

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P361**

**Name:** Phil McRae

**Location:** Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

In the last 2 weeks I have become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana in Victoria to New South Wales.

At a recent meeting in St Arnaud we were presented with a pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line which includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that such a transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered, and basically there has been no consultation. Three people came and stood out the front of the St Arnaud town hall, but they were unable answer any questions asked about the towers. The VFF and Northern Grampians Shire hosted a meeting in the St Arnaud town hall with Vic Grid CEO in attendance on 21st March. Once again, questions were not answered. This is not consultation!

My Concerns are:

- We can't work under the lines safely.
- Cannot use machinery under the lines.
- Cannot run stock under lines.
- Cannot fight fires under lines.
- What impact will the power lines have on health of people living close to them?

These are a few of the basic concerns regarding the impact that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them!

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, the result from a fire would be catastrophic. We don't want another Black Saturday do we?

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines. The Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors, not on highly productive farm land.

Name: Phil McRae

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P362**

**Name:** Peter Bryce

**Location:** Traynors Lagoon, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

I have only just recently become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered basically no consultation. 3 people out the front of the local town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall the towers are, is just not consultation at all.

- \* We can't work under the lines safely.
- \* Use machinery under the lines.
- \* Can't Run stock under lines.
- \* Can't fight fires underlines.
- \* We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.
- \* Environmental concerns having powerlines running through flood plains.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control. This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals.

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

I own approximately 1000 acres of cropping and grazing farmland on the Wimmera Highway at Gre Gre South and at Bryce Road Traynor's Lagoon.

I have set aside 70 acres of this farmland as "Remnant Woodlands" with a 99 year Deeca covenant over that land. This is part of the flood plain. I doubt that the Deeca Vic. would allow powerlines anywhere this land.

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farm land. That will rip communities and families apart.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link...This is just wasting everyone's time!! These powerlines are not being erected on my property!

Name: Peter Bryce

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P363**

**Name:** Warren & Kim & Jack McRae

**Location:** Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered basically no consultation. 3 people out the front of the local town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall the towers are, is just not consultation at all.

- We can't work under the lines safely.
- Use machinery under the lines.
- Can't Run stock under lines.
- Can't fight fires underlines.
- What happens to the towers when they condemn them?
- Only to name a few of the basic destructive complications that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them!
- We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farm land. That will rip communities and families apart.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link...This is just wasting everyone's time!! These powerlines are not being erected on my property!

Name: Warren, Kim & Jack McRae

Location: Gre Gre north (aprox 15km west of st Arnaud)

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P364**

**Name:** Nick Baldwin

**Location:** Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered basically no consultation. 3 people out the front of the local town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall the towers are, is just not consultation at all.

- We can't work under the lines safely.
- Use machinery under the lines.
- Can't Run stock under lines.
- Can't fight fires underlines.
- What happens to the towers when they condemn them?
- Only to name a few of the basic destructive complications that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them!
- We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farm land. That will rip communities and families apart.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link...This is just wasting everyone's time!! **These powerlines are not being erected on my property!**

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P365**

**Name:** Rodney & Nicola Kirk

**Location:** Berrimal, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

I have become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulganin to New South Wales.

The corridor for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. Our family are first generation farmers and we have worked very hard to purchase the 1000 acres we own at 597 Hughes Road on the Nine Mile. We also lease 700 acres from our neighbors and we are looking to expand our business and enterprise. We have two young sons who are 11 and 13 years old and they have both made it very clear that they would like to continue in agriculture. This infrastructure and the impacts it will have are therefore an inter-generational problem and will impact our family for potentially generations to come. We currently run just over 1000 merino sheep and have in the last four years invested considerable time and money into establishing a merino stud. We cultivate and grow grain on our property, which we use to feed the stock we carry. We are very concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on our stud, farming operations and business structure as a whole.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on our farmland, we are concerned that we will have no information on what land access arrangements could be demanded by the transmission company before, during and after construction; what costs this would have on our business; what changes will be enforced on our current farming practices and what our overall rights would be.

We are also concerned as there is currently very limited information on where the transmission lines are to be placed and what impacts may be placed on our farming practices. We are concerned about the impacts that may occur with our land value, the overall costs our business may be subject too, the reduced production our land or business may be subjected too. It is therefore impossible to provide an assessment on the costs to our business if the project was constructed on our land.



# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

Whilst I have not been provided with information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure on my farmland, I believe the following issues will impact my ability to maintain a commercial farming operation now and into the future:

- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- Inability to use machinery under the transmission lines due to height restrictions;
- inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones;
- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with withholding periods, stock sales or vendor declarations;
- spread of weeds that will severely impact the quality of the wool I sell;
- failure to close gates which cause problems with stock movement or isolation on property;
- damage to stock pasture and crops;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery. Or use of equipment on site that cause fires.
- Biosecurity issues – our stud is required to perform regular biosecurity tests for certain diseases. If these diseases were transported onto our property we would lose our accreditation, reputation and would no longer have the ability to run a large part of our business.
- Inability to fight fires with helicopters from above or use of fire trucks under and around transmission lines. This could result in a fire front that could devastate our small property;
- Stock disruption during sensitive yearly cycles (mating/ Lambing) leading to reduced numbers of lambs on the ground or increased mortality rates.
- An inability to obtain vital insurance under or near transmission lines.

These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region.

I believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region.

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

Prior to the announcement on 20 February 2023 that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, I had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting my farm business. I believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

Yours Sincerely

Rodney and Nicola Kirk

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P366**

**Name:** Madison Bibby

**Location:** St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

I have only just become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland through my district. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my health and the highly agricultural ran community that I live in.

This will impact the lives of not only the farmers in our community but everyone of us for years to come.

We have not had any questions answered basically no consultation. 3 people out the front of the local town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall the towers are, is just not consultation at all.

- Can't fight fires underlines!! Just stupidity in the modern error of technology.
- What happens to the heritage sites!
- What happens to the cultural background!
- What happens to the towers when they condemn them?
- Where's the concrete in the ground go!
- Only to name a few of the basic destructive complications that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them!
- Everybody needs to be made aware of the social and environmental impacts that this will bring into the community.
- THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE. AND THE PEOPLE TO COME!

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

From a CFA point of view, as not only an active member of the St Arnaud CFA but also the FEM officer, and member of the BMT. Noting being able to control or chase a fire head near these power lines could be detrimental to life and property in these surrounding areas.

We don't want another Black Saturday, do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

I believe as a resident that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farm land. That will rip communities and families apart.

I think it's disgusting the way you are just trying to railroad through the farmers land who primarily feed us. If you reckon you can, think again because our people are not the weakest link... This is just wasting everyone's time!! These powerlines are not being erected under any circumstance within the community I live in!!!

Madison Bibby

St Arnaud 3478

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P367**

**Name:** Anthony & Alexandria Holt

**Location:** Woosang, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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RE: Submission of concerns regarding the VNI West – Consultation Report

Dear Australian Energy Market Operator,

We are farmers who own land in the proposed 500Kv double-circuit overhead transmission line corridor between Kerang and Bulgana. Our land is located in Woosang, Victoria. We run 3000 merino sheep and crop 1500 acres per year. We are a family farm with income spread across 3 generations. We do not own a large holding of land and require every inch of land to support the 3 families dependant on farm income. Thus, we are very anxious about the negative impact the power lines may have on our farming enterprise. Adding to our concerns is the lack of consultation and the lack of answers to the questions and details about this proposed power line. Beyond the concerns for financial losses, we gravely fear for the health of our children and grandchildren and our livestock being exposed to EMF radiation.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on our farmland, we also have concerns that we have no information on what land access arrangements could be demanded by the transmission company before, during and after construction; what costs this would have on our business; and what our rights would be. We are also concerned that there is no information available to us about the compensation that would be provided because of the impacts on our farming operations including reduced production and decreased land values. It is therefore impossible to provide an assessment on the costs to our business if the project was constructed on our land. Whilst we have not been provided with information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure on our farmland, we believe the following issues will impact our ability to maintain a commercial farming operation now and into the future:

- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;
- inability to irrigate under powerlines;

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- spread of weeds;
- failure to close gates;
- damage to crops;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery.

These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region. We believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region. Prior to the announcement on 20 February 2023 that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, we had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting our farm business. We believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

Yours sincerely and anxiously,

Anthony & Alexandria Holt

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P368**

**Name:** Nicholas Petrie

**Location:** Sutherland, VIC, Australia

## Submission

### Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We are a proud farming family with FOUR generations living/ working on the farm currently, farming approx. 5000acres (Cereal and broadacre crops) as well as 2500 sheep (meat and wool production).

I have become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The corridor for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on my farmland, I am concerned that I have no information on what land access arrangements could be demanded by the transmission company before, during and after construction; what costs this would have on my business; and what my rights would be.

I am also concerned that there is no information available to me about the compensation that would be provided because of the impacts on my farming operations including reduced production and decreased land values. It is therefore impossible to provide an assessment on the costs to my business if the project was constructed on my land.

Whilst I have not been provided with information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure on my farmland, I believe the following issues will impact my ability to maintain a commercial farming operation now and into the future:

- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;
- inability to irrigate under powerlines;
- inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- spread of weeds;
- failure to close gates;
- damage to crops;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery.

These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region.

I believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region.

Prior to the announcement on 20 February 2023 that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, I had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting my farm business. I believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

Nicholas Petrie

Sutherland Vic 3477

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P369**

**Name:** Leah Hose

**Location:** St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### **VNI west powerline transmission Submission**

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered no proper consultation. 3 people in a caravan out the front of the town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall are the towers, is just not consultation at all.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors to minimize the disruption to farm businesses in the region.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link in the chain...This is just wasting more time!!

Name: Leah Hose

Email/phone

Location: St Arnaud / Swan Water



# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P370**

**Name:** Amanda Campbell

**Location:** St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### **VNI west powerline transmission Submission**

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered no proper consultation. 3 people in a caravan out the front of the town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall are the towers, is just not consultation at all.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors to minimize the disruption to farm businesses in the region.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link in the chain...This is just wasting more time!!

Name: Amanda Campbell

Email/phone



Location: St. Arnaud.

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P371**

**Name:** Fiona Stones

**Location:** St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### **VNI west powerline transmission Submission**

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered no proper consultation. 3 people in a caravan out the front of the town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall are the towers, is just not consultation at all.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors to minimize the disruption to farm businesses in the region.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link in the chain...This is just wasting more time!!

Name: *Fiona Stones*

Email/phone [REDACTED]

Location: *St. Arnaud*

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P372**

**Name:** Michael Senior

**Location:** St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### **VNI west powerline transmission Submission**

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered no proper consultation. 3 people in a caravan out the front of the town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall are the towers, is just not consultation at all.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors to minimize the disruption to farm businesses in the region.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link in the chain...This is just wasting more time!!

Name: *Michael Senior*  
Email/phone [REDACTED]  
Location: *St Arnaud.*

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P373**

**Name:** Fern Hahn

**Location:** St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### **VNI west powerline transmission Submission**

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered no proper consultation. 3 people in a caravan out the front of the town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall are the towers, is just not consultation at all.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors to minimize the disruption to farm businesses in the region.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link in the chain...This is just wasting more time!!

Name: Fern Hahn 

Email/phone 

Location: ST. ARNAUD

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P374**

**Name:** Kristy Bryce

**Location:** Traynors Lagoon, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### **VNI west powerline transmission Submission**

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered no proper consultation. 3 people in a caravan out the front of the town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall are the towers, is just not consultation at all.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors to minimize the disruption to farm businesses in the region.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link in the chain...This is just wasting more time!!

Name: Kristie Bryce

Email/phone

Location:

Traynors Lagoon

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P375**

**Name:** Colin & Joy Stewart

**Location:** Woosang, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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Dear Sir,

I have become aware of the Victorian government and AEMO,s proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

We run a family farming business of cropping and livestock.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on our farmland, I am concerned that I have not received any information on what land access arrangements could be demanded by the transmission company before and after construction; what costs this would have on my business; and what my rights would be.

I believe the following issues will impact my ability to maintain a commercial farming operation now and in the future.

- 1- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- 2- inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;
- 3- inability to utilise emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- 4; refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site .
- 5; spread of weeds;
- 6- failure to close gates;
- 7- damage to crops
- 8- materials left on site causing damage to machinery.

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region.

I believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region.

Prior to the announcement on 20 February 2023 that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, I had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting my farm business. I believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

Colin & Joy Stewart

Woosang,

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P376**

**Name:** Kara Harberger

**Location:** Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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Subject: Re: landowners submission

VNI west powerline transmission Submission

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered basically no consultation. 3 people out the front of the local town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall the towers are, is just not consultation at all.

- We can't work under the lines safely.
- Use machinery under the lines.
- Can't Run stock under lines.
- Can't fight fires underlines.
- What happens to the towers when they condemn them?
- Only to name a few of the basic destructive complications that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them!



# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farm land. That will rip communities and families apart.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link...This is just wasting everyone's time!!

These powerlines are not being erected on my property!

Name: KARA HARBERGER

Location: GRE GRE

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

## SUBMISSION NUMBER: P377

**Name:** Natalie Finch & Matthew Peacock

**Location:** St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We own a small acre farm (175acres) in which we run our business from and plan on building our families forever home. We have strived for the lifestyle that our acreage gives us so that our children can run and play and enjoy the beautiful landscape and environment farm life will give them.

We have become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The corridor for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that we operate our business on and plan to build our forever home. We are concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on our farming operations, business and homelife.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on our farmland, we are concerned that we have no information on what land access arrangements could be demanded by the transmission company before, during and after construction; what costs this would have on our business; and what our rights would be.

We are also concerned that there is no information available to us about the compensation that would be provided because of the impacts on our farming operations including reduced production and decreased land values. It is therefore impossible to provide an assessment on the costs to our business if the project was constructed on our land.

Whilst we have not been provided with information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure on our farmland, we believe the following issues will impact our ability to maintain our operation now and into the future:

- ☐ decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- ☐ Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- ☒ inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- ☒ refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- ☒ spread of weeds;
- ☒ failure to close gates;
- ☒ damage to crops;
- ☒ materials left on site causing damage to machinery.

These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region.

We believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region.

Prior to the announcement on 20 February 2023 that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, we had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting our business. We believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

Regards

Natalie Finch and Matthew Peacock

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P378**

**Name:** Peter Cameron

**Location:** Avon Plains, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered basically no consultation. 3 people out the front of the local town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall the towers are, is just not consultation at all.

- We can't work under the lines safely.
- Use machinery under the lines.
- Can't Run stock under lines.
- Can't fight fires underlines.
- What happens to the towers when they condemn them?
- Only to name a few of the basic destructive complications that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them!
- We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farm land. That will rip communities and families apart.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link...This is just wasting everyone's time!! These powerlines are not being erected on my property!

Name: Peter Cameron

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P380**

**Name:** Heidi Sudholz

**Location:** Navarre, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west Powerline Transmission Submission

I have only in the last two weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The planned route on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations, business and family.

We have not had any questions answered and a terrible consultation process where three people out the front of the local town hall, were unable to answer community member questions. A question as simple as how tall the towers are; is pitiful. This is not a proper consultation process and the AEMO should be ashamed that they were conducting a session like this.

The following issues are going to be impacted in our business operations and in the future.

- Mental health concerns – Beyond Blue states that male farmers die by suicide significantly high than those in the general and non-rural farming males
- Decreasing the value of land
- Loss of productivity capacity
- o It won't take a week to install these lines. Therefore, sections of important land will be restricted and therefore – less crop, less grazing for sheep – is this to be fenced off and as whose expense?
- Damage to crops
- Restricted access to land around the transmission lines
- o Cannot run stock under powerlines

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- o Cannot use machinery under the powerlines
- Cropping, spraying, spreading, harvesting
- Bio-security concerns
- Farm security
- GPS systems in tractors are affected.
- Damage to farm operating machinery with debris left in area.
- Livestock cannot be run under the transmission lines.
- Cannot fight fires under the powerlines. This is strongly linked with the Black Saturday fires in Kilmore East where the fires were started by the powerlines. The area that is proposed is all farmland – the summer months are hot, dry and have a VERY high fire risk without the transmission lines on them. The CFA is unable to fight the fires near or under these transmission lines – we could lose acres and acres of land, livestock, homes or worse people’s lives.
- When these powerlines are condemned – is this the farmers job to remove them?

I know that option 5 isn’t the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farmland, which feeds so many people across the country. This will rip communities, families apart and have a great impact on the statistics regarding male farmers and suicide rates.

As a farming family who works on the land to ensure that our top produce and livestock feed so many people across the country, this is an insult that companies believe that they can come in and make such decisions in a terrible ‘professional consultation process’.

I strongly suggest that AEMO and Victorian Government rethink this proposal to another area – as they do not know the fight they are about to be up against. These transmission lines are not being erected on my property nor in my shire.

Heidi Sudholz

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

## SUBMISSION NUMBER: P381

**Name:** Stuart Lang

**Location:** Kanya, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### VNI west Powerline Transmission Submission

I have only in the last two weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The planned route on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations, business and family.

We have not had any questions answered and a terrible consultation process where three people out the front of the local town hall, were unable to answer community member questions. A question as simple as how tall the towers are; is pitiful. This is not a proper consultation process and the AEMO should be ashamed that they were conducting a session like this.

The following issues are going to be impacted in our business operations and in the future.

- Mental health concerns – Beyond Blue states that male farmers die by suicide significantly high than those in the general and non-rural farming males
- Decreasing the value of land
- Loss of productivity capacity
- o It won't take a week to install these lines. Therefore, sections of important land will be restricted and therefore – less crop, less grazing for sheep – is this to be fenced off and as whose expense?
- Damage to crops
- Restricted access to land around the transmission lines
- o Cannot run stock under powerlines



# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- o Cannot use machinery under the powerlines
- Cropping, spraying, spreading, harvesting
- Bio-security concerns
- Farm security
- GPS systems in tractors are affected.
- Damage to farm operating machinery with debris left in area.
- Livestock cannot be run under the transmission lines.
- Cannot fight fires under the powerlines. This is strongly linked with the Black Saturday fires in Kilmore East where the fires were started by the powerlines. The area that is proposed is all farmland – the summer months are hot, dry and have a VERY high fire risk without the transmission lines on them. The CFA is unable to fight the fires near or under these transmission lines – we could lose acres and acres of land, livestock, homes or worse people’s lives.
- When these powerlines are condemned – is this the farmers job to remove them?

I know that option 5 isn’t the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farmland, which feeds so many people across the country. This will rip communities, families apart and have a great impact on the statistics regarding male farmers and suicide rates.

As a farming family who works on the land to ensure that our top produce and livestock feed so many people across the country, this is an insult that companies believe that they can come in and make such decisions in a terrible ‘professional consultation process’.

I strongly suggest that AEMO and Victorian Government rethink this proposal to another area – as they do not know the fight they are about to be up against. These transmission lines are not being erected on my property nor in my shire.

Stuart Lang

Kanya

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P382**

**Name:** Sheryn Lloyd

**Location:** Carapooee, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered basically no consultation. 3 people out the front of the local town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall the towers are, is just not consultation at all.

- We can't work under the lines safely.
- Use machinery under the lines.
- Can't Run stock under lines.
- Can't fight fires underlines.
- What happens to the towers when they condemn them?
- Only to name a few of the basic destructive complications that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them!
- We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farm land. That will rip communities and families apart.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link...This is just wasting everyone's time!! These powerlines are not being erected on my property!

Sheryn Lloyd

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P383**

**Name:** Mark & Fiona Hall

**Location:** Wychitella, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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4th April 2023

To whom it may concern,

Our names are Mark and Fiona Hall and we are sheep and cropping farmers, situated between the Buckrabanyule mountain and Wychitella. We have about 1200 hectares and farm approx. 1000 sheep. We have farmed in this region for 5 generations.

We have become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales. The corridor for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate our sole business on. We are concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on my farmland, we are concerned that we have no information on what land access arrangements could be demanded by the transmission company before, during and after construction; what costs this would have on my business; and what our rights would be.

We are also concerned that there is no information available to me about the compensation that would be provided because of the impacts on my farming operations including reduced production and decreased land values. It is therefore impossible to provide an assessment on the costs to my business if the project was constructed on my land.

Whilst we have not been provided with information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure on our farmland, we believe the following issues will impact my ability to maintain a commercial farming operation now and into the future:

- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing

issues with vendor declarations;

- spread of weeds;
- failure to close gates;
- damage to crops;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery.
- Loss of habitat, such as knockdown of trees and native grasses surrounding our farm
- NSW landholders are receiving a more substantial compensation package than their VIC counterparts

These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region. We believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region.

Prior to the announcement on 20 February 2023 that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, we had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting my farm business. We believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

It is disappointing that this route in Northern Victoria has been chosen. It is obvious that it has been chosen not for its economic benefits, but because of the lack of political relevance. It is not the most straight forward and economically viable route and it should not be coming this way – the original plan was selected for a reason and that is because it had the infrastructure and easements to support this project. AEMO and the State Government need to reconsider this route and be more transparent and open about the information provided to landholders.

Sincerely,

Mark and Fiona Hall

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

### SUBMISSION NUMBER: P384

**Name:** Peter Newall

**Location:** Marnoo, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We farm 900ha's. in the Marnoo East area; of which 300ha's is in crop and we also run approximately 3400 sheep.

I have become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The corridor for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on my farmland, I am concerned that I have no information on what land access arrangements could be demanded by the transmission company before, during and after construction; what costs this would have on my business; and what my rights would be.

I am also concerned that there is no information available to me about the compensation that would be provided because of the impacts on my farming operations including reduced production and decreased land values. It is therefore impossible to provide an assessment on the costs to my business if the project was constructed on my land.

Whilst I have not been provided with information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure on my farmland, I believe the following issues will impact my ability to maintain a commercial farming operation now and into the future:

- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;
- inability to irrigate under powerlines;
- inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- spread of weeds;
- failure to close gates;
- damage to crops;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery.

These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region.

I believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region.

Prior to the announcement on 20 February 2023 that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, I had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting my farm business. I believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

PETER J NEWALL, MARNOO EAST

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

### SUBMISSION NUMBER: P385

**Name:** Dianne Newall

**Location:** Marnoo, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We farm 900ha's. in the Marnoo East area; of which 300ha's is in crop and we also run approximately 3400 sheep.

I have become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The corridor for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on my farmland, I am concerned that I have no information on what land access arrangements could be demanded by the transmission company before, during and after construction; what costs this would have on my business; and what my rights would be.

I am also concerned that there is no information available to me about the compensation that would be provided because of the impacts on my farming operations including reduced production and decreased land values. It is therefore impossible to provide an assessment on the costs to my business if the project was constructed on my land.

Whilst I have not been provided with information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure on my farmland, I believe the following issues will impact my ability to maintain a commercial farming operation now and into the future:

- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;
- inability to irrigate under powerlines;
- inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- spread of weeds;
- failure to close gates;
- damage to crops;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery.

These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region.

I believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region.

Prior to the announcement on 20 February 2023 that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, I had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting my farm business. I believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

[Redacted signature]

DIANNE J NEWALL, MARNOO EAST

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P386**

**Name:** Anne Sudholz

**Location:** Bolangum, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west Powerline Transmission Submission

I have only in the last two weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The planned route on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that we currently operate as an ongoing farming enterprise. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my families farming operations, business, and members of the family.

We have not had any questions answered and a very poor consultation process where three people in the front of the local town hall were unable to answer community member questions. A question as simple as how tall the towers are; is pitiful. This is not a proper consultation process and the AEMO should be ashamed that they were conducting a session like this.

The following issues are going to be impact our business operations now and in the future.

- Mental health concerns – Beyond Blue states that male farmers die by suicide significantly high than those in the general and non-rural farming males.
- Decreasing the value of land
- Loss of productivity capacity
- o It won't take a week to install these lines. Therefore, sections of important land will be restricted and therefore – less crop, less grazing for sheep – is this to be fenced off and at whose expense?
- Damage to crops
- Restricted access to land around the transmission lines
- o Cannot run stock under powerlines



# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- o Cannot use machinery under the powerlines
- Cropping, spraying, spreading, harvesting
- Bio-security concerns
- Farm security
- GPS systems in tractors are affected.
- Damage to farm operating machinery with debris left in area.
- Cannot fight fires under the powerlines. This is strongly linked with the Black Saturday fires in Kilmore East where the fires were started by the powerlines. The area that is proposed is all farmland – the summer months are hot, dry and have a VERY high fire risk without the transmission lines on them. The CFA is unable to fight the fires near or under these transmission lines – we could lose acres and acres of land, livestock, homes or worse people's lives.
- When these powerlines are condemned – is this the farmers job to remove them?

I know that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines. The Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farmland, which feed so many people across the country. This will rip communities, families apart and have a great impact on the statistics regarding male farmers and suicide rates.

Our farming family works hard to ensure top quality produce and livestock. This feeds hundreds of consumers across the country. It is an insult that companies believe they can just come in and make such a decision, with such little consultation and consideration to the impact such powerlines will do now and in the future. The professionalism of such companies needs to be questioned.

I strongly suggest that AEMO and Victorian Government rethink this proposal and consider another area. The foreseeable impact on farms and families is unacceptable in this climate. I thoroughly object to the proposal of erecting powerlines on our property and in this shire.

Anne Sudholz

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P387**

**Name:** Denis & Elise McIntyre

**Location:** Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We are 4th generational farmers with 920 hectares of land, devastatingly for us, we are located in the proposed 'option 5' zone. Through the generations, our farm has seen its share of fires, many floods and plagues. Crippling debt, devastating droughts and many financial hardships. We have remained resilient, and through blood, tears, sacrifice and so much bloody hard work our property, today, spans from Spike Lane Moolerr, to McIntyre Road Gre Gre, to Misery Road Tottington. We run 2880 sheep and have a refined cropping program, which has taken years to develop, of Wheat, Barley, Oats, Canola and Cereal oat and hay that encompasses 465 hectares of land yearly.

We have become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales. The corridor for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that we operate a business on. We are concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on our farming operations and business.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on our farmland, we am concerned that we have no information on what land access arrangements could be demanded by the transmission company before, during and after construction; what costs this would have on our business; and what our rights would be.

We are also concerned that there is no information available to us about the compensation that would be provided because of the impacts on our farming operations including reduced production and decreased land values. It is therefore impossible to provide an assessment on the costs to our business if the project was constructed on our land.

Whilst we have not been provided with information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure on our farmland, we believe the following issues will impact our ability to maintain a commercial farming operation now and into the future:

☒ decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- ☒ Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;
- ☒ inability to irrigate under powerlines;
- ☒ inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- ☒ refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- ☒ spread of weeds;
- ☒ failure to close gates;
- ☒ damage to crops;
- ☒ materials left on site causing damage to machinery.

These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region.

We believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region.

Prior to the announcement on 20 February 2023 that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, we had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting our farm business. We believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

Denis & Elise McIntyre

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

### SUBMISSION NUMBER: P388

Name: Paul Hendy

Location: Wallaloo, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### VNI west Powerline Transmission Submission

I have only in the last two weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from **Rulgana** to New South Wales.

The planned route on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations, business and family.

We have not had any questions answered and a terrible consultation process where three people out the front of the local town hall, were unable to answer community member questions. A question as simple as how tall the towers are; is pitiful. This is not a proper consultation process and the AEMO should be ashamed that they were conducting a session like this.

The following issues are going to be impacted in our business operations and in the future.

- Mental health concerns – Beyond Blue states that male farmers die by suicide significantly high than those in the general and non-rural farming males
- Decreasing the value of land
- Loss of productivity capacity
  - o It won't take a week to install these lines. Therefore, sections of important land will be restricted and therefore – less crop, less grazing for sheep – is this to be fenced off and as whose expense?
- Damage to crops
- Restricted access to land around the transmission lines
  - o Cannot run stock under powerlines
  - o Cannot use machinery under the powerlines
    - Cropping, spraying, spreading, harvesting
- Bio-security concerns
- Farm security
- GPS systems in tractors are affected.
- Damage to farm operating machinery with debris left in area.
- Livestock cannot be run under the transmission lines.
- Cannot fight fires under the powerlines. This is strongly linked with the Black Saturday fires in Kilmore East where the fires were started by the powerlines. The area that is proposed is all farmland – the summer months are hot, dry and have a VERY high fire risk without the transmission lines on them. The CFA is unable to fight the fires near or under these transmission lines – we could lose acres and acres of land, livestock, homes or worse people's lives.
- When these powerlines are condemned – is this the farmers job to remove them?

I know that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farmland, which feeds so many people across the country. This will rip communities, families apart and have a great impact on the statistics regarding male farmers and suicide rates.

As a farming family who works on the land to ensure that our top produce and livestock feed so many people across the country, this is an insult that companies believe that they can come in and make such decisions in a terrible 'professional consultation process'.

I strongly suggest that AEMO and Victorian Government rethink this proposal to another area – as they do not know the fight they are about to be up against. These transmission lines are not being erected on my property nor in my shire.

{NAME}Paul Hendy  
{AREA}Wallaloo  
Northern Grampians Shire

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P389**

**Name:** Viv & Rebecca Cossar

**Location:** Charlton, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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Subject: VNI West submission

To whom this may find,

As landowners in the area highlighted by Option 5 of the VNI West project we refer to the attached and wish to voice our strong opposition to the proposed construction of the overhead transmission line in this area.

We are appealing to AEMO and the Victorian Government for improved transparency and greater community consultation so that the true impacts of this development can be fully understood.

Regards,

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

4 April 2023

As the fifth generation of our family to farm in the Yeungroon area we are angered by the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales. Our family has worked this land since the late 1800's and we had hoped the tradition would continue with our own children; however, we now have significant reservations about the future viability of our business should the proposed development go ahead. The corridor for this proposed transmission line encompasses the entire 4,000 acres of farmland our family operates our business on; properties located along the Barrakee Road and Calder Highway Woosang, Yeungroon Road Yeungroon, Seven Mile Road Yeungroon, and Nine Mile Road Yeungroon.

# Individual submission

## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

These are properties in which our family has invested heavily in over recent years, improving infrastructure and farming practices to ensure that we can produce the highest quality hay and fodder for the international and domestic markets, and we hold grave concerns that the transmission infrastructure will have a huge detrimental effect on our ability to farm profitably and sustainably.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on our farmland, we are concerned that we have no information on what land access arrangements could be demanded by the transmission company before, during and after construction; what costs this would have on our business; and what our rights would be.

We are also concerned that there is no information available to us about the compensation that would be provided because of the impacts on our farming operations including reduced production and decreased land values. It is therefore impossible to provide an assessment on the costs to our business if the project was constructed on our land.

Whilst we have not been provided with information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure on our farmland, we believe the following issues will impact our ability to maintain a commercial farming operation now and into the future:

- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity.
- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines.
- inability to irrigate under powerlines.
- inability to utilise emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles.
- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

issues with vendor declarations.

- spread of weeds.
- failure to close gates.
- damage to crops.
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery.

These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region.

We believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region.

Prior to the announcement on 20 February 2023 that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, we had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting our farm business. I believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

Viv Cossar Rebecca Cossar

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P390**

**Name:** Elaine Charlesworth

**Location:**

## Submission

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Subject: High voltage lines traversing through Longforest flora fauna reserve

### Attention

My name is Elaine Charlesworth I have lived in Longforest flora and fauna reserve 24 years and have enjoyed a relaxed rural lifestyle which I believe will be shattered when you install high voltage line right past my home. Not only will the value of my home be reduced, flora and fauna especially the wedge tailed eagles and other birds of prey, will be severely impacted by high voltage line traversing their hunting area which I have been observing for over 20 years. They hunt around the quarry on Gisborne Rd and throughout the Longforest forest area. The thought of living in a flora and fauna area with high voltage lines running through it makes me fearful of what could happen to my home and family in the future. We could all end up crispy critters just like the wildlife, I have already had many sleepless nights from worrying about our future in the area.

The consultation process was not long enough, transparent enough, or informative enough to allow you to adequately respond.

Last week there was a woman handing out \$20.00 vouchers for community feedback but not explaining what it was all about sneaky AEMO VERY SNEAKY it seems the lies and underhanded tactics will never end .

The North Ballarat terminal station was not moved because communities objected and that this was not a win for regional Victoria. All this did was shift the problem somewhere else and force the upgrading of the entire WRL project to 500kV and 80m high towers. These decisions did nothing but increase the impacts on the region. the RIT–T was not applied in a way that is credible, which reduces the scope for misunderstandings and disputes. The documents must have a focus on providing transparent, user-friendly data to stakeholders.



# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

The Multi-criteria Analysis is flawed because it did not seek to understand what we value and what is important to us. It was a desktop study by people who have never spoken with the people impacted. Our opinions matter and we will continue to oppose the impact of the project on our health and lifestyles

If the multi-criteria analysis is so important then it must be applied to the WRL to determine the least-impact solution.

The geographical area of the current proposed WRL alignment is peri-urban and traverses areas that are environmentally sensitive, have established land uses, includes a growing amount of high value landholdings, has materially populated towns, is a high value tourism region and has topography that is not suited to transmission development. This results in a high degree of impacts and constraints that cannot be avoided or mitigated.

The current proposed shared alignment of both VNI West and the WRL creates a supercritical single point of failure and limits geographic diversity. A loss of this line would result in the majority of generation in Western Victoria and imports from NSW to be drastically reduced which would severely impact system security.

I believe Victorian government and AEMO are not listening and their failure to explore feasible alternatives is going to result in increased and continued opposition.

I believe the Victorian Government and AEMO must underground the proposed project (using HVDC) alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to rural residents and farm businesses in the region.

Elaine Charlesworth

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P391

Name: Tony Hull

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### VNI west powerline transmission Submission

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered no proper consultation. 3 people in a caravan out the front of the town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall are the towers, is just not consultation at all.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors to minimize the disruption to farm businesses in the region.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link in the chain...This is just wasting more time!!

Name:

Tony Hull

Email/phone

[REDACTED]

Location:

St-Arnaud.

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P392**

**Name:** Mavrick Williams

**Location:** St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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Name: *Mavrick Williams*

Email/phone [REDACTED]

Location: *St Arnaud*

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P393**

**Name:** Verity Williams

**Location:** St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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Name: *verity williams*

Email/phone [REDACTED]

Location: *St Arnaud.*

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P394**

**Name:** Suzanne Sutton

**Location:** Logan, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### **VNI west powerline transmission Submission**

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We have not had any questions answered no proper consultation. 3 people in a caravan out the front of the town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall are the towers, is just not consultation at all.

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Name: Suzanne Sutton

Email/phone: [REDACTED]

Location: Logan Vic 3475

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P395**

**Name:** Jack McAllister

**Location:** Marnoo, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west Powerline Transmission Submission

I have only in the last two weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The planned route on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am more than concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations, business and family.

We have not had any questions answered and a terrible consultation process where three people out the front of the local town hall, were unable to answer community member questions. A question as simple as how tall the towers are; is pitiful. This is not a proper consultation process and the AEMO should be ashamed that they were conducting a session like this.

The following issues are going to be impacted in our business operations and in the future.

- Mental health concerns – Beyond Blue states that male farmers die by suicide significantly high than those in the general and non-rural farming males

- Decreasing the value of land

- Loss of productivity capacity

- o It won't take a week to install these lines. Therefore, sections of important land will be restricted and therefore – less crop, less grazing for sheep – is this to be fenced off and as whose expense?

- Damage to crops

- Restricted access to land around the transmission lines

- o Cannot run stock under powerlines

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

o Cannot use machinery under the powerlines

- Cropping, spraying, spreading, harvesting

- Bio-security concerns

- Farm security

- GPS systems in tractors are affected.

- Damage to farm operating machinery with debris left in area.

- Livestock cannot be run under the transmission lines.

- Cannot fight fires under the powerlines. This is strongly linked with the Black Saturday fires in Kilmore East where the fires were started by the powerlines. The area that is proposed is all farmland– the summer months are hot, dry and have a VERY high fire risk without the transmission lines on them. The CFA is unable to fight the fires near or under these transmission lines – we could lose acres and acres of land, livestock, homes or worse people’s lives.

- When these powerlines are condemned – is this the farmers job to remove them?

I know that option 5 isn’t the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farmland, which feeds so many people across the country. This will rip communities, families apart and have a great impact on the statistics regarding male farmers and suicide rates.

As a farming family who works on the land to ensure that our top produce and livestock feed so many people across the country, this is an insult that companies believe that they can come in and make such decisions in a terrible ‘professional consultation process’.

I strongly suggest that AEMO and Victorian Government rethink this proposal to another area – as they do not know the fight they are about to be up against. These transmission lines are not being erected on my property nor in my shire.

Jack McAllister

Marnoo

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P396**

**Name:** Pauline McIntyre

**Location:** Marong, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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To Whom it may concern,

I have become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The zoned area detailed on the map for the proposed transmission line includes farmland on which we operate a business. My husband and I are concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that the transmission infrastructure lines will have on our farming operations, business and country communities.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on our farmland, I am concerned about what could be demanded by the transmission company before, during and after construction and what our rights would be.

Prior to the announcement on 20 February 2023 that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, I had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting our farm business. I believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

The response from the community discussion event held at the St Arnaud Town Hall lacked any reasonable response and confirmed there had been no thought put into how this construction may impact on our country communities.

VNI West/AEMO have made no effort to provide any decent consultation with stake holders or provide any alternative options to the community in relation to this matter.

The negative impact that these transmission lines will have is huge on so many different levels, a few items are listed below, but are not limited to:

- \* Implications working under the lines safely.



# Individual submission

## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- \* Implications operating machinery under the lines.
- \* Implications running stock under lines.
- \* Unable to fight fires under lines.
- \* Basic destructive complications that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them.
- \* Mental health- Beyond Blue statistics note that male farmers die by suicide significantly higher than the general population and non rural farming males. This is going to have a greater impact on rural males' mental health.
- \* Decreasing the value of land.
- \* Loss of productivity capacity.
- \* Damage to crops.
- \* Restricted/ limited access to land.
- \* Bio security.
- \* Failure to comply with farm security.
- \* Affecting GPS systems in machinery working in the area.
- \* Materials left on site causing damage to driving machinery.
- \* Refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations.
- \* Requirements for permits to use tractors and machinery under powerlines.
- \* Compensation which does not reflect the impact to land or landholders nor compare to compensation in other states.

My husband and his family have farmed this area since it was settled and does hold great emotional and cultural ties to this land. We as a family have held a wedding, birthdays and numerous family gatherings over the years. This family heritage will be destroyed if these high voltage powerlines pass through our farmland.

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

Landcare was formed in our area. My husband and his family before him have preserved about 400 acres of bush with its trees, native grasses indigenous flora and fauna. There are resident protected wedge tailed eagles, fat tailed nuffits, barking geckos, striped legless lizards, blind snakes, fairy shrimps, shell backs and others. Our family over the generations have taken special care to be the guardians of our land and to preserve the natural bush and wildlife. These transmission lines will destroy our farm forever, all lost to the future generations.

I believe that transmission lines are not the answer for our area, the Victorian Government and AEMO must run lines underground along existing transport corridors and not on productive farmland. Constructing these transmission lines will have an enormous negative impact on our country communities. The negatives will override any positives the government aim to achieve through renewable power energy.

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P397**

**Name:** Mark Gaines

**Location:** Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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Subject: VNI west powerline transmission Submission **\*STOP THE POWERLINES\*\***

VNI west powerline transmission Submission

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered basically no consultation. 3 people out the front of the local town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall the towers are, is just not consultation at all.

- \* We can't work under the lines safely.
  - \* Use machinery under the lines.
  - \* Can't Run stock under lines.
  - \* Can't fight fires underlines.
  - \* What happens to the towers when they condemn them?
- Only to name a few of the basic destructive complications that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them!
  - We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farm land. That will rip communities and families apart.

Find an existing corridor to use, run the lines underground along highways or existing lines. DO NOT ruin primary produce & food making ground, especially in times of expanding population – we need more production – NOT LESS.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link...This is just wasting everyone's time!! These powerlines are not being erected on my property!

Name: Mark Gaines

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P398**

**Name:** Wendy Gifford

**Location:** Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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Subject: VNI west powerline transmission Submission "WE OBJECT"

VNI west powerline transmission Submission

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# Individual submission



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Name: Wendy Gifford

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P399**

**Name:** Shane Gifford

**Location:** Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

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- \* We can't work under the lines safely.
  - \* Use machinery under the lines.
  - \* Can't Run stock under lines.
  - \* Can't fight fires underlines.
  - \* What happens to the towers when they condemn them?
  - \* Put the power lines along the road not through farming properties.
- Only to name a few of the basic destructive complications that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them!

We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

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Name: [Shane Gifford]



# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P400**

**Name:** Sarah Lloyd

**Location:** Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

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- We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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Name: Sarah Lloyd

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P401**

**Name:** Travis Fernandes

**Location:** Winjallok, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

I own and operate a mixed livestock and cropping farm in the Winjallok and Paradise area. I currently run approximately 1200 hectares with approximately 4000 head of sheep.

I have become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The corridor for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on my farmland, I am concerned that I have no information on what land access arrangements could be demanded by the transmission company before, during and after construction; what costs this would have on my business; and what my rights would be.

I am also concerned that there is no information available to me about the compensation that would be provided because of the impacts on my farming operations including reduced production and decreased land values. It is therefore impossible to provide an assessment on the costs to my business if the project was constructed on my land.

Whilst I have not been provided with information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure on my farmland, I believe the following issues will impact my ability to maintain a commercial farming operation now and into the future:

- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;
- inability to irrigate under powerlines;

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- spread of weeds;
- failure to close gates;
- damage to crops;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery.

These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region.

I believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region.

Prior to the announcement on 20 February 2023 that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, I had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting my farm business. I believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

Travis Fernandes

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P402**

**Name:** Terry Gifford

**Location:** Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

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# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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Find an existing corridor to use, run the lines underground along highways or existing lines. DO NOT ruin primary produce & food making ground, especially in times of expanding population – we need more production – NOT LESS.

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Name: Terry Gifford

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P403**

**Name:** Carol Gifford

**Location:** Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

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# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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Name: Carol Gifford

Location: Gre Gre South



# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P404**

**Name:** Anthony Scarce

**Location:** Dooboobetic, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### **VNI west powerline transmission Submission**

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From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farm land. That will rip communities and families apart.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link...This is just wasting everyone's time!!

**These powerlines are not being erected on my property!**

Name: *Anthony Scarce*

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P405**

**Name:** Tania Scarce

**Location:** Dooboobetic, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### **VNI west powerline transmission Submission**

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered basically no consultation. 3 people out the front of the local town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall the towers are, is just not consultation at all.

- We can't work under the lines safely.
- Use machinery under the lines.
- Can't Run stock under lines.
- Can't fight fires underlines.
- What happens to the towers when they condemn them?
- Only to name a few of the basic destructive complications that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them!
- We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

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**These powerlines are not being erected on my property!**

Name: *Tania Scarce*

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P406**

**Name:** Doreen Scarce

**Location:** Dooboobetic, VIC, Australia

## Submission

### VNI west powerline transmission Submission

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**These powerlines are not being erected on my property!**

Name: *Doreen Scarce*



# Individual submission

VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P407**

**Name:** Len Scarce

**Location:** Dooboobetic, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### VNI west powerline transmission Submission

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**These powerlines are not being erected on my property!**

Name: *Len Scarce*

*16/8*

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P409**

**Name:** Sam Lloyd

**Location:** Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

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- Only to name a few of the basic destructive complications that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them!
- We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farm land. That will rip communities and families apart.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link...This is just wasting everyone's time!! These powerlines are not being erected on my property!

Name: Sam Lloyd

Location: Gre Gre, Victoria

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P410**

**Name:** Robert Fox

**Location:** Marnoo, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

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# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

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These powerlines are not being erected on my property!

Name: Robert Fox

Location: Marnoo



# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P411**

**Name:** Tayla Fox

**Location:** Marnoo, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

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# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

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These powerlines are not being erected on my property!

Name: Tayla Fox

Location: Marnoo

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P412**

**Name:** Charli Fox

**Location:** Marnoo, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

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# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farm land. That will rip communities and families apart.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link...This is just wasting everyone's time!!

These powerlines are not being erected on my property!

Name: Charli Fox

Location: Marnoo

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

## SUBMISSION NUMBER: P413

**Name:** Peter Le Lievre

**Location:** Bolangum, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west Powerline Transmission Submission

I have only in the last two weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The planned route on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations, business and family.

We have not had any questions answered and a terrible consultation process where three people out the front of the local town hall, were unable to answer community member questions. A question as simple as how tall the towers are; is pitiful. This is not a proper consultation process and the AEMO should be ashamed that they were conducting a session like this.

The following issues are going to be impacted in our business operations and in the future.

- Mental health concerns – Beyond Blue states that male farmers die by suicide significantly high than those in the general and non-rural farming males
- Decreasing the value of land
- Loss of productivity capacity
  - o It won't take a week to install these lines. Therefore, sections of important land will be restricted and therefore – less crop, less grazing for sheep – is this to be fenced off and as whose expense?
- Damage to crops
- Restricted access to land around the transmission lines

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- o Cannot run stock under powerlines
- o Cannot use machinery under the powerlines
- Cropping, spraying, spreading, harvesting
- Bio-security concerns
- Farm security
- GPS systems in tractors are affected.
- Damage to farm operating machinery with debris left in area.
- Livestock cannot be run under the transmission lines.
- Cannot fight fires under the powerlines. This is strongly linked with the Black Saturday fires in Kilmore East where the fires were started by the powerlines. The area that is proposed is all farmland – the summer months are hot, dry and have a VERY high fire risk without the transmission lines on them. The CFA is unable to fight the fires near or under these transmission lines – we could lose acres and acres of land, livestock, homes or worse people's lives.
- When these powerlines are condemned – is this the farmers job to remove them?

I know that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farmland, which feeds so many people across the country. This will rip communities, families apart and have a great impact on the statistics regarding male farmers and suicide rates.

As a farming family who works on the land to ensure that our top produce and livestock feed so many people across the country, this is an insult that companies believe that they can come in and make such decisions in a terrible 'professional consultation process'.

I strongly suggest that AEMO and Victorian Government rethink this proposal to another area – as they do not know the fight they are about to be up against.

Peter Le Lievre, Bolangum, Northern Grampians Shire

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P414**

**Name:** Patrick Knights

**Location:** Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

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- Only to name a few of the basic destructive complications that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them!
- We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farm land. That will rip communities and families apart.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link...This is just wasting everyone's time!! These powerlines are not being erected on my property!

Name: Patrick Knights

Location: Gre Gre, VIC



# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P415**

**Name:** Leanne Slee

**Location:** Marnoo, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west Powerline Transmission Submission

I have only in the last two weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The planned route on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations, business and family.

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The following issues are going to be impacted in our business operations and in the future.

- Mental health concerns – Beyond Blue states that male farmers die by suicide significantly high than those in the general and non-rural farming males

- Decreasing the value of land

- Loss of productivity capacity

o It won't take a week to install these lines. Therefore, sections of important land will be restricted and therefore – less crop, less grazing for sheep – is this to be fenced off and as whose expense?

- Damage to crops

- Restricted access to land around the transmission lines

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- o Cannot run stock under powerlines

- o Cannot use machinery under the powerlines

- Cropping, spraying, spreading, harvesting

- Bio-security concerns

- Farm security

- GPS systems in tractors are affected.

- Damage to farm operating machinery with debris left in area.

- Livestock cannot be run under the transmission lines.

- Cannot fight fires under the powerlines. This is strongly linked with the Black Saturday fires in Kilmore East where the fires were started by the powerlines. The area that is proposed is all farmland – the summer months are hot, dry and have a VERY high fire risk without the transmission lines on them. The CFA is unable to fight the fires near or under these transmission lines – we could lose acres and acres of land, livestock, homes or worse people's lives.

- When these powerlines are condemned – is this the farmers job to remove them?

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As a farming family who works on the land to ensure that our top produce and livestock feed so many people across the country, this is an insult that companies believe that they can come in and make such decisions in a terrible 'professional consultation process'.

I strongly suggest that AEMO and Victorian Government rethink this proposal to another area – as they do not know the fight they are about to be up against. These transmission lines are not being erected on my property nor in my shire.

Leanne Slee, Marnoo

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P416**

**Name:** Noel Slee

**Location:** Marnoo, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west Powerline Transmission Submission

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- Damage to crops

- Restricted access to land around the transmission lines

- o Cannot run stock under powerlines

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

o Cannot use machinery under the powerlines

▪ Cropping, spraying, spreading, harvesting

- Bio-security concerns

- Farm security

- GPS systems in tractors are affected.

- Damage to farm operating machinery with debris left in area.

- Livestock cannot be run under the transmission lines.

- Cannot fight fires under the powerlines. This is strongly linked with the Black Saturday fires in Kilmore East where the fires were started by the powerlines. The area that is proposed is all farmland – the summer months are hot, dry and have a VERY high fire risk without the transmission lines on them. The CFA is unable to fight the fires near or under these transmission lines – we could lose acres and acres of land, livestock, homes or worse people's lives.

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As a farming family who works on the land to ensure that our top produce and livestock feed so many people across the country, this is an insult that companies believe that they can come in and make such decisions in a terrible 'professional consultation process'.

I strongly suggest that AEMO and Victorian Government rethink this proposal to another area – as they do not know the fight they are about to be up against. These transmission lines are not being erected on my property nor in my shire.

Noel Slee, Marnoo

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P417**

**Name:** Nigel Slee

**Location:** Marnoo, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west Powerline Transmission Submission

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- o Cannot run stock under powerlines

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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▪ Cropping, spraying, spreading, harvesting

- Bio-security concerns

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As a farming family who works on the land to ensure that our top produce and livestock feed so many people across the country, this is an insult that companies believe that they can come in and make such decisions in a terrible 'professional consultation process'.

I strongly suggest that AEMO and Victorian Government rethink this proposal to another area – as they do not know the fight they are about to be up against. These transmission lines are not being erected on my property nor in my shire.

Nigel Slee

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P418**

**Name:** Marlene Hines

**Location:** Marnoo, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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VNI west powerline transmission Submission

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We have not had any questions answered basically no consultation. 3 people out the front of the local town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall the towers are, is just not consultation at all.

- We can't work under the lines safely.
- Use machinery under the lines.
- Can't Run stock under lines.
- Can't fight fires underlines.
- What happens to the towers when they condemn them?
- Only to name a few of the basic destructive complications that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them!
- We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farm land. That will rip communities and families apart.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link...This is just wasting everyone's time!! These powerlines are not being erected on my property!

Name: Marlene Hines



# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P419**

**Name:** Zoe Bryce

**Location:** Traynors Lagoon, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### **VNI west powerline transmission Submission**

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered no proper consultation. 3 people in a caravan out the front of the town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall are the towers, is just not consultation at all.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors to minimize the disruption to farm businesses in the region.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link in the chain...This is just wasting more time!!

Name: *Zac Byrle*

Email/phone [REDACTED]

Location: *Traynors Lagoon*

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P420**

**Name:** Harli Bryce

**Location:** Traynors Lagoon, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### **VNI west powerline transmission Submission**

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The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered no proper consultation. 3 people in a caravan out the front of the town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall are the towers, is just not consultation at all.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors to minimize the disruption to farm businesses in the region.

You are not walking over the top of us farmers who feed you! If you reckon you can, think again because we aren't the weakest link in the chain...This is just wasting more time!

Name: Harli Bryce

Email/phone

Location:

Traynors lagoon

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P421**

**Name:** Bronte Williams

**Location:** St Arnaud, Vic, Australia

## Submission

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### **VNI west powerline transmission Submission**

I have only in the last 2 weeks become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a power transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The pink blob on the map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the detrimental negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

We have not had any questions answered no proper consultation. 3 people in a caravan out the front of the town hall, who can't even answer a question as simple as how tall are the towers, is just not consultation at all.

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Name: *Bronte Williams*  
Email/phone: [REDACTED]  
Location: *St Arnaud*

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P422**

**Name:** Leigh Sutton

**Location:** Logan, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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**Name:** LEIGH SUTTON

**Email/phone** [REDACTED]

**Location:** LOGAN VIC 3475

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P423

Name: Daniel Noel Bryce

Location: Traynors Lagoon, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### VNI west powerline transmission Submission

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Name: Daniel Noel Bryce

Email/phone [REDACTED]

Location: Traynors Lagoon

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P424

Name: Carolyn Butterfield

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### VNI west powerline transmission Submission

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- Can't Run stock under lines.
- Can't fight fires underlines.
- What happens to the towers when they condemn them?
- Only to name a few of the basic destructive complications that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them!
- We need to be aware of the evolving new age agricultural technology.

From a CFA point of view, if fires can't be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control... We don't want another Black Saturday do we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

I believe that option 5 isn't the answer for renewable energy transmission lines the Victorian Government and AEMO must put the lines underground along existing transport corridors not on highly productive farm land. That will rip communities and families apart.

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**These powerlines are not being erected on my property!**

Name: CAROLYN BUTTERFIELD



# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P425

Name: Damien Hartwig

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

## Submission

### VNI west powerline transmission Submission

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**These powerlines are not being erected on my property!**

Name:

Location:

Damien Hartwig

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P426

Name: Kate Hannigan

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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### VNI west powerline transmission Submission

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**These powerlines are not being erected on my property!**

Name: *Kate Hannigan*

Location:



# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

### SUBMISSION NUMBER: P427

**Name:** Nicholas Petrie

**Location:** Sutherland, VIC, Australia

## Submission

### Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We are a proud farming family with FOUR generations living/ working on the farm currently, farming approx. 5000acres (Cereal and broadacre crops) as well as 2500 sheep (meat and wool production).

I have become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The corridor for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on my farmland, I am concerned that I have no information on what land access arrangements could be demanded by the transmission company before, during and after construction; what costs this would have on my business; and what my rights would be.

I am also concerned that there is no information available to me about the compensation that would be provided because of the impacts on my farming operations including reduced production and decreased land values. It is therefore impossible to provide an assessment on the costs to my business if the project was constructed on my land.

Whilst I have not been provided with information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure on my farmland, I believe the following issues will impact my ability to maintain a commercial farming operation now and into the future:

- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;
- inability to irrigate under powerlines;
- inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- spread of weeds;
- failure to close gates;
- damage to crops;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery.

These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region.

I believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region.

Prior to the announcement on 20 February 2023 that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, I had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting my farm business. I believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P428**

**Name:** Chris & Jacque Arbuckle

**Location:** Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We are Primary Producers who run a farming operation producing cereals, canola, wool and meat at Gre Gre and Marnoo. We crop 600ha annually and run 3000 merino sheep. Any disruption to our farming practices or any inability to access all of our farm land would make us completely unviable.

I have become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The corridor for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

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I am also concerned that there is no information available to me about the compensation that would be provided because of the impacts on my farming operations including reduced production and decreased land values. It is therefore impossible to provide an assessment on the costs to my business if the project was constructed on my land.

Whilst I have not been provided with information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure on my farmland, I believe the following issues will impact my ability to maintain a commercial farming operation now and into the future:

- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- inability to irrigate under powerlines;
- inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- spread of weeds;
- failure to close gates;
- damage to crops;
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Chris & Jacquie Arbuckle

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P429**

**Name:** Greg & Helen Polkinghorne

**Location:** Grays Bridge, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

19/04/23

Our farm is a cropping/livestock operation spanning from Grays Bridge, Swanwater, Berrimal to East of Wedderburn.

We are 4th and our sons 5th generation farmers. We have worked tirelessly for over 40 years in conservation and sustainability to leave the land in an excellent picturesque state.

We have had local and international visitors aroused by the tranquility and scenery.

To have a huge powerline infrastructure erected would vandalise the landscape and devastate our souls.

I have become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The corridor for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on my farmland, I am concerned that I have no information on what land access arrangements could be demanded by the transmission company before, during and after construction; what costs this would have on my business; and what my rights would be.

I am also concerned that there is no information available to me about the compensation that would be provided because of the impacts on my farming operations including reduced production and decreased land values. It is therefore impossible to provide an assessment on the costs to my business if the project was constructed on my land.

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

Whilst I have not been provided with information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure on my farmland, I believe the following issues will impact my ability to maintain a commercial farming operation now and into the future:

- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;
- inability to irrigate under powerlines;
- inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- spread of weeds;
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These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region.

I believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region.

Prior to the announcement on 20 February 2023 that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, I had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting my farm business. I believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

From Helen and Greg Polkinghorne

# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

## SUBMISSION NUMBER: P430

**Name:** Jamey & Kerrie Soulsby

**Location:** Buckrabanyule, VIC, Australia

## Submission

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Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We operate a family farming enterprise with my brother and his family located in Buckrabanyule, Terraptee, Lake Marmal, Nareewillock. We operate approximately 5,400 acres currently as a dryland cropping and sheep operation. All land is seeded every year with 1/3 used exclusively for our 1,000 breeding ewes and their lambs and hay, the remaining 2/3 taken through to harvest.

We have become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

The corridor for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that we operate a business on. We are concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on my farmland, we are concerned that I have no information on what land access arrangements could be demanded by the transmission company before, during and after construction; what costs this would have on our business; and what our rights would be.

We are also concerned that there is no information available to us about the compensation that would be provided because of the impacts on our farming operations including reduced production and decreased land values. It is therefore impossible to provide an assessment on the costs to our business if the project was constructed on our land.

Whilst we have not been provided with information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure for our farmland, we believe the following issues will impact my ability to maintain a commercial farming operation now and into the future:

- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- potential fire risk from the transmission lines

# Individual submission



## VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;
- inability to irrigate under powerlines;
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These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region.

We believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region.

The announcement of the transmission lines through Buloke Shire has further impacted our anxiety with the associated loss and fear of losing land and land devaluation. We have just experienced trauma from the October floods and loss of revenue. This proposed project is causing further stress we don't need. We feel very strongly that this is a political move to bring it thru Buloke Shire which sits in a national seat and not an ALP seat. The non-direct planned route says it all and we are being made to feel like second class citizens. The webinar held on the 22nd March we found very patronizing when it came to explaining the compensation to farmers.

Prior to the announcement on 20 February 2023 that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, we had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting my farm business. We believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made. The consultation process, although it has no doubt ticked all the boxes from a statutory point of view, from the perspective of someone who may be impacted by it has been woefully inadequate.

Jamey and Kerrie Soulsby



# Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: P431**

**Name:** Ivan Jackson

**Location:** Beazleys Bridge, VIC, Australia

## Submission

### **VNI west powerline transmission Submission**

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**These powerlines are not being erected on my property!**