

**For Public Notice via Internet**

**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978  
(REFERRAL NUMBER 2024-R02)**

**Proponent**

Transmission Company Victoria Pty Ltd

**Project**

Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West)

**Description**

Development, construction and operation of a 500kV double-circuit electricity transmission line and associated infrastructure, located between a proposed switchyard in Bulgana (which is part of the proposed Western Renewables Link project) at the southern end of the project and a crossing point at the Murray River, north of Kerang, to connect to the New South Wales portion of VNI West.

The project also includes the development, construction and operation of a proposed terminal station near Kerang at Tragowel and modifications to the existing 220kV line which runs between Kerang and Bendigo at the proposed terminal station. Construction laydown areas, access tracks and site offices would also be required for the project.

A draft corridor for the transmission line has been developed, to provide an indication of a potential route, within a nominated area of interest.

**Decision**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) is required for the Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (Victorian component) as described in the referral accepted on 6th February 2024.

**Reasons**

- The nominated area of interest for the project is significant in length and size and includes areas of significant environmental values, including native vegetation and ecological values, agricultural and other land uses, Aboriginal cultural values, visual and landscape values and other social values.
- The project has the potential for a range of significant environmental effects on biodiversity, surface water and groundwater, Aboriginal cultural values, agriculture, landscape values, amenity and socioeconomic values.
- There are alignment and design alternatives for the project requiring assessment and refinement in relation to opportunities for avoidance and/or minimisation of potentially significant effects.
- An EES process will provide a robust, transparent and integrated assessment through which the potential environmental effects can be rigorously assessed, including alternatives for key components of the project, and the effectiveness and acceptability of proposed measures to avoid, minimise, manage and offset environmental effects.
- An EES responds to community interest in project siting, alignment and design alternatives by providing appropriate opportunities for public input.

**Date**

13/4/2024 SIK

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