also for you, Carolyn. What's the expected lifetime that WRL will provide for the transmission of renewable power from Western Victoria into Melbourne. Is it possible that another WRL line will be required within the next 50 years.

00:58:17.810 --> 00:58:40.790**Carolyn - Approvals Manager**

- I think one of the decisions of the Victorian Government and the Australian Energy Market Operator to upgrade the line to 500 kilovolts all the way from Bulgana to Sydenham helps future proof that the project there is no additional line anticipated at this point. In time the proposed Western Renewables Link will cater for the proposed, I suppose, market there, or for the capacity that is required, and that was part of the study that was done by the Australian Energy Market Operator in terms of the RIT-T, and in terms of the further work that they did and the linking of VNI West through that new switchyard at Bulgana and in terms of a number of years. I think they're the sorts of things that we need to look to the Victorian Government and the Australian energy market operator who are responsible for planning the transmission network in Victoria. And it's not an AusNet decision.

00:59:22.240 --> 00:59:23.530**Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator**

- Thank you.
- What about constraints on firefighting? Is that you also Carolyn?

00:59:28.020 --> 00:59:56.590**Carolyn - Approvals Manager**

- That is certainly been a concern from a number of people in a number of communities, there is no doubt that the area that the Western Renewables Link is proposing to go through, we do have some areas of high bushfire risk. It is Victoria. Victoria is a high bushfire risk community and state. And when you think about some of the areas that we're going through, there are high fuel loads and large forested areas. Perhaps not next to the transmission line, but certainly within reasonable vicinity of the transmission line.

- There are standing orders from the Country Fire Authority and the other fire authorities within Victoria around the use of aerial firefighting in the vicinity transmission lines. It happens in Victoria at the moment across our network of 6,500 kilometres of transmission lines, and we know that there has been some concerns, particularly from local brigades around that. But we have been working with CFA and Fire Rescue Victoria and Parks Victoria, and other agencies involved in firefighting, to talk through those risks, and to make sure that what we are doing in terms of the design and construction and operation of Western Renewables Link is following some of those standing orders from those fire authorities, so we are working very closely with them, and there are regular discussions on a regular basis around how we can make Western Renewables Link more appropriate and more effective for not just aerial firefighting, but also ground firefighting activities.

01:01:17.640 --> 01:01:20.130

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- So are the towers fireproof?
- What happens during a bushfire?

01:01:24.791 --> 01:01:35.949

Carolyn - Approvals Manager

- They are steel lattice towers, so they're made out of steel. But effectively, as we know, and there are also fuel loads that are managed within the easement itself.
- But certainly in when there is a bushfire in the vicinity of the transmission line, we are able to turn the transmission line off very, very quickly, and we work very closely in our incident control team with those emergency management agencies to make sure that people are as safe as they possibly can be in the vicinity of the transmission line, and whatever natural disaster or emergency is occurring.

01:02:09.940 --> 01:02:14.907

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thanks, Carolyn. Mick, I think this might be you, although Carolyn might provide information as well. If a landholder's insurance broker requests specific information from Ausnet about the risk of these transmission lines. Will you provide more information? Why are you leaving it all to the landholder to sort out the impact on insuring there land.

01:02:34.637 --> 01:02:37.310

Mick - Land Engagement Manager

- Yeah, it's a good question. So first of all, absolutely, we will provide, as much information to your specialists as you require

01:02:49.351 --> 01:03:16.189

Mick - Land Engagement Manager

- The second part of it is we're leaving it to landholder, not as a deliberate act on their behalf, because we don't want to do it, because we believe you're better informed by your specialists rather than ours. So it comes under the heading of disturbance. If those costs are real and we as yet we haven't found them to be a cost. But if those costs do exist, and you can demonstrate that we will.

01:03:16.210 --> 01:03:28.360

Mick - Land Engagement Manager

- We will make allowances for that. So really, it's about independence creating clarity and giving the landholder a say in what the impacts going to be.

01:03:29.780 --> 01:03:32.050

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Anything further to add Carolyn to that.

01:03:34.230 --> 01:03:52.809

Carolyn - Approvals Manager

- No, I think. That's a very valid point that Mick's making and everyone's individual circumstances are quite different and quite specific to them. So that's why it's important that they receive advice about their circumstances. Every farm is different. Each part of the landscape is different. It's really important that they receive that specific advice.

01:03:53.300 --> 01:04:07.929

Mick - Land Engagement Manager

- The only thing I'll add, Jen, is that we have made allowances for the reimbursement of professional fees. So anybody who is out of pocket in accordance with their engagement, we will compensate those costs.

01:04:09.470 --> 01:04:13.433

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thank you, Mick.
- And still on insurance. If you can provide information to insurance specialists, why can't you provide it now more publicly.

01:04:25.860 --> 01:04:33.219

Mick - Land Engagement Manager

- Well, the information we would make available to your insurance specialists is the information that's publicly available.
- There's nothing.

01:04:38.800 --> 01:04:39.746

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thank you.
- Are you working with wind turbine operators? During this process we have been approached by both.
- Carolyn, is that you?

01:04:50.950 --> 01:05:20.440

Carolyn - Approvals Manager

- We certainly are. We've spoken to a number of existing wind farm operators and proponents of proposed wind farms as well, and also proponents of batteries and solar farms.
- It's really important that we look at the potential cumulative impacts of all of these projects. And that's part of the requirements that we need to do for the Environment Effects Statement.
- We need to demonstrate that we've spoken to these various companies and that we've looked at what will be the cumulative impact on communities and landholders as a consequence of all of this activity and development.

01:05:31.630 --> 01:05:32.740

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thank you.
- And back to fires. What fires have been fought around 500kilovolts transmission lines. Evidence is needed now, not at the end of the year in the EES documents.

01:05:46.530 --> 01:05:47.950

Carolyn - Approvals Manager

- And there's certainly - oh, sorry!

01:05:49.670 --> 01:05:50.904

Denis - AusNet Easements Officer

- No, you got Carolyn. That's fine.

01:05:51.110 --> 01:05:53.288

Carolyn - Approvals Manager

- Oh, oh, sorry, Denis, you go first.

01:05:53.863 --> 01:05:59.650

Denis - AusNet Easements Officer

- Look. I was just going to comment on, because I know the existing network, and we have had a number of fires that have impacted 500kilovolts. Lines, and one in particular was a very bad grass fire in Cranbourne a few years ago, and we had the aerial water bombing very close to the transmission line on that occasion. And in fact, it was used to protect the transmission line from the grass fire more so than anything else.
- So we have had a number of fires near 500kv transmission lines, and the fire fighting services worked extremely well. We've provided the emergency services with the locations accurate locations of all of our line assets.
- And they. They have their navigation systems that can send the Elvis and other airborne firefighting equipment directly to the scene and another one in recent history was through the Bunyip State Park, where an extremely severe bushfire went through there.
- And fortunately the transmission line easement does have a minimal amount of vegetation, as far as you know, mature growth trees and so forth. So the spread of

the fire was largely curtailed as it swept across the easement. So there, there are a couple of examples, and we've certainly had many fires impacting our 330kv easements, and other lines as well.

- So it's not an unknown phenomenon, that's for sure.

01:07:40.310 --> 01:08:00.259

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- And as one of the team members pointed out, there's quite a lot of, quite a few resources on the project website, and also CFA has a number of resources with relation to push fires and the transmission lines. There are videos and written resources on the AusNet site.
- And also regarding bush fires. What about flashovers and arcing and transmission lines?

01:08:12.270 --> 01:08:19.549

Denis - AusNet Easements Officer

- Okay so it's all dependent largely on the fuel that's burning below.
- If it's very dense, smoke, it is always a possibility that there could be a flash over generally the flash over will occur at the towers, with the between the installation and the tower steel work which may cause the line to trip.
- The smoke would need to be extremely dense, and this is where the emergency services and the command centre is in constant contact with our control room, so that if there is an extremely
- severe fire that's approaching a transmission line, then it's most likely that that line would be switched off.
- So that we don't have a situation of any serious arcing that occurs.
- But if it does arc, there are protections within the line to shut the line down within milliseconds. And so it is a situation that could be bad if the if the smoke is dense and moist enough.
- And probably while we're on the fire topic. It's probably worth noting that. You know we can do burning operations within the easement. We do a lot of fuel reduction burns with Fire Forestry Management, and DEECA and also with current farm operators in burning stubble from crops that have been harvested. So all of those, as fire related activities are, it is possible to carry those out under fire conditions which all the time.

01:09:59.780 --> 01:10:04.459

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thanks, Dennis. You pre-empted a question about whether stubble burns are permitted under the lines.

01:10:04.460 --> 01:10:04.725

Denis - AusNet Easements Officer

- Oh!

01:10:04.990 --> 01:10:13.404

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thank you. a person who has been asking if you've equipped the fire related question, is asking for evidence now, not later, about place, date, size of towers and outcome. The team has suggested that. That will reach out and discuss those details directly with that that participant of tonight's webinar.
- Daryl, this one may be you. I have an electric fence that will end up inside the easement. Will that be removed when the line is built.

01:10:47.415 --> 01:10:59.154

Daryl - Agricultural Specialist

- So during construction, there's going to be some disruption to farm businesses and potentially if it's through the easement and alike that things might have to temporarily be removed.
- But again, that's where some of these property access management plans will come into play where alternative sort of arrangements, while that process is occurring will be part of that and then there'll be reinstatement of whatever was there previous, or to whatever that the farmer might particularly want. You know there might be some readjustment of those fences. Cause it's in their best interest to do so.
- Yes, this is something existing there that potentially will need to come down, as you know, in the construction phase. But the alternative and temporary fencing will be part of that story.

01:11:33.120 --> 01:11:43.680

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thank you. And this one might be for you as well. Was planning to build a dam in the next couple of years now the easement is going over the best spot for what happens now.

01:11:47.680 --> 01:11:56.310

Daryl - Agricultural Specialist

- I think Denis talked a bit about dams. It's going to need to be some approval process. So Denis, can you respond directly.

01:11:56.640 --> 01:12:04.429

Denis - AusNet Easements Officer

- Yeah, sure, Daryl. Look! Dams are certainly allowed within the easement. There's a couple of things to look at.
- :Firstly, there's the construction of the dam. So if there's large excavation equipment that's being used, obviously there'll need to be some permission that's obtained from AusNet, and we go through that safety assessment process to do that.
- But the actual dam itself is compatible with being under the line and on the easement.
- As long as the water level and the dam wall level don't infringe the 15 meters. Minimum ground clearance to the lowest point of the line.
- So in general terms the dam will be compatible. It can't be within 30 meters of a tower.
- For obvious reasons, we need to get around the tower and maintain, and all that sort of thing, but anywhere else on the Eastern dam should be quite compatible. And we currently doing a lot of work with new developments where there are wetlands that are being developed within the easements. And you'll see this in many of the outer metropolitan areas where easement land is right through the middle of housing developments. But those easements are turned into wetlands and beautified for landscaping, and you know passive recreation activities and that sort of thing. So all those things are compatible with the easement.

01:13:28.620 --> 01:13:41.540

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thank you. I have 2 questions left. So please provide any further questions. Can I unload hay bales from a semi trailer on the easement.

01:13:44.179 --> 01:13:48.650

Denis - AusNet Easements Officer:

- I'll do a little bit. Daryl might be able to answer it as well.
- Look! The use of equipment on the easement is we covered that a little bit earlier with the reference to the 5 meter maximum height limit.
- Now, when you're talking about unloading items that are fairly large and load, probably loaded onto a fairly big truck.
- You need to have some sort of method to unload them. So that's probably going to be, you know, either a front end loader or a tele-handler, or some sort of forklift arrangement. So as long as that's not infringing the clearance limits as defined by our 5 meter maximum height, which is okay. But if we're going into the 5 to 8.6 meter zone. Then we'll need to have a safety assessment done. And I would think that if you're using a large truck. We generally would like to have a dragging earth chain fitted to the truck. So the best policy on this sort of thing, any sort of equipment use is best to get in touch with AusNet via the PTW website, email address and just ask those questions and we'll be able to answer them fairly straightforward and if necessary we'll come aside and work out the best plan of attack.

01:15:11.270 --> 01:15:13.990

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- They can be a lot more specific. Then, too, can't they? In those.

01:15:13.990 --> 01:15:15.710

Denis - AusNet Easements Officer

- Absolutely. Yes, yes.

01:15:18.040 --> 01:15:19.259

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Sorry, Daryl, did you have.

01:15:19.878 --> 01:15:42.770

Daryl - Agricultural Specialist

- Just in addition, I guess in that there might be, you know, some unique circumstance where the transmission line is, you know, where that unloading is required.
- But there's always a bit of you know, lateral thinking, or, you know, is there could there be a bit of spot of luck, so that's got a sort of come into play. But you know, just reinforce the whole really important component. And all this is about keeping people safe, and if we can reduce the risk, we'd look to reduce the risk.

01:15:53.140 --> 01:16:07.039

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Thank you. And this is the final question that has come through. I usually get contractors to harvest my crop. Do they have to get a permit every time they come in. It can be a different contractor every season.

01:16:09.710 --> 01:16:10.730

Denis - AusNet Easements Officer

- I'll start off, I suppose, and Daryl can add to it if necessary.
- It depends on the equipment, of course. This is, this is the big thing. So if a harvester is being used, and it fits within those general specifications that we've shown on the clearances. Then then there's no problem. If a lot of the harvesters is these days are just a touch under 5 meters in height although when you start to use the unloading augers they can be around 6 metres in height, so that piece of equipment like that is going to be fine.
- It's below the 8.6 meters. And it can't extend above 8.6, so we'd be more than happy to provide the results of a safety assessment, and that information could go into.
- Your farm safety management plan, and so that if you get a different contractor next year as long as they refer to the information in the farm safety management plan and use the equipment as has been assessed. Then that's fine that can continue to carry on.
- It's only if you going to be, your contractor is going to be using something bigger, something different.
- That has a possibility to go above the 8.6 metres in height is when we'll need to look at permits and that sort of thing. But as far as farm equipment is concerned, it's unlikely to get up at 8.6 number.

- Andy did you grow that down - check against video.

01:17:50.110 --> 01:18:10.331

Daryl - Agricultural Specialist

- Yeah. And look this, probably 2 comments. So as Dennis pointed out earlier, there's a lot of transmission lines across Victoria, and there's a lot of cropping going on under and contractors.
- A lot of contractors will be sort of exposed or experience with operating in transmission lines. So that's 1 point and I guess I guess I you know part of my job in my day to day job is, you know, managing risk and risk is such a integral part of farming, and my line is, if in doubt, check it out, and yes, it might be a small impost to get that that check it out.
- But as Denis has alluded to generally, most of this equipment were well within the height restrictions, and if they're not, as long as I can't extend beyond that 8.6, it's pretty much a process of just, you know, just doing that double check to make sure it's all good and all good to go.

01:18:53.250 --> 01:18:55.570

Jen Lilburn - Independent Facilitator

- Beautiful. Well, I think we have run out of questions. So we might go to the next slide. Please, Jed.
- We really do thank you for your time, your interest, your considered questions tonight
- The webinar, as in the recording, the video, if you like, of the webinar tonight will be on the website as well. The presentation, the slide deck and the transcript, which includes all of the questions and the answers that have been given, and we got through them all tonight, which is fantastic.
- Please share that information with your neighbours, with other members of the community.
- If you have any further questions, would like to speak directly to one of our team, please email us at that same email address that sent you information about tonight. But if you want to register for project updates and be kept informed, the email address is slightly different. That's info at Westernrenewables.link.com.au, and finally, just a reminder. About the land holder, guide, for easement safety and permitted activities. It is available on the website, or you can request a copy

through the land liaison officer, or by emailing that same email address, stakeholder engagement at Western_renewables.link.com.au

I'd like to thank all the presenters tonight. Thank you for your preparation in the lead up to today. And tonight. That's Carolyn and Denis, Daryl and Mick.

- I'd like to thank also the back of house team. But, importantly, thank you. Community member participants for your time tonight and an interest in this project.
- We'll see you soon. Thank you.