

Draft scoping requirements in the EES process for the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project



12 November 2020



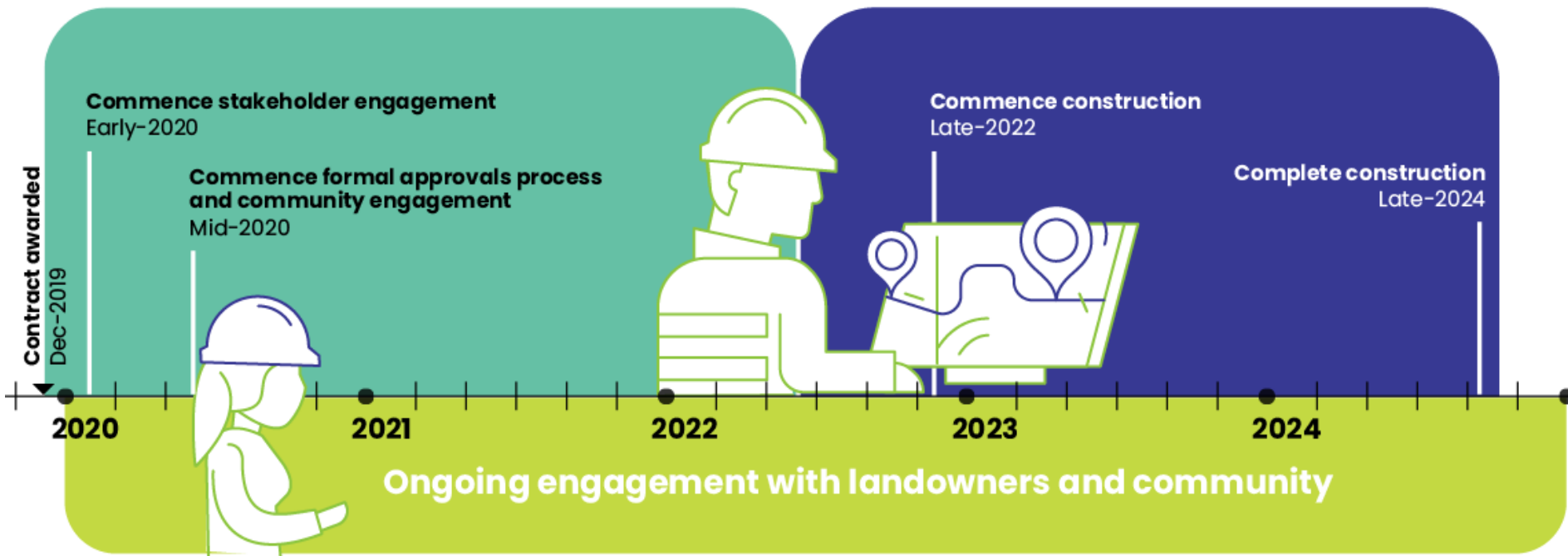
Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

- **Introduction (2mins)**
- **Housekeeping (3mins)**
- **Presentation about the Environment Effect
Statement process and scoping requirements
(15mins)**
- **Opportunities for questions and answers (40mins)**

- 1. Sessions are being recorded and will be consolidated and shared via the website**
- 2. Questions can be asked via the questions and answers tool in the tab on the middle of your screen or via the email info@westvictnp.com.au**
- 3. Write your question as succinctly as possible and include your name and area if you wish this to be read out**
- 4. Questions we don't get through today can be followed up via email after the session**
- 5. Any offensive language included in questions will not be read out**

Planning and approvals

Construction



Jack Krohn

**Senior Impact Assessor, Impact Assessment Unit,
Statutory Planning Services**

**Planning | Department of Environment, Land, Water
and Planning**

- Applies to proposed projects (works) capable of having a **significant effect** on the environment.
- **'Environment'** is defined broadly (Guidelines).
- The **EES process** is the Victorian **statutory EIA tool** for assessing projects with potentially significant effects.
- The **Ministerial Guidelines** set out detailed process and guidance on implementation of the Act, including about technical content and community engagement.
- Assessments **bilateral agreement** under EPBC Act accredits Victorian EES process for controlled actions for assessment purposes of EPBC Act.

Environment effects statement process



The EES process is not an approval process in itself. Rather it enables decision makers to make informed decisions about whether a project should proceed in light of its environmental effects

Victorian EES process – when input is sought

DELWP
responsibility

Determining the need
for an EES

Public

EES Scoping
Requirements on public
exhibition (3 weeks)

Preparing an EES

Public

EES on public exhibition
(6 weeks)

Public

Inquiry (“Panel”)

Minister’s Assessment

- **Environment Effects Act** – EES required
- **Ministerial guidelines** – Detail about process steps.
 - Sets out how the process works to achieve the purposes of the Act
- **Minister's procedures and requirements** – project-specific stipulations, made at the time of the decision to require the EES
- **Scoping requirements** – Detail of required coverage of this EES.

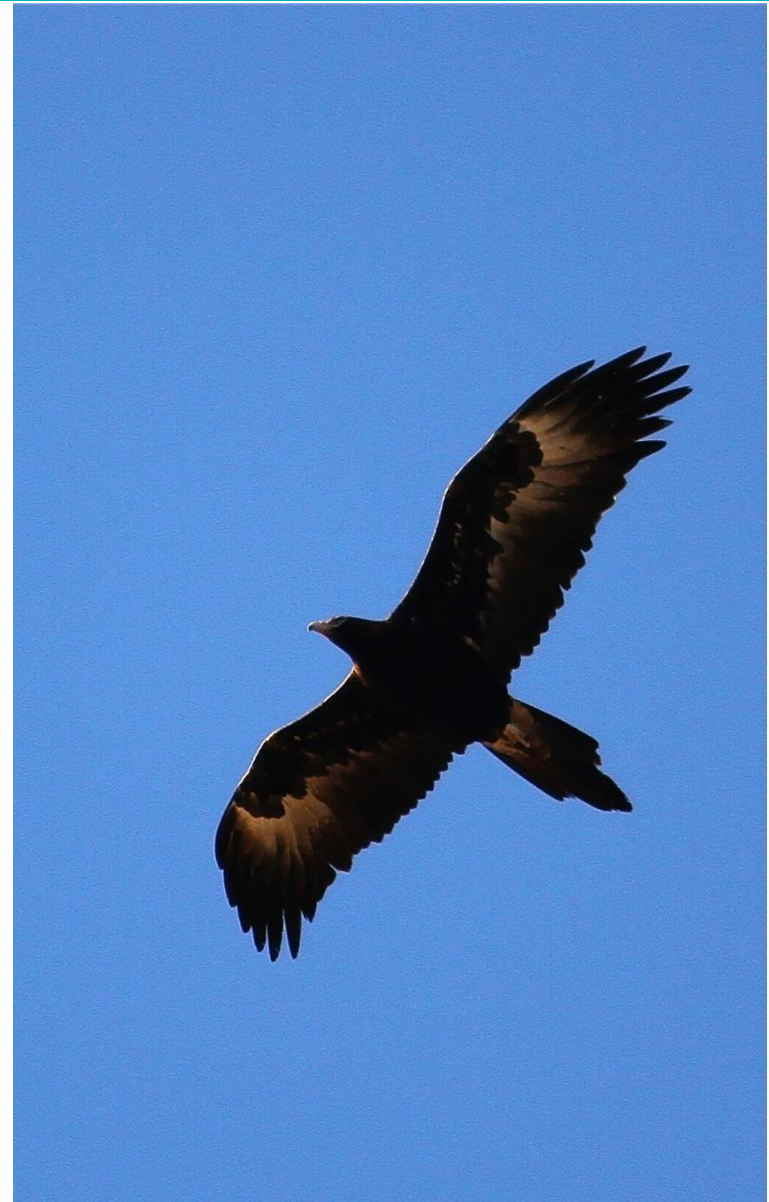
- **Scoping requirements** for the EES are issued by the Minister.
- The scoping requirements outline the matters to be investigated and documented in the EES.
- The extent of investigation will depend on the **level of risk** to aspects of the environment.
- Draft scoping requirements for an EES are prepared following input from the proponent and agencies.
- These are released for **15 business days for public comment** before being finalised.
- Scoping requirements will ultimately help to inform **authorisation** of the EES for public exhibition.

- **Template approach** – structure generally consistent
- **Section 1** – Introduction
 - Explains project
 - Minister's requirements for this EES
- **Section 2** – Process and approvals
 - EES process
 - Known approvals requirements
 - EPBC Act accreditation

- **Section 3** – Matters to be addressed
 - General approach
 - Content and style
 - Project description
 - Project alternatives
 - Applicable legislation, policies and strategies
 - Draft evaluation objectives
 - Environmental management framework

- **Section 4** – Specific environmental effects. For each:
 - Key issues – what could be affected?
 - Characterise – describe what is there now.
 - Identify potential effects – what effects could result and how?
 - Design and mitigation measures – what will be done to reduce extent of impacts or levels of risk?
 - Residual impacts – extent of expected impacts after mitigation
 - Performance and management – eg monitoring, adaptive management

- **Section 4.1** – Biodiversity and habitat
- Specific mention of EPBC communities and species
- Other listed threatened and protected species and communities
- Impacts on vegetation and habitat
- Quantification and identification of offsets
- Field surveys and database records



Scoping Requirements

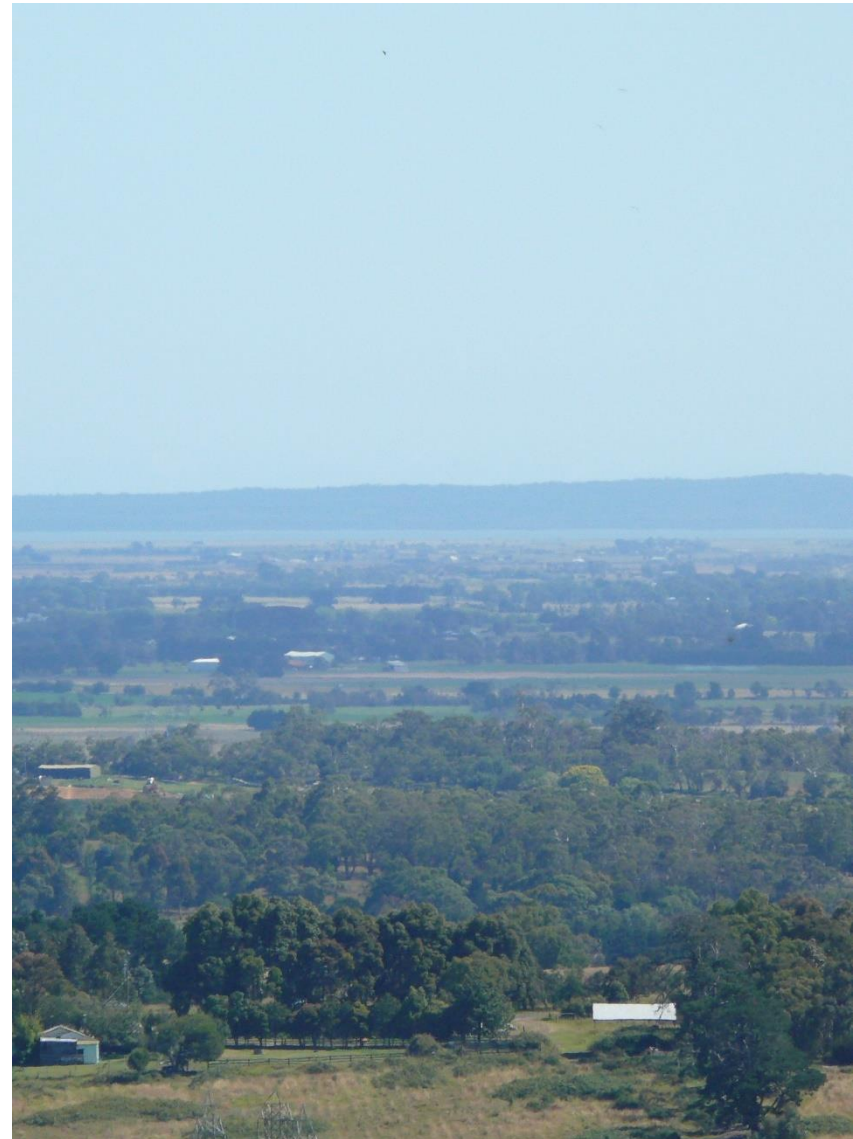


- **Section 4.2 – Cultural heritage**
- Applies both to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to historic heritage
- Database information eg on registers
- Project research as required to identify previously unknown values
- Inform approval requirements under legislation

- **Section 4.3 – Landscape and visual**
 - Identification of areas of high landscape sensitivity
 - Identification of representative viewing locations
 - Use of photomontages or other techniques to present potential impacts
 - Options for mitigation



- **Section 4.4** – Land use and socio-economic
 - Consideration of land use – highly diverse across area of interest.
 - To be done at appropriate level of resolution
 - Aviation, across range of purposes of aviation (eg agriculture, fire-fighting, etc)
 - Social impacts
 - Tourism, visitation, other impacts on businesses
 - Potential economic effects, positive and negative, eg employment, impacts on existing businesses.



Scoping Requirements



- **Section 4.5 – Amenity, safety, transport**
 - Some overlap with 4.4.
 - Impacts on transport network
 - Amenity – noise, air quality, vibration
 - Possibly different issues from construction and operations phases.
 - Consideration of impacts for fire risk management.
 - Radiation, greenhouse gas emissions, project-generated wastes

- **Section 4.6** – Catchment and hydrology
 - Waterways, floodplains and wetlands
 - Water quality and volumes
 - Groundwater quality and behaviour
 - Salinity and other soil issues
 - Erosion



- **Appendices**
 - Provided for information/ context
 - App. A – Minister’s procedures and requirements
 - Some are process requirements not to be executed by proponent (eg duration of exhibition, inquiry to be appointed)
 - App. B – EPBC Act Notice of decision.

The purpose of the scoping requirements is to set out **required coverage of investigations**.

The most useful submissions will identify:

- **omitted issues requiring assessment;**
- **additional potential impact pathways;**
- **matters relevant to options for mitigation or management of potential impacts.**

Submissions (de-identified) will be shared with proponent.

Submissions suggesting greater prescription/ higher order of detail may help to inform proponent's response to final scoping requirements.

This stage of EES process is not about merits of the project – submitters' views about project merits will not help in defining scope of EES.

The process places the onus on the proponent to satisfy the Minister, in context of advice from TRG, inputs from proponent's community consultation program and identified levels of environmental risk, that investigations are adequate to characterise conditions and impacts.

No prescribed format for submissions – just write comments in an email.

Send submissions to:

Environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au

Closing date for submissions: **Friday 27 November.**

Questions?

Send submissions to:

Environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au

Closing date for submissions: **Friday 27 November**

General project enquiry:

info@westvictnp.com.au

Draft Scoping Requirements for WestVic:

https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/494171/WVTNP-Draft-EES-Scoping-Requirements-Exhibition.pdf

EES process:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/what-is-the-ees-process-in-victoria>

Western Victoria Transmission Network Project:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/browse-projects/projects/western-victoria-transmission-network-project>