

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P287

Name: Matt and Jess McGurk

Location: Charlton, VIC, Australia

Submission

Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West) consultation Report

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the VNI West- consultation report. In this submission, Matthew & Jessica McGurk, as stakeholders in the proposed “option 5” corridor have provided feedback on the requested criteria. We appreciate the extension give for submissions until the 19/04/2023.

Just a brief background on how we fit in the project. We are parents to three children, ages 8,3 and 1, living on a rural property between Charlton and Wedderburn, right in the centre of the proposed “Option 5”. The family farm business we are part of was selected in 1870 making us the 5th generation caretakers. Our land, like many others coloured within the area of interest, has huge cultural importance to our family. This connection to the land is hard to explain unless you have experienced it, but it is real. It is only early in the consultation process and knowledge of the project is limited but the social mood throughout the communities an districts impacted by the shaded area, is palpable. This extreme lack of social licence for a project of this nature in the Option 5 corridor should not be under estimated.

Community groups have held many community meetings in an attempt to garner information to

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include in our submissions. Throughout these meetings it had been apparent that the community attitude towards “Option 5” is very much in the negative. This already evident attitude of communities along the options 5 route has huge potential to deliver project delays and budget overruns. It also undermines the potential development, of the already comparably low Renewable Energy Zone’s in this route. The executive summary states that the VNI West “will help harness clean, low-cost electricity from renewable energy zones (REZs)” but yet it goes on to recommend Option 5 which harnesses the least REZ’s of all options. With the evidently hostile community sentiment towards “Option 5” the potential development of REZ’s captured along the route will likely further reduced from lack of social licence.

Agriculture is like any business, ever striving for increased efficiency and effectiveness. When looking at any farm today it is very obvious to notice the evolution in the processes used with caretaking for our land. Modern farming equipment progresses very quickly and the potential restrictions placed on prime agricultural in and around the easement will have huge impacts of the profitability of the effected stakeholders. Aerial applications are common practise in modern farming, we utilise these methods regularly for applications of fertiliser, herbicide, fungicides, rodent bait etc. The restriction of this alone would have a significant economic impact on not only production inside the easement but on significant areas around the easement. For example pest such as mice or locust or some fungus outbreaks spread very fast when left uncontrolled.

We have calculated the direct costs of removing aerial application from our business for the 2022 growing season. For this we looked at our arial operations, harvest results and Victoria Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action data and readily available plant nutrient requirements

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If we were unable to aerial control stripe rust in our wheat our potential losses would have been \$866 per hectare (calculated using average yield across farm, then applying DEECA data see link below.

These costing do not include potential grain quality downgrading).

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/plant-diseases/grain-pulses-and-cereal-diseases/stripe-rust-of-wheat>

If we were prevented from aerial application of Nitrogen fertiliser in 2022 we would have suffered gross margin reductions of between \$200-800 per ha. Nitrogen rates were calculated using in season soil testing and final yields. Seasonal conditions and low grain protein would indicate that applied Nitrogen rates could have been higher, thus true costs of inhibiting aerial applications may have been greater. These examples are two of many but the costs are tangible and significant but have not included in the cost benefit analysis of the project.

Efficiency losses to agriculture business along the route are also real cost. With greater uptake of UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) and Autonomous machinery in agriculture, along with potential unpermitted future technology developments, these costs are harder to quantify and full value will only accumulate with time. This future risk to landholders is the issue that concerns us the most, the proposed infrastructure will have a multigenerational lifespan with, putting restrictions on the operation of equipment around this infrastructure will have untold impacts on future usage of surrounding land.

Another major cost to stakeholders, which also has not been included in costings, is the significant devaluation on impacted land. The total cost of this devaluation is potentially greater as the project has been pushed into a longer route west onto larger land parcels. The associated easements, with highly restrictive conditions and unknown ramifications for future technology will devalue whole attached land parcels significantly. It cannot be fair and reasonable expected that landholders wear

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this significant personal cost that project poses.

In the VNI West PADR submissions Feb 2023 (<https://www.transgrid.com.au/media/actfkl23/vni-west-padr-submissions.pdf>) a response was given to a question submitted by the VFF of why these

costs, plus many, many more have not been included in the cost benefit assessment but transferred

back to individual landholders (pg 51). The response given was “NER clause 5.15A (c) specifies that

the purpose of the regulatory investment test for transmission in respect of its application to both

types of projects is to identify the credible option that maximises the present value of net economic

benefit to all those who produce, consume and transport electricity in the market. Following from

this purpose, the economic impacts that accrue to parties other than those who produce, consume

and transport electricity in the market are treated as externalities under the RIT-T. As such, RIT-T

proponents must exclude externalities in the cost benefit assessment of a credible option. However,

the MCA methodology adopted for the new options assessment attempts to take important social,

environmental and land-use considerations into account as early in the planning process as

possible.”

We would like clarification on why these cost are not included in the “new options assessment”

economic benefit assessment? From the limited information we have attained it is apparent some of

these will ultimately be compensated to the land holders by those “who produce, consume and

transport electricity in the market” and under the quoted NER clause 5.15A (c) have no reason to be

excluded net economic benefit assessment.

These basic observations seem to suggest that the “Net Economic Benefits” calculated in the

consultation report are inaccurate. The consultation report’s Multi Criteria Analysis places large

weighting (70%) on this calculation, and with limited analysis it is not hard to find significant holes in

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this calculation.

AVP and Transgrid have asked for feedback on “whether the MCA has captured the salient environmental, social and engineering factors, including those that sit outside the scope of the RIT-T but which may impact on the timely development of the project having regard to the terms of the NEVA Order”. The detail publicly available around the methodology used for the MCA is very scant. We have made multiple requests regarding the 100 meter alignment the MCA was conducted upon but are yet to be provided the detail. This analysis, as mentioned in the report is based on “desktop information only” yet the consultation report places large weighting on this MCA. The desktop data provided by this MCA has zero value without the alignment being realised for scrutiny. For AVP and Transgrid to ask if the MCA captures salient factors, without the alignment, makes the whole consultation process invalid. Stakeholders cannot be expected to provide accurate feedback on the MCA with the information provided.

Since we have learnt about the VNI West consultation process and have actively sought information regarding the potential project over the last month. This process has not been overly fruitful with very limited information forthcoming. We did attend a community drop in session in Charlton, which was hosted by three consultants with very little knowledge of the project. We attempted to register for one of the webinars hosted by AEMO but it was sold out. We have attended numerous community meetings, one in St Arnaud attended by AEMO (Nicola Fallon) and VicGrid (Alistair Parker) but still feel very poorly informed on the potential project. During this period it has become abundantly clear that the “social licence” hoped for by moving the project does not exist and the way in which the “consultation period” has been conducted has only deteriorated the situation. Not

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releasing critical details of the project has created a large degree of scepticism and distrust of AEMO within the community.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission and we look forward to your responses on the queries and questions we have raised.

Yours Faithfully

Matt & Jess McGurk

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P288

Name: Alister Knight

Location: Boort, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: VNI west submission. Option 5 is not an option.

Dear aemo,

I am writing to you to let you know that we are vehemently against the adoption of option 5, especially through the Durham ox, Boort, Mysia region.

This region has environmental and cultural significance. The Boort region is home to the oldest scar trees in Australia, and has a rich indigenous history. Our region is filled with rivers, creeks, swamps and wet lands that it is just not appropriate to place such a large power transmission line through.

Our farmlands are filled with rich soils and are involved with intensive agricultural practices with highly productive irrigated agriculture and horticulture.

The entire community in the effected area is against the development of such invasive infrastructure as it will destroy the amenity of our region. The transmission lines will be a blight on the skyline across our region, and the effect of noise and magnetic fields will be destructive to the physical and mental health of the residents of our community.

I am a resident within your designated zone, located 10km east of Boort. I have a young family that is fully reliant on agriculture as the sole income for our family. I am very concerned for the health implications that these transmission lines and will have their health. My two brothers, who also have children are also involved on the farm and they have the same concerns.

The report from industry academics that the project is a 'monumental mistake' and will cost taxpayers billions of dollars is also a clear sign that the project is not viable and that other options need to be considered.

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It is clear that the VNI option 5 is not the right option, and a new solution should be sort. We as farmers, businesses and members of the community are very much in support of renewable options for electricity production in the future. But this cannot be achieved through il-considered projects that will have a detrimental effects on mental health, the environment and the prosperity of our region.

Kind regards,

Alister Knight.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P290

Name: Steven Ross

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

My name is Steven Ross. I am the Southern Regional Manager of Croplands located in St Arnaud. We are a multimillion dollar farming agriculture machinery company specializing in Broadacre Spraying.

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 my customers operate their business on. I am concerned by the potential negative impacts that the transmission infrastructure will have on their farming operations and business, then which will then inline effect my company and business.

I am concerned with the lack of information and correspondence that has been communicated to our local community. No information or studies have been supplied to our community on how this will affect our farmers, our businesses, and surrounding areas.

Have you done evaluations and studies on how -

- * This will decrease land value and production on the farms.
- * The increased costs and huge inconvenience of not being able to use tractors and machinery around the power lines.
- * Not being able to use autonomous machinery around the powerlines.
- * Not able to conduct weed control around power lines.
- * What impact the power lines will have in our extremely high range bush fire zones.
- * How will you personally support the famers, their families and the community for the additional mental stress and pressure you are placing on these hard working people.

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

Prior to the announcement on the 20th 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 employment and business. I believe the community needs more time to respond to this project a more accurate assessment of its costs, impacts and benefits can be made.

Regards

Steven Ross

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P291

Name: Harli Bryce

Location: Traynors Lagoon, VIC, Australia

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 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!!

Listen to the professionals telling you that this is a major mistake in history for god sake wake up and realise that this isn't the answer!!!

Harli Bryce

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P292

Name: Shane Verley

Location: Loddon, VIC, Australia

Submission

As generational farmers we have dealt with many tough times. These have all been a result of natural disasters. Our constellation to this is to come home to the serenity of the farm landscape. This is good for our soul and mind.

We now hear that you guys are planning to destroy this for us and our neighbours for kilometres with no regard whatsoever!

We , as farmers take pride in the natural heritage of our land and we hear you are about to destroy that too!

How can we feel comfortable that these ugly towers are safe? Already we know the danger of fire is increased dramatically with these massive power lines, what about our health? What are the long term effects of living in close proximity to these lines? What about our beloved stock?

As to date there has been little, or no information regarding the exact location of this project. Why? Surely you have a plan?

Are you feeling uneasy to publicise this? I wonder why.

We have heard from reliable and credible people that there are more financially viable options that you seem to disregard! Surely you should listen to scientists!

We will continue to fight AEMO even if it takes years! We have a lot at stake here!

Shane Verley

Farmer with land at Boort, Mysia and Borung.

Individual submission



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SUBMISSION NUMBER: P293

Name: Barry Parsons

Location: Maryborough, VIC, Australia

Submission

Dear Sir, Madam ,

I am not a farmer but a resident of Maryborough, Central goldfields with a general interest in the transition to renewable energy generation as fossil fuelled generation is retired.

I recognise this as nationally important and urgent to get right hence I am perturbed by the politicisation of the issue of HV transmission line planning. Dr Anne Webster (Mallee) said in a speech in March 2021 she was happy with AEMO planning.

What has AEMO done that Dr Webster's support is against option 5 as I believe she made clear at a recent VFF rally in St Arnaud on Mon 17th April .?

Can the map being used by the VFF be made clearer as to whether Echuca or Kerang is involved in Option 5

Regards

Barry Parsons.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P294

Name: Jenny Batters

Location: Sutherland, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

To Whom It May Concern,

Country living in our district and community is very dear to me and my family. Our farming business which we have worked hard to build up over the years is not just a business but a way of life for my husband and I and our family.

We have raised three sons here on this land north west of St Arnaud and my husband's parents before us did the same. Two of our sons went away after secondary school to further their studies in Agriculture with a vision to return home to work this land. They too are now raising their children on this very same property.

The announcement of the proposed VNI West line being constructed through our vast farmland has been a shock to locals and has created much anxiety and fear in the community already. These power lines and their invasive presence will consume our productive land, they will actually be dangerous and create extreme hazards for family and farm employees working near these towers. Farmers will be forced to fund and physically relocate and erect new fences and gates, an unnecessary financial burden. There's also an issue with biosecurity and transportation of weeds and disease. Farmers have not worked hard all these years to eradicate bad weeds in an effort to grow clean, quality produce only

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to have line maintenance people just drive into the paddocks and transplant nasty seeds.. Will these people remember to shut gates when they enter the property or will they forget and let the farmer's stock roam onto the roads. Not to mention the possibility of damaging crops as they drive in and out.

If you're concerned about emissions, then think about how much you are emitting into our environment, simply from manufacturing these towers before you even start. The construction of these monstrosities will spoil our beautiful landscapes and farmland and devalue it forever.

There is still much more you (AEMO) need to inform the land holders and the community before people will embrace this concept for the good of all. You unfortunately have failed in your duty to provide the people with answers to their questions. Any wonder there is anger within the community today.. Country people are proud and generally easy going but when huge companies bulldoze their way in with little to no consultation, dictating the terms, then you lose the respect of the community.

If this proposed project has been in the pipeline for several years then how can we be sure that this is still an up to date solution to the problem. By the time construction actually gets underway it will probably be outdated. What happens if this VNI West line proves to be inefficient and becomes redundant? Look what we will be left with. I make reference to the National NBN project. We have lines all over the country and many areas are still without quality internet. Then along comes Elon Musk with his Starlink. He's one man and he's made it work. The technology today is moving so fast and it appears from recent expert information that you should be considering alternative options. The estimated cost to construct this line is enormous and will no doubt blowout. This will be a huge weight for taxpayers to bear on top of the already enormous Government debt, not to mention the effect it will have on the mental health of the many land holders directly associated. None of this makes any

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sense at all.

Many rural people are disadvantaged in many ways due to the isolation. Sometimes we have to travel

long distances to seek medical help and other essential services. Our farmers have to travel further at

harvest time to deliver their produce due to fewer receival points and the rail freight is nearly non existent.

Because of this, the wear and tear on our rural roads is much greater and they are very

dangerous in certain places. But we as rural people, get on with the job because the advantages out weight the disadvantages. These issues are workable and not life changing but the installation of the

VNI West power line would be. If you intend to erect this line through prime agricultural land, the

disadvantages definitely outweigh any advantages, all things considered.

So finally, I urge you to reconsider the VNI West option and seriously look at other alternatives that

are less invasive and more cost effective with the well being of our Communities and State's future.in

mind.

Yours Sincerely

Jenny Batters

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P295

Name: Graham & Sara Nesbit

Location: Glenalbyn, VIC, Australia

Submission

To Whom It Concerns

We are Landholders at Glenalbyn near Wedderburn, Victoria, operating a Sheep and Cropping Business, covering some 1500 Ha's. While we are not in the current Option 5 Footprint, recent history would suggest that could change at the drop of a hat.

As active members of our community and the Current President Of the Wedderburn VFF Branch, we are very concerned at the long-term impact of this Project on Regional Victoria and its shortcomings on what it seems to offer to all Victorians.

Our Property is Dissected By the Calder Highway, The Dunolly- Sealake Railway Line, Telecom Cables- including the Bendigo- Mildura optic fibre connection, Bendigo-Charlton power line carrying 3 x 66 KV lines and 2 x 22 KV lines and more recently the GWM Trunk Water Main Wedderburn to Inglewood, giving us some knowledge and experience of Easements, Maintenance Crews and the Bio-security issues that hosting infrastructure presents.

I can honestly say that the knowledge of those involved in operating these various services over the four decades I've been involved has declined greatly, due mainly to the greater disconnect between agriculture and the general public. Bio-security knowledge until the recent Pandemic was non-existent to most people. We can trace many of the current weed species we have directly to the hosting of these infrastructure services, so it's easy to see the likely incursions with the size and amount of movement with this proposed project.

Over those four decades working in and around this infrastructure, I'm finding the impacts on our operation are changing, power lines are reaching an age that they are needing upgrades and replacement of components, which means more access and impact on our operation. Our equipment is getting larger making our access around the footprint more difficult, leading to lost production. During the Millenium Drought with Extreme heat and high winds the 3 x 66 KV lines clashed, showering the ground with sparks. I personally witnessed this and will never forget watching the sparks hit the ground in those extreme conditions, ever so thankful it occurred over

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our access tracks which were bare at the time. On reporting the event, I was told it was impossible as the computer model had said so, yet shortly after the cross-arms and insulators were reconfigured !!!

So, what will the effects of a changing Environment be on such a large project in 30- 40 years' time? How accurate is that model AEMO?

Surely the strength of renewables is the availability of sun and wind to be able to locate generation sites around the country shoring up supply while sharing the benefits of clean energy and economic returns to more Victorians. This option is proposing a large spine like footprint South to the North which is pretty much at capacity on day of completion. We all know the risks of putting your eggs in one basket, AEMO acknowledges the likely increase in weather extremes and increased fire risk by 2050, so does that put large scale infrastructure like this at greater risk to failure when we will be so much more dependent on it for our daily activities with the phasing out of petrol, diesel and gas. This must strengthen the case for finding a cost effective way for under grounding.

In recent weeks I've read letters from wind developers saying that the current option puts at risk billions of dollars in investment of potential Generation Proposals across Northern Parts of the State due to the lack of capacity in the line. How is this maximising the benefits for Victorians?

The footprint does not seem to take advantage of any existing easements, so it has the greatest impact on landholders while offering minimum benefits to the communities they live in. How is it that in areas where there was some support for hosting the project, now have been taken out of the footprint. Does that not question the level of consultation or common sense? AEMO's website talks at length about consultation, while this may have taken place within the industry and with LGA's and various other Government agencies, I can assure you very few, if any landholders likely to be effected were informed.

VFF contacted land holders in our area within the footprint in the first couple of weeks of consultation and that was the first they'd heard of the project.

We now have former leading Energy Experts (Simon Bartlett AM) and (Professor Bruce Mountain) backing up what Community Leaders across the State have been pointing out. This Project falls along way short of what can be achieved, it seems to be out dated and I fear in 20/30 years time it will be looked back upon as falling well short of what could have been. This Project must go back to the drawing board and be reworked to put forward a project deserving of Victorians approval.

Graham & Sara Nesbit

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P296

Name: Peter & Sarah Hockley

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: I oppose the VNI west project option 5

I am a St Arnaud resident, and I would like to express my concern in regard to the proposed option 5 of the VNI West project for the following reasons:

- * I have only heard about the possibility of the transmission lines in the local paper. There has been poor public consultation. It is clear from the recent tractor and truck rally that the local community does not support option 5.
- * The transmission lines will devalue my land and the land of the local community.
- * The transmission lines will be detrimental to my young family's health.
- * It has the potential for people to leave the area and also for new people to not move to the area. This may have wider implications including loss of services and the closure of small businesses.

Regards

Peter and Sarah Hockley

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P297

Name: Chris & Karen Rothacker

Location: Mysia, VIC, Australia

Submission

To Whom it May Concern

We wish to add our voice to the debate regarding the VNI Western Link Transmission Lines.

We are landholders and share farmers of approximately 1000 hectares. All of this land is within the proposed possible route for the VNI Western Link Transmission Lines.

We are strongly against this new development.

Our area is abundant in historical and environmental riches. Within a thirty-kilometre radius of our house, we have the Wychitella Nature Conservation Reserve, the Mysia Nature Reserve, The Ngulambarra Reserve, the Nardoo Hills Private Conservation Reserve, the Nardoo Hills Reserve as well as hundreds of sites of Aboriginal significance – with some sites in the Dja Dja Wurrung area being carbon-dated to 31,000 years ago. To run power lines through an area such as this would not be appropriate.

Similarly, due to lack of consultation with landowners, many farmers are still very unsure of what farming could actually be completed beneath these monstrous lines, and we are in a situation of fearing that parts of our land would become unviable for vital farming activities such as irrigation and cropping.

Indeed, the consultation process has been compressed and there is a general feeling of unease in our community that we are being 'rail-roaded' into a situation that is not beneficial for our people. The actual route still has not been released – just a general shading in an area – and AEMO and Transgrid did not attend the last community meeting (St Arnaud) to help allay the concerns of the community. Whilst it has been reported that the meeting was not the format on which they had agreed the meeting should take place, and we certainly understand that standing in front of 300 angry farmers is daunting, to refuse to do so suggests organisations that wish to control the narrative carefully to ensure a favourable outcome for themselves rather than the communities through which they are intending to build the Western Link.

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And, in the end, this new power line will not benefit the communities through which it is being built at all. As a transport line, the lines will not ‘pick up’ any electricity that is being generated locally, either through solar or wind generation. Neither will it provide the communities through which it is built with any electricity. These lines are capital city centric and are not beneficial at all to those who will be most affected by them.

It is also a huge initial expense, and the lines will need to be constantly maintained into the future, meaning that electricity for our city cousins will not necessarily be any cheaper; instead, it may well increase due to ongoing infrastructure costs. Meanwhile, the landowners and those in the communities around the power lines will be the ones impacted by possible bushfires if maintenance is less than it should be. The 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission Final Report Volume 2 Chapter 4 found that “Victoria has a history of electricity assets causing bushfires”. It also acknowledges that of the 11 catastrophic fires that occurred on 7 February 2009, five were caused by failed electricity assets, one of them being the Kilmore East fire that killed 119 people.

We are not fools. We understand that electricity must be moved around the grid to ensure a supply that is constant and reliable. However, as Professor Bruce Mountain (Victoria Energy Policy Centre director) suggests, why not utilise the existing power infrastructure in Gippsland. It has spare capacity and whilst it would take money to upgrade it, it would not be anywhere in the ballpark of what is suggested the cost would be to create a brand-new line.

Experts such as Simon Bartlett AM (Professor of Electrical Engineering) and Professor Bruce Mountain suggest that if these plans were to succeed, they would be the largest mistake in transmission planning in living memory. Similar in nature to the Desalination Plant in Wonthaggi which has only produced 455 GL of water since being turned on in 2017 or the North South Pipeline, yet to be utilised – two projects that similarly affected country people for the benefit of city dwellers.

A cynic may suggest that having such a visible symbol of ‘fixing the electricity problem’ would be beneficial to a government wishing to remain in power (no pun intended), but we suggest that maintaining a government should not be on the backs of country people, whose votes are not as important to the present incumbent.

We ask that you carefully consider the costs to the community on which you wish to build these transmission lines as well as explore other options that may well be less dangerous, expensive, intrusive and insensitive.

Chris & Karen Rothacker

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P298

Name: Barry Batters

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

To Whom it May Concern

I am a farmer north west of St Arnaud. I am pleased that I have left my submission until now with the hope that I would find out some very important information so that I could make an informed decision on this project.

I have been on zoom meetings, webinars and public meetings at many locations with AEMO, Vicgrid, VFF, local Councils and DEECA representatives. At this stage, on the last day of submissions, I am still left in the dark as to how this project makes any sense from the proposer's of the VNI West project. But when I heard and read all the facts from Professor Bruce Mountain and Professor Simon Bartlett AM, I gained a totally different perspective about power transmission across our country based on efficiency, cost, productivity, timing and continuity of power.

On a personal note, we need to consider many issues around our farming operation and the impact this project could have on us. Issues like –

1. The inability to use machinery around the power lines, these include drones, autonomous vehicles and aeroplanes.

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2. Mental health and long term physical impacts.
3. Refusal to give us any indication as to what chemical will be used on site.
4. The spreading of weeds by the builders of the project, definitely a bio-security issue.
5. Damage to crops.
6. The decrease in land values as has been evidenced in previous similar projects, in excess of 15%.

This project needs a serious rethink. Are we on the right course of action?

I have no alternative but to say 'no' to this project based on the recently released information by Professors Mountain and Bartlett. I urge the relevant authorities to rethink the VNI West project so that we are sure the current decision is made for the good of our nation.

Barry Batters

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P299

Name: Amanda Honeybone & Mark Collins

Location: Barkly, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: VNI Transmission Line Submission.

To Whom It May Concern

Submission on the VNI West - Consultation Report

We have become aware of the Vic Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500 kv double circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to NSW. We are strongly opposed to this. The proposed corridor for the transmission lines includes our home/small lavender farm of 13 acres.

We are a small lavender farm and known landmark in Barkly. Barkly is a small farming community and historic gold mining town from the 1850s gold rush, bordering on the Kara Kara National Park. Where we are situated is a mix of large farmland as well as smaller blocks of half acre to twenty acre blocks where people live as well as hobby farms and native regeneration areas. Hence some blocks will thus be completely overtaken. Our plans of our property as a tourist destination will be greatly destroyed by said towers. Our property is 13 acres, our plans are to re-open the lavender farm as a tourist destination in the future and re-open our tea house and gift shop and future art gallery and sculpture garden space and organic lavender and herb farm. These plans will not be possible with towers going ahead.

We have no town water here, no close reservoirs or lakes and bush fires are a constant concern.

Our concerns are:

Destruction of fragile eco system and native flora and fauna.

Reduced property value.

Bio security.

Home and property security.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

Impact of running a business.

Impact on the aesthetics of the land affecting tourists wanting to come here.

Impact on farming practices.

Bushfire risks.

Impact on human and animal health.

Chemicals used around towers.

Total lack of information and transparency and communication with land holders.

Use of machinery and irrigation around towers.

It is totally unacceptable that we were not even informed of this proposal and only found out about it 3 days ago and many in our area do not even know about it to even put in a submission!

Amanda Honeybone and Mark Collins

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P300

Name: Grace McNally

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

We don't want the
power lines on
our farm
Grace McNally
is 5
We DON'T
want option
5

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P301

Name: Colin & Robyn Coates

Location: Traynors Lagoon, VIC, Australia

Submission

I own farm land of ~5,500 acres that our family has significantly invested in over the past 5 generations. Our farmland sits within the footprint of the proposed power lines, west of St Arnaud, running 2200 sheep and predominantly growing broadacre grains and hay.

With the information provided thus far, the community, local fire brigade and certainly this business, the powerlines will be detrimental to the community health & safety, profitability and wellbeing.

The lack of communication provided to the community and landowners is not only frustrating but downright neglectful and arrogant towards an industry that contributes major export dollars for this state. Another consideration is the possibility of lost tourism in this pristine forested area around the St Arnaud region to include the Pyrenees Range.

The proposed line, option 5, indicates a poorly planned route, is the longest and is indicated as the possibility of least resistance because of bigger farms. Option 3 is shorter and could utilise existing easements.

Shockingly, the report I have read indicated there is no cost associated to farmers and no costs in relation to agriculture.

Nuclear power should be the choice because of its capability to utilise the existing power infrastructure, can be cheaper and with today's technology presents a very little dangerous waste, evident by the Americans whom are now recycling waste.

I am curious to see the viability studies and cost analysis between above ground and high voltage DC underground.

Another factor I have heard, but not clarified, is the proposal of further wind farms in this area. Further development of wind farms in the region would be devastating and would only compound the affect on more landowners and primary production land outside the footprint indicated.

Land owner rights, Right of Entry and Bio security are bigger issues that need to be acknowledged and addressed before any further consultation and decision making.

As a major point of concern remember, every 10 days there is an Australian farmer who attempts to take their own life. Please don't add to the existing stresses and lack of recognition for the hard working individuals in our communities. We deserve better.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P302

Name: Kristy Jones

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

To whom it may concern,

I have recently 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.

I am a resident of St Arnaud, born and raised. From a young age myself and my siblings spent a lot of time on my fathers farmer at Beazleys Bridge, Victoria, where he works 1000 acres as a primary producer of grain and sheep/wool. I am now fortunate enough to be able to take my children to the farm to enjoy the peaceful life style with uninterrupted views of the area. They ride their bikes and watch their Pa on the tractors in the paddock. They enjoy checking on the sheep and watch in amazement during lambing season.

I am deeply concerned by the implications that this project will have on not only our farmer but the community as a whole. The amount of anxiety this has placed on the community is clearly evident.

You have provided no information to the farmers who will be affected by this. No clarifications about what this means for their farms and their livelihoods. No clarification about the long term implication.

If this project is to go ahead how much of the land will then be non viable farming land? How will this affect cropping and use of the machinery under these lines. What effects will this have on livestock? Who is going to be maintaining them and the repercussion of them having access to the land, trampling crops, leaving the gates open.

What happens if the farmer have enough, decide to sell up, and find their land values has decreased due to the massive eye sore in the middle of the paddock. What happens if they need to decrease the amount of livestock, or crops the can put in because they have lost portion of their land, which in turn reduces their income.

As a result of a decrease in farming, our whole community suffers. It affects our jobs, our industries, businesses, schools and services.

Individual submission



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This decision which is so insignificant to you, has massive repercussions for us. Would you like one of these lines running through your back yard?

Please reconsider this current project. Experts in the felids have stated that there are alternatives and that the current line are not being used to their full potential.

Thank you,

Kristy Jones

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P303

Name: Norm Bales

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: VNI West Transmission Line

To whom it may concern

As a fourth generation farmer, farming near the proposed path of the VNI Western link power line you can be sure I am totally opposed to its construction and subsequent adverse impact it will have on my property values and mental health.

The subsequent adverse effect on agriculture and people who are working, living, visiting or just driving by these areas will be immense and create huge visual pollutants!

If this proposal were to proceed it would traverse a picturesque countryside that is home to many indigenous native plants trees and plants, some, quite ancient.

The impact on wildlife including some bird species on the extinction list is cause for great concern.

The bottom line is the question of need for this particular power line which has certainly not been established. Here I would refer to the report by energy market experts Professor Simon Bartlett AM (previously a member of the National Electricity Market's Reliability Panel, a Professor of Electrical Engineering and Chief Operating Officer of Powerlink) and Professor Bruce Mountain (Director of the Victoria Energy Policy Centre at Victoria University) who released a detailed critique of AEMO's plans. This report suggests monumental mistakes and enormous risks of failure with this proposal. So why are these reports being ignored?

Yours faithfully

Norm Bales

St.Arnaud

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P304

Name: Katherine Myers, Tourello Pastoral Company

Location: Tourello, VIC, Australia

Submission

Early in my studies at the University of Melbourne – we were taught that formal reports are like Bikinis. What they reveal is suggestive but what they conceal is vital. The consultation report released by AEMO in February 2023 is a classic example of concealing essential information to ensure a particular narrative is portrayed and solution is provided. The process AEMO use to plan future infrastructure needs, select appropriate technologies, and determine appropriate routes is out of date and misaligned with the expectations of Australia’s community.

This is intended to be a project for the future, but poor process, backwards thinking and carefully scripted analyses is resulting in success for the vested interests but poor outcomes for everyone else involved.

- For local landowners and communities needed to host the infrastructure
- For energy consumers required to pay for white elephant projects
- For the energy industry as independent reports suggest these sister projects will not deliver what the industry most needs

Upgrading of WRL -

A key issue of personal interest is the conclusion that the WRL project requires an upgrading to 500kv irrespective of the terminal station site selection for VNI-West. How can the scale of an apparently separate project be determined as part of the consultation process of another?

We repeatedly been assured by all levels of management within AusNet (after the submissions to the REZ Discussion paper in March 2021) that our portion of the line – from North Ballarat to Bulgana would be 220kv only. After 2 years of assurance it’s difficult to understand the sudden about-face on this question. Furthermore, the EES was scoped based on this scale of project. We believe this material change requires a re-scoping of the EES for the WRL project.

The Eastern portion of this upgraded line is through intensively farmed and highly productive farmland including potato farms. As we made clear in our submission to the REZ discussion paper and regularly since to AusNet the efficient production of potato crops is not compatible with hosting high voltage electrical infrastructure. Particularly – irrigation, RTK GPS technology, storage of fuel and refuelling engines, loading or unloading trucks, repairing machinery, the height of machinery, restrictions on underground water infrastructure, aerial agronomic

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

practices (helicopter or aeroplane spraying/spreading) and emerging technologies such as drones. Given the rate of technological advancement in Agriculture, it's impossible to imagine what technologies will be invented and integrated and then prohibited by this kind of infrastructure over its lifetime.

Publication of “indicative” alignments –

Many of the criteria within the Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA) require clear indicative alignments to provide rating scores to compare corridor options. Assessments such as: number of homes within 300m of an alignment; number of land parcels bisected where the smaller portion is >20% of the parcel size); assessments of planning schemes such as land subject to inundation, bushfire management overlays, cultural heritage; number of waterways crossed; hectares of protected environmental area, and so on. It is our lived experience with WRL that indicative alignments have had a habit of becoming final preferred alignments. We believe it would be very valuable to provide these indicative alignments to the community at the point of first engagement.

There are members of the community who are making lifelong investments over planning horizon for this project who may be able to make better decisions based on the information you could provide. For the first 12-24 months of the WRL project many lives in our region were put on hold as a result of the uncertainty the project created and the refusal of AEMO and AUSNET to provide any clarity on any aspect of the project.

Every farmer owning land along your potential alignment is the CEO of a multi-million dollar business and needs, like AEMO, excellent information to be able to make timely and quality business decisions.

Every hour or day wasted with box-ticking or superficial “consultation” or “engagement” and every hour awake in the middle of the night worrying is costing businesses dearly. Superficial consultation, research into transmission line impacts, worry and anxiety take farmers away from their business and families. As we have found living in the WRL corridor to be uprated through VNI-West, consultation and requests for information are often repetitive and ongoing. We have provided the same information regarding our farm impacts on no less than 3 occasions and have yet another request sitting in our emails currently. The most recent “forms” sent out by AusNet requested information that is freely available to the organisation themselves such as title details and planning schemes. We fear for the time and energy and brain space to be consumed by all landholders along the uprated corridor and VNI-West specific corridor as it develops.

We often wonder in what position our business and family would be in without the imposition of transmission lines on our lives and empathise with the families currently living within the Option 5 alignment (or any future selection) of the VNI west project.

Timing of announcements and engagement:

Individual submission



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As farmers with lived experience of transmission line planning, the timing of announcements and periods of consultation have often been selected without consideration of farming or family activities. For example – corridor announcements and requests for information have a habit of appearing right before Christmas.

We have serious concerns regarding the consultation plan put out by AEMO to spend the month of May working with landholders within the VNI West Route 5 corridor. The uprated WRL leg involves a large number of potato farmers who will be deep in harvest during this time, and the full line includes hundreds of cropping farmers who will be working around the clock over the next 2 months to get thousands of hectares of crop in the ground.

The imposition of disingenuous consultation, providing feedback and even thinking about transmission lines at this peak time will place a substantial imposition and stress on affected communities already stretched by seasonal activities and associated sleep deprivation. We advocate strongly that engagement activities would be better timed for the middle of the year when community members will be less stretched by agronomic activities.

Limitations of the Multi Criteria Analysis:

1. Net economic benefits

“Net economic benefits” is a misleading term in this situation. The cost benefit analysis has been undertaken utilising the RIT_T framework which excludes the wider costs of the project to the economy, society or environment. Given the purpose of WRL and VNI West is to unlock renewable energy resources to enable Australia to meet climate change targets it’s impossible to understand how the environmental and social impacts of a project such as this can still be ignored.

Since the last above-ground high voltage transmission line was built in Victoria, Society’s expectations have changed substantially. Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) has to be at the heart of all large organisations strategy and reporting. Alongside financial statements, annual reports today are filled with assessments of the corporation’s impact on society and the environment. The ASX state clearly that “a listed company should disclose whether it has any material exposure to economic, environmental and social sustainability risks, and if it does, how it manages or intends to manage those risks”. Board members are grilled at AGMs on targets the organisation set and may have, or have not, met in the past reporting period.

While AEMO is not a listed company, the theoretically forward thinking nature of the organisation in planning something as important as a national electricity grid in time of climate crisis means that ESG should be absolutely at the fore of corporate thinking. Their refusal to apply proper principals means they are effectively designing *additional* social, environmental and economic risks into our electricity network. The economic risks have been well highlighted by Professors Mountain and Bartlett in their submission to this very PACR. The social and environmental risks of large-scale overhead transmission lines have been well documented across the world. The fact that our state planner continues to pursue a strategy of planning these risks into our network is cause for great concern.

Individual submission



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As someone who has come from a corporate workforce and helped a large organisation establish their first reports to the Taskforce for Climate Related Financial Disclosures I find it impossible to understand how a proper triple bottom line analysis is not required on any of these projects.

Daniel Westerman (AEMO CEO) told affected community members at a meeting in August 2022 that the “RIT-T is not fit for purpose nor aligned with society’s expectations”. The fact that AEMO are still relying so heavily on the results an overly narrow assessment based on a process publicly recognised to be broken is impossible to understand and difficult for communities to swallow.

This is yet another example of executive promises or statements misaligned with lived experience.

2. Environment

The justification for this enormous expenditure in new transmission infrastructure is to tackle the coming challenge of climate change. Yet the coarse inclusion of just protected landscapes, area of native vegetation, critical habitats and number of waterways intersected is an extremely weak estimation of the environmental impact of these projects.

Embodied carbon emissions?

Research undertaken by Energy Grid Alliance in Victoria has found the embodied carbon emissions vary significantly in the selected construction approach. HVDC transmission infrastructure requires approximately 14.1kg of CO₂e per m constructed. In comparison, the only technology considered by AEMO requires approximately 478.8kg/m of construction when the aluminium, steel, concrete and ceramics are taken into account.

	Length	HVDC CO ₂ e	HVAC CO ₂ e
WRL + VNI West 5	419km	5.9t	200.6t
WRL + VNI West 1	395km	5.6t	189.1t

Running these proposed alignments with HVDC underground rather than HVAC Overhead would **reduce carbon emissions of construction by over 97%**! When the aim of infrastructure is to minimise carbon emissions by assisting our transition to renewable energy, it is essential that the infrastructure itself models good environmental planning and design.

Individual submission

VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

Technologies to minimise losses from the network:

A report completed by Professor Ian McKinnon found that utilising overhead HVAC lines can easily lose 10% of energy generation through heat. HVDC losses (underground) are estimated at less than 3% per 1,000km and superconductors even lower again. Research presented by the ABC has found that a survey of 140 nations around the world showed these losses through inefficient electricity grids creates half a billion tonnes of CO₂e per year – more than the exhaust from every truck in the world. Why is it that AEMO, under the encouragement of both state and federal labour governments, are refusing to consider or acknowledge the importance of updated technology in minimising these impacts? In a bid to “clean up” the production of our power we have to rebuild the grid, why do we not also have an interest in ensuring this is done in the cleanest possible way.

Exclusion of communities from environmental discussions:

No one knows or understands the environment better than the local communities. By failing to provide indicative routes to the community for comment there is a very real chance that important environmental pockets have been missed.

3. Social

Social impact was rated based on the:

- Area of residential zoning
- Significant landscape overlays
- Number of buildings within 300m of the alignment

We clearly object to the area of residential zoning or significant landscape overlays intersected by the ‘indicative’ alignment as a proxy for the social impact of transmission lines. In rural or regional areas, few of us live in areas zoned “residential” and instead are scattered throughout the farming zone.

Our neighbours house is approximately 700m from the soon to be uprated WRL corridor – in Farming Zoned land and have been described by the visual-amenity consultant as “probably the most visually affected on the corridor”.

The presence of a Significant Landscape Overlay depends completely on the initiative and drive of local councils. The Victorian Planning Overviews state that Significant Landscape “to identify significant landscapes, and conserve and enhance their character”. The use of SLOs to estimate social impact of such a project implies that only views with recognised significance to their local council hold value to the communities that live, work, and thrive in those very landscapes. The significant restrictions LSOs place on day-to-day farming activities generally mean that local producers will oppose the potential introduction of LSOs (eg Hepburn Shire Council in 2019). This does not mean that they do not value, appreciate, or intend to protect their own local landscapes.

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4. Land Use

We request that the datasets used for assessing land use are released for review by local communities and industry bodies. State and national datasets for agricultural production, for example, are notoriously inaccurate. CSIRO data for the central highlands of Victoria will show that nearly all the land from Waubra to Daylesford and down to Millbrook is used solely for grazing purposes. This somehow misses the intensive cropping undertaken in the region and the extremely productive potato growing industry. When AusNet first started contacting landholders in our region – there was little to no understanding of the industries active in the region.

In my years as an agricultural economist, I have never come across an “agricultural production score” for land and cannot find any description of how it is calculated, what it means, or what data is included in its assessment. In preparing this submission I have spoken to a number of private industry and government employees involved in the sector and it’s also a term not familiar to any of them. It is essential this term and its calculation is made available for public scrutiny before being utilised to estimate agricultural land impact.

5. Engineering

This rating included an assessment of the engineering complexity involved with each of the 5 projects and added criteria to the final rating. This feels like a double-rating for costs. Surely the engineering complexity (including topography, chance of being affected by flood or bushfire and number of crossings of existing infrastructure) must have been included while costing each indicative alignment.

This implies cost has a double weighting within the multi-criteria analysis. Why not provide the cost-benefit analysis with a 75% weighting rather than separating out engineering into a separate criteria?

6. No consideration of future weather under climate change projections

We know our climate is changing... and that severe weather events are getting closer together. In just the 8 years I have lived in this house, there have been 3 floods, two severe wind storms and a bushfire in the landscape I can see from my window now. A Victorian state government report reviewing the 2006/07 bushfire season highlighted that there is no way to engineer above ground HV transmission lines to remove their vulnerability to fire – other than undergrounding. We have seen transmission lines in Victoria and SA blow over in the last 5 years. We believe it is essential that the resilience of this infrastructure must be a consideration into this process.

Conclusion:

A flawed process can only lead to a flawed outcome. We understand the time pressure associated with the closure of power plants and the need to review our Victorian and national energy grid. However decisions made in haste here will have a lifelong impact on families and businesses – both those living on or near the infrastructure but also every energy consumer in Victoria who will be stuck paying for a white elephant.

Farms are not built in a day. Good farming properties require multigeneration investment (both with financial and human capital) to develop a sustainable proposition for future generations. The connection that farmers have to

Individual submission



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their land and their landscape is substantial. As the current caretakers of this land, we are the benefactors of past hard work and investment and we are responsible for ensuring this investment continues to ensure the continued viability of the land and farming business (whether it is retained in the Myers name or sold). The notion that a project such as this, with obvious and sensible alternatives, can catastrophically disrupt generations of hard work with seemingly so little consideration for what occurs on the ground is insulting. As one Ausnet representative said to us at a community drop in meeting “a tree has more rights in this project than you” (Brian O’Callaghan, Miners Rest, March 2021).

Today is the 31st of March 2021. According to our Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner it is 100 years to the day since Sir John Monash signed on the dotted line to develop last century’s version of VicGrid. 100 years on, we want to see our state moving forward with the best possible technology – both in renewable energy and in the infrastructure to shift that energy around the state from where it is produced to where it is needed most.

It’s time the Victorian Government tried to take the same approach. If they, and AEMO, choose to look after communities, the environment and the economy, they will pay it back in spades. Choosing to underestimate our intelligence, our power and capacity to work together for a better option is a significant mistake.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P305

Name: Christian Rothacker Mysia Recreation Reserve **Location:** Mysia, VIC, Australia

Submission

I am writing on behalf of the Mysia Recreation Reserve which includes the Mysia War Memorial School, and the surrounding grounds. We are concerned about the impact of the VNI Option 5 Transmission Lines on our community.

We are a small community but that should not make us insignificant. We have worked tirelessly in recent years to maintain our facilities and are proud of our historic assets. We are deeply concerned about the damage to our landscape caused by the proposed transmission lines. We feel that our area has been belittled and marginalised because in the eyes of AEMO, small population means limited resistance. The Mysia War Memorial School is over 100 years old and was built by the community as a positive leap of faith to the future after the tragedy of the World War 1. We have tended this building with love and care, knowing how important it was to our forebears as they tried to make sense of the devastating loss of so many young men from Mysia.

We urge AEMO to reconsider Option 5. We believe the landscape of Mysia, with its deep First Nations connection and historic buildings would be devastated by this construction. These lines will also damage the prime farmland of our Mysia Committee members, taking away their financial ability to support our community. The mental health cost of having these lines through our landscape will be untold.

Once again, we urge you to listen to the community and reconsider VNI Option 5.

Regards

Christian Rothacker

President

Mysia Recreation Reserve

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P306

Name: Carmen Henry

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: Submission against AEMO power lines

Good afternoon,

I write to you in regards to the AEMO powerlines option 5 of the St Arnaud area.

I am strongly against the option 5 not only will this option decrease the value of property, affect livestock, affect cropping, the mental health of our farmers but it will have a run on effect right through our community.

Farmers will leave the land (No farmers = No food) this will result in loss of sales here at Nutrien Ag solutions which will then effect my job which then effects my family and my lively hood, my employer will not be able to keep me on as sales will drop due to farmers leaving the land they love.

It is extremely disappointing that AEMO doesn't have the guts to explain or answer questions. Our community want answers.

Carmen Henry

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P307

Name: Jade Greene

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: Option 5 Objection - AEMO Transmission Lines

To whom it may concern,

I am emailing in regards to the AEMO transmission line. I believe that the outline option five is unnecessary going forward and will cause undue stress and severe impacts upon the communities that it will be installed around. There are many reasons This should not go ahead including bio security risk economic and social impacts upon farmers as Wellers the simple fact that they are just not necessary due to infrastructure that is already in place that could take the demand that is required for the energy transition plan.

Please take this email as my official objection to option five and all other options provided. As mentioned above these options are not necessary and will cause a undue financial stress upon the taxpayer.

Regards,

Jade Greene

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P308

Name: Gus Gould

Location: Mysia, VIC, Australia

Submission

VNI West Option 5 Submission

Introduction

I am Gus Gould. After completing my Diploma of AgriBusiness at Longerenong College, I have recently returned to the family farm at Mysia. I work part-time on the farm and part time for Loddon Plains Landcare Network. I am representative of the new generation of young people returning to their family farm and regional community. My plan is to buy my own land and operate a regen ag and environmental farming business.

Personal Impact of the VNI West Option 5

- Blight on the landscape that will take away the appeal of country living for farmers and life stylers. Will stagnate or cause a downturn in the population and diversity of our communities.
- The fear of health risks will particularly be prevalent amongst young people who are looking to return to the country with their families
- The increasing numbers of digital nomads in our region has been a wonderful asset but those people are likely to look elsewhere than return to a region with massive 500volt transmission lines visible from large distances
- I have had my future set in this area, but these lines will cause devaluing of my family farm to such a great extent, that the prospect of dealing with my parents debt on land that is no longer as valuable as it was, is too daunting.
- I am a farmer. I love every inch of this area. The arrogance of a company seeing our land as 'unused' is insulting and ignorant. I farm carefully and in sync with the environment. What might look like an underutilised paddock to an electrical engineer, is a paddock that is being carefully managed and a home to a diverse range of biology.

Individual submission

VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

Environmental Impacts of VNI West Option 5

- Lily D'Ambrosio's fast tracking ministerial order at the end February is an insult to the Australian native environment. Surely, any Australian would understand that the nature of the Australian flora and fauna, is that they don't all jump in front of a researcher and make themselves known during a short study. The cycles of our local environment operate roughly over twenty years. Dry years, wet summers, droughts, floods, no frosts, wet winters etc. all contribute to a diverse and ever-changing environment. To barge through and terrorise this delicate balance is arrogant and will cause long term damage.
- Part of my job at Landcare has been visiting farmers from Pyramid Hill through to Yeungroon, monitoring their tree planting and success rate. I have been overwhelmed by the commitment of farmers to care for the environment and plant trees. This VNI project will rip through farms and their environmental work. It will make a mockery of the ecological works that have been encouraged by the government. On one hand, the government are giving grants or in most cases putting pressure on landholders to care for the environment, but then they think it is quite acceptable to rip through farms with minimal thought for the natural world.

Loddon Plains Landcare Region

- The crucial environmental work that will be impacted is evident on the Loddon Plains Landcare Network Website

<http://lpln.org/blueprint-for-action/>

<https://lpln.org/other-projects/>

- Key species impacted
 - o Mallee Fowl
 - o Plains Wanderer,
 - o Fat Tailed Dunnart
 - o Bush Stone Curlew,
 - o Lace Monitor - Goanna
 - o Growling Grass Frog.
 - o Swainson-Pea and orchid species,

Individual submission



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- o Buloke,
- o Streaked Wattle and numerous grass species

Recommendations

- Stop the fast tracking of the VNI West transmission lines and undertake a thoughtful and consultative study into the long term electricity plan for Victoria.
- Prioritise underground transmission lines
- VNI West Option 5, is an absolute disaster for food production and the environment and must be reconsidered

Gus Gould,

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P309

Name: Judy Posthlethwaite

Location: Gooroc, VIC, Australia

Submission

To whom it may concern,

I have called Gooroc, in north western Victoria, home for over 30 years.

Our family produces a wide range of grain over our 6000 acres. To achieve our farming operations in a timely manner we use 36m long machinery, rely on reliable accurate GPS as well as emerging technologies such as drones.

We live in Gooroc not just because of the self-mulching Wimmera clay soils that are highly productive but because of the wide open big sky landscape – a Wimmera sunset is the best in the world. It is a delicate environment with sparse remnant vegetation of native bulokes that needs to be preserved. We also have a small but caring community. A community of multi-generational grain, meat and fibre producers, a community that bands together to support each other literally through droughts and flooding rain. As we live in a time that 1 farmer commits suicide every 10 days I believe this too will affect our neighbour's mental health. The uncertainty of the many unanswered questions surrounding the proposed transmission line causing unnecessary anxiety.

Food security is a global issue area and in recent year we have seen food shortages on the supermarket shelves. It is a time that we need to be supporting our Australian growers and doing all we can to make sure that this food is produced with the maximum efficiency. Carving up our paddocks with transmission lines, being unable to access swaths of land to reduce weed burden on a crop, not to mention people traipsing from one property to another with no regard for bio security will do nothing to support this.

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.

Individual submission

VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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.

With declining terms of trade making farming profitability more precarious, another burden on our already stretched

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

resources is not welcome. When the channel system went through the district we all put up with the inconvenience of carved up paddocks, but we were able to utilise the resource to compensate for the inconvenience. The key difference though compared to this is powerline project is that water flows downhill; no politics was involved about a preferred route, as it could only go one way. This made it fair for everyone. This powerline however appears to be entirely planned based on politics, not using the best economically or most efficient supply capacity, just the route providing the least political fallout. As farmers we are a small sector of the community and it appears our voice is less important. The recent piping of the channel system has benefitted the community immensely, especially making our paddocks more uniform, allowing removal of weedy uncropped areas and making farm layout more efficient.

These powerline towers will return the paddocks to this carved up state.

Our farming system relies on GPS guidance to reduce overlap, a 5% cost to our business. The high voltage towers mask the differential correction signal coming from our local 2cm base station network making the accuracy we require to farm useless. The use of large machinery (36m boomsprayer) will be impacted if we can't crop underneath these powerlines. Compaction also costs us a lot of yield – about \$150/ha – we have spent a lot of money over many years getting machinery configured to reduce this cost. The construction phase of tower installation will return our paddocks back to a compacted state, another cost to our business.

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.

Please reconsider,

Judy Postlethwaite

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P310

Name: Lynette LaBlack

Location: NSW, Australia

Submission

I totally OBJECT to the VNI West Interconnector because it is part of the most illogical & harmful Fake Green, imaginary power delusion that could ever be orchestrated & forced on the Australian public against their will & for no benefit whatsoever!

VNI West plans have neglected to accurately address all of the following:-

- **Food Security + Australian Energy Security = National Security
 - **Australian Independent Energy = Coal, Gas & a clean, safe, Nuclear SMR Power future.
 - **Which companies involved & all of their Solar/Wind/BESS connections are subject to the CCP's National Intelligence Law?
 - **Public Health & Safety Risks - Electromagnetic Radiation, Soil/Food/Water Contamination, Energy Deprivation.
 - **Proper Research Needed - No Scientific Rigour.
 - ** Engineering Facts Have Been Ignored.
 - **Connecting Subsidised, Mandated Weather Dependent - Intermittent Solar/Wind to the Grid is the Worst Policy Failure in History.
 - **Fake Green - Not Clean & Green or Sustainable at all - as the Full Lifecycle of Solar/Wind/BESS has to be accounted for.
- At least 1,000% more Mining + intensive energy & toxic pollution during processing.
- **Power Sources Needed in major City areas instead - avoiding long distance transmission loss, ruination of rural Australia & harming Agricultural productivity.
 - **Unconscionable scale of Industrialised Solar/Wind land mass required.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

Michael Shellenberger says it's approx 300-800 times more land required for Solar/Wind than for far superior conventional power generation.

****Massive Toxic Waste Burden** being intentionally created for future generations that will NEVER be economically viable to recycle - if ever even possible.

****Energy Security risks** from inferior, unreliable, weather dependent, Dunkelflaute based Solar/Wind which will NEVER be base-load power available on demand.

****Economic Suicide - Skyrocketing Energy Prices = Cost of Living Crisis.** The more Mandated, Subsidised Solar & Wind in the system = the Higher the Prices.

****National Security Risks -** we need to rely on our own AUSTRALIAN Energy Sources rather than our Most Hostlie Enemy - the CCP.

****Fake Green Wokeness = Weakness**

****Unethical Slave Labour Supply Chain Reliance -** Solar's cruelly tortured Xinjiang Uyghurs & Cobalt for Wind Turbines + Batteries reliant on shocking treatment of the Congolese - with Child Labour - children as young as 6 years old forced to mine toxic cobalt in the Congo with their bare hands!

****No Social Licence -** Failed Consultation process by AEMO, AUSNET & TRANSGRID.

****Immediate Moratorium & Independent Federal Inquiry Needed.**

No matter what alternative route is considered for VNI West or whether underground, none of that stops the subsidy hungry, off-shore, Solar/Wind/BESS environmental vandals from their relentless ruination & ugly eyesores, the unconscionable, intentional environmental destruction & inevitable contamination risks now cursing rural Australia - our communities, our limited - irreplaceable - life sustaining food resource land & vital water sources - in the disingenuous name of renewaBULL energy!

No amount of Fake Green bribery-like hosting dollars will ever cover the multitude of sins this disastrous plan will unleash on our precious country!

This whole RenewaBULL Con can be exposed with a couple of basic technical questions:

1. How do you propose to provide reliable fill-in power generation when the average capacity factor of wind and solar systems CANNOT exceed approximately 30%?
2. If your answer is storage (any and all forms) how do you propose to re-charge spent storage facilities on a cloudy windless morning? (which could last for days or weeks)

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

3. What is the REAL cost of solar and wind systems - which MUST include ALL peripheral establishment and operational costs, that is : " manufacturing, transport, ALL subsidies, fill-in generation by whatever means, construction, land reclamation, disposal and treatment of toxic fail units, recycling of battery materials, grid batteries (that are useless for storage), the list goes on BUT MUST include ALL costs for a realistic estimate.

(Reference: Paul Miskelly's Rebuttle of NSW' Renewable Policy & Plans as Outlined by Andrew Lewis.)

Politicians, scientists & media - including the unbalanced, biased public broadcaster - are pushing ideologically driven, climate related falsehoods into the popular perspective - with lobbyists deceptively twisting the narrative to suit Solar/Wind industry's greedy profiteering - convincing many that CO2 - a gas necessary for life on earth - which we exhale with every breathe - is an environmental poison & their Fake Green electronic garbage is laughably the cure!

The usual vested interest culprits are in overdrive - spreading their grossly irresponsible, delusional propaganda - disgracefully claiming communities will be enabled to thrive. How, I do not know, as it has already extensively vandalised the landscape, ecological habitat & productive food producing land - devastating numerous areas such as Moyne Shire, Central West NSW, New England, Yass Valley, Bomen Wagga Wagga, etc.

Whilst acknowledging truthfully that projects will cost billions of dollars, they baselessly & falsely claim the benefits now & in the future are many multiples of the outlay!

How could that possibly be true, when the practical reality proves the complete reverse - showing that this is just another ideological delusion based on 'garbage in garbage out' modelling theory which has translated into a practical horror show!

Whilst construction may include "thousands of jobs in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region" during construction, jobs are basically non-existent afterwards, ruin numerous, long term job opportunities from reliable & proven Agricultural industries & in no way will we ever finally have the reliable power needed from weather dependant Solar/Wind generation & incapable Battery storage.

We have not seen any thorough engagement with all stakeholders by AEMO or TransGrid at all. Rather, AEMO have deserted the logical reality, have become politicised & don't even bother turning up & AusNet & Transgrid have long proven to be intimidating bullies with selfish, greedy intentions & no consideration of rural landholders/communities or Australia's environment at all!

Detrimentially impacted regional cities such as Wagga Wagga - haven't a clue what horror they're in for with mass electrification - 3 ghastly Interconnectors & 5,000 acres of environmentally destructive, contaminating, glaring Solar Electricity Generating Works - that the Fake Green planners disgracefully claim will soften & blend into the pretty natural landscape!

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

All rural communities have been mistreated & ignored - constantly denied a just process & respectable consultation, with no transparency, no consumer benefits, no social licence - replaced instead by bullying, intimidation, secrecy, dodgy deals & rip-off electricity prices as the norm.

Whilst it's glaringly obvious that TransGrid present their most unwelcome, extremely damaging, Public Health & Safety disaster plan for their own financial benefit - blighting our treasured landscape with their ugly, unhealthy, unnecessary towers - some positioned so cruelly - only 300 metres from a family home, this is in addition to atrocious multiplication & incorporation of far more unethical, unhealthy, destructive & harmful, Slave Labour based, CCP benefiting Solar, Wind & BESS electronic garbage.

Recently, Cheung Kong spin-off/part owner of TransGrid - Spark Infrastructure/Renewables' Will Stone spoke on ABC Riverina (30th March 2023) - talking up their ghastly 2.5 GW Dinawan Hub plans in the SW REZ - Wind/Solar Electricity Generating Works + BESS - strategically positioned to connect with their ElectraNet CCP buddies - the State Grid Corporation of China - 46.56% CCP owned Project Energy Connect.

Spark Infrastructure's Will Stone outrageously stated that this will be equivalent to one of the big Coal Fired Power Stations on the East Coast - like Liddell!

Yeah sure, what about the weather? Next Dunkelflaute - what then?

Will Spark Infrastructure, TransGrid, AusNet & AEMO be responsible & held accountable when vulnerable Australians die of hyperthermia due to the unreliable, unaffordable, weather dependant, imaginary power plans they are propagating & forcing on us without our consent?

It will be a very grim, costly & dark future indeed, should they continue to get away with their DECEITFUL, FAKE GREEN, CCP RELIANT, IMAGINARY POWER LUNACY!

After 4 years of being tortured by the phoney claims & practical reality disasters of the large-scale Solar/Wind/BESS & Transmission nightmare, it is absolutely clear that this is the ANTITHESIS OF CARING FOR COUNTRY & ALL ABOUT THE FAKE GREEN GRIFT & PONZI SCHEME ripping off Australians to benefit the wealthy, woke investors, colluding corporates, the hostile CCP & controlling WEF global elite with their dodgy ESG stitch up!

Solar, Wind & BESS developers have a proven litany of failures - including their off-shore shell companies, on-sold/badly managed, extremely problematic projects, non-compliance, non-existent consultation process & no social licence regarding their ghastly, contaminating Solar/Wind Electricity Generating Works & filthy, toxic, fire inferno risking, incapable Battery Energy Storage Systems - at outrageous cost to the public - including Edify's Darlington Point NSW Battery Energy Storage System - with an initial \$100 Million for 100 MW announcement - that's \$1 Million for 1 MW - which is the total opposite of the Government's "clean, cheap energy" claims & so typical of THE MOST REPREHENSIBLE FAKE GREEN SOLAR/WIND GRIFT & PONZI SCHEME THAT IS ALL BASED ON LIES!

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

Clearly, batteries used to store power are severely restricted by current technology. In spite of the evidence Governments, Energy Security Board, AEMO, AER & AEMC keep ignoring the numbers - prioritising the Fake Green gravy train over benefits for everyday Australians & electricity consumers.

CONNECTING SUBSIDISED & MANDATED, INTERMITTENT SOLAR & WIND POWER TO THE GRID IS THE WORST POLICY BLUNDER IN OUR HISTORY!!

DUNKELFLAUTES WILL BE POTENTIALLY CATASTROPHIC!!

Solar/Wind utilities cannot be maximised simultaneously & should never be interfering with our once reliable & efficient electricity grid.

Any Power Generation Source That Can't Deliver Electricity On Demand is Pointless!

Hideous ecosystem-wrecking industrial Solar/Wind EG Works, BESS, associated infrastructure & invasive, unnecessary multiplication of Transmission Lines for such a costly, contaminating & wasteful form of electricity generation is illogical lunacy!

The essential consideration for & accounting of the full life-cycle of VNI West's plan have been omitted - as AusNet, TransGrid, AEMO & the Government pretend that Fake Green components magically pop into existence - that Transmission Infrastructure, Solar panels, Wind Turbines & BESS are made from kale & carrots - when it is absolutely essential to make all emissions transparent - including from the extraction of the raw materials - extensive toxic pollution, intensive energy used for processing/manufacturing, potent SF6 greenhouse gas emission leakage & on site impacts - through to the disposal of vast amounts of toxic, clapped out Solar panels, toxic Turbine blades & BESS (after only 7-10 years!)

The elite of the WEF's globalist viper's nest at Davos are pushing for the centralisation of power & wealth & decimating our liberties & privacy through their Trojan Horse - catastrophic climate alarmism religion.

Greedy, off-shore subsidy suckers are ripping off Australia, as there is absolutely nothing beneficial whatsoever to Local Councils, States or Australia - environmentally, economically, socially, ethically or for Food Security, Australian Energy Security & National Security from these destructive, contaminating & unreliable, weather dependent, Dunkelflaute based plans.

It's well past time that local Councils do their Due Diligence & recognise the Moral Hazard inflicted on them by the Government policy makers & approving bodies - who have engaged in risky behaviour by ignoring & refusing to assess & scientifically determine the Public Health & Safety risks - including contamination - failing to act in good faith because they know the other party - rural Council's/community ratepayers - bear the economic consequences of their behaviour.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

It is the unsuspecting Local Government Authority who bears the damaging burdens - ultimately responsible/liable for any land/water contamination or pollution caused by Solar/Wind Electricity Generating Works (POEO Act) in their Shire.

Likewise under NSW Government Legislation, all Government bodies - including Councils, have a duty not to host, procure or have a power purchase agreement with any Modern Slavery based Solar/Wind generation, yet NSW DPIE/DPE carelessly & unjustly forces these unethical approvals onto Councils against their will.

Intelligent decision making - informing Council's fiduciary duty - requires the inclusion of the total, long term costs from the full life-cycle of Solar/Wind/BESS - beginning with mining through to toxic waste - in order to accurately compare energy sources, their environmental benefit & emissions released.

The whole toxic life-cycle needs to be accounted for - from the highly extractive mining industry - at least 1,000% more mining required, intensive energy usage, extensive toxic pollution & the most potent greenhouse gas emissions - such as SF6 - 23,500 times more warming than CO2 - remaining in the atmosphere for more than 1,000 years - leaking from Solar manufacturing, Wind Turbines, ever increasing switch gear, circuit breakers etc.

It's pretty clear, if you bombard people with propaganda ie. the adnauseam Fake Green narrative - it's likely people will believe it over time - despite the Unproven Possibilities, illogical & disastrous nature!

The science is largely dismissed, and only used selectively when it suits the agenda - rather than informing what the actual agenda should be.

Fake Green imaginary power lunacy is dominated by politicians & policy makers who have little or no technical competence at all in the field of energy engineering.

Just like Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek claiming increased renewables mean "CHEAPER, CLEANER ENERGY, LOWER POWER BILLS & LOWER POLLUTION" (SMH 10th April 2023,) these empty promises are totally false!

In responding to forecasts of a global recession, Treasurer Jim Chalmers said "We need to make ourselves resilient to these shocks" (ABC 12th April 2023) - yet he is presiding over the most comprehensively weakening, self sabotaging, energy depriving/cost of living disaster ever!

The public are now discovering the reality of skyrocketing electricity prices from unreliable weather dependent Solar/Wind - based on Dunkelflautes.

It is totally against the best interests of all Australians to enable electricity reliance on the Chinese Communist party & their unethical Slave Labour supply chains. (Reference:- Oxley Bridge Rd Solar Determination - New Modern Slavery Condition.)

Transitioning to an electricity system based on CCP control & Chinese manufactured components is sabotaging Australia by ENABLING BEIJING TO TURN OUR LIGHTS OFF!!

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

There are no safeguards in place in Australia that would prevent any of the embedded electronics in grid-connected Solar/Wind EG Works & BESS covertly transmitting potentially valuable information.

Instead of chaotic & inefficient, weather driven supply, with policies driven by socialist WEF ideology instead of engineering facts, Australia needs to rely solely on our own plentiful, reliable, efficient, affordable, secure Coal, Gas & Uranium for a clean, safe Nuclear power future.

With energy shortages, war on the horizon, skyrocketing prices & looming blackouts with the forecast closure of Liddell Power Station in NSW April 2023, popular presumptions underlying energy policy must be questioned.

The demand for 'green' power hurts the environment - with an appallingly huge environmental footprint, only rendered worse by their ineffectiveness at meeting basic power needs.

Inferior, intermittent, Fake Green renewaBULL energy disturbs our independent way of life, denies us modern conveniences, affects our security, economic prosperity, our health & wellbeing & destroys Intergenerational equity for future generations.

Solar & Wind generation is material intensive & energy dilute.

According to Michael Shellenberger "The underlying problem with renewables is their low power density, which is why it takes Wind/Solar projects 300-800 times more land to generate the same amount of electricity as from conventional sources."

Claims that installing 40 (7 MW) Wind Turbine monstrosities per month until 2030 & more than 22,000 toxic Solar Panels per day - totalling 60 Million by 2030 + tonnes of filthy, toxic BESS with 28,000 kms of ugly, unhealthy & unnecessary Transmission Lines (totally unnecessary with independent Australian Coal, Gas & Nuclear SMR's) will improve conditions, productivity, the environment & the planet are clearly blatantly false!

Where is the scientific determination to prove any of these claims?

Entombing agricultural land in Solar panels for decades has tragic practical outcomes regarding sterilisation of the soil & dry land salinity.

It is well proven that ALL Solar panels are toxic - containing numerous heavy metals - including lead.

Serious toxins leak from the join point & wiring in an undamaged Solar panel as the panel ages on site.

Such heavy metals - including lead, are definitively proven to show harm to human & animal health & safety.

As they degrade, if inferior, broken, storm/cyclone damaged, fractured by hail or burnt, rainwater washes heavy metal leachate from the panels.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

They are therefore, a looming contamination disaster for our land, our food supply, our vital water sources.

It is therefore, completely irresponsible for approving bodies to trust the developer's lies - claiming that following decommissioning the land will be "returned to its food resource land" status, its "inherent capability" as productive agricultural land - to ensure the continuation of uncontaminated grazing or future cropping activities.

(Reference:- Oxley Bridge Rd Solar Determination - Professor Ian Plimer audio regarding Solar Contamination + Amended Stormwater Management Plan - including Contamination Response Procedure prior to Construction.)

Not only would sheep be subject to elevated toxicity, their management would be extremely poor due to inaccessibility & the fact that Solar sites are left neglected & weed ridden with unpalatable/non-nutritious feed & also that sheep have died in Solar EG Works - caught up by their wool in the rotating universal joints. (Neoen Solar - Parkes.)

Likewise, Wind Turbine blades shedding toxic Bisphenol A (lethal to young children, at least as toxic as blue asbestos,) are a terrifying tragedy for our life sustaining food & water supplies & for future generations cursed with this irresponsibly approved, environmental catastrophe! (Reference: Environmentally Destructive, Toxic Contaminating Wind Turbines.)

Construction & Operational large-scale Solar/Wind EG Works & access roads have extremely significant impacts regarding water run-off & erosion - interfering with vegetation coverage & denuding the top soil.

There are numerous, proven examples - including Wind Turbine destruction on Rye Park Range & Solar ruination at Bomen, Wagga Wagga (Reference: Series of Environmentally Destructive Water Run-Off & Erosion Damage Photos & Videos emailed separately.)

Ignoring requirements for detailed erosion & sediment control plans are extremely foolish, when the damage clearly seen in other areas is also so extensive & harmful eg. Snowy 2 with sediment from roadworks now irresponsibly & unacceptably contaminating the Yarrangobilly River & Nungar Creek in the precious & pristine Kosciusko National Park.

The detrimental impact - according to scale - of the well proven 'Heat Island Effect' from large-scale Solar EG Works to local microclimates has been intentionally dismissed, as this would have a significant impact on surrounding food producers - causing a rise in temperature of 3-4 degrees - with consequential loss of production, exacerbating insect development & interfering with pollination. The extent of impact must be determined & clarified commensurate with the large-scale - prior to any further Solar approvals - by reputable, peer reviewed, independent research - which is yet to be done by any Australian Government.

Neither has there been any recognition of the extremely toxic & hazardous Fire/Smoke risks from the Fake Green Solar/Wind/BESS/Transmission nightmare - now presenting in numerous rural districts - with their increased Fire/Smoke hazard risks - including carcinogenic & teratogenic effects - which are a public health & safety risk for human beings, stock & all life forms - with irreversible harmful environmental impacts.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

Rural human beings, valuable stock & other creatures have been unjustly treated as unworthy of consideration in assessments - as if dispensable.

There is No Social Licence for VNI West, for Project Energy Connect or for HumeLink.

Any approval gained for PEC in NSW has been due to secrecy & deceit - targeting individual families to intimidate & pressure them whilst hiding the unpalatable & detrimental facts from the majority of the public - with no genuine community consideration, appropriate consultation or transparency.

This whole disingenuous process has been unjust & absolutely hopeless, as it also has been elsewhere for all large-scale Solar/Wind EG Works & BESS.

Wokeness is Weakness!

It is Woke Nonsense to continue to peddle this Fake Green Transition/Transmission disaster, for the Government to waste billions of taxpayer dollars mandating subsidised unreliable energy that has wrecked the electricity market & has such seriously detrimental impacts for Australia - whilst enabling shonky, off-shore developers & transmission networks to ride roughshod over communities, our basic rights, common sense & unethically ignore human health & safety to ensure we have energy poverty.

I DO NOT CONSENT TO MY FAMILY OR MYSELF BEING DETRIMENTALLY HARMED IN ANY WAY BY VNI WEST'S GHASTLY, INVASIVE & HARMFUL TRANSMISSION LINE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS OR ANY OTHER CONNECTED LARGE-SCALE SOLAR/WIND ELECTRICITY GENERATING WORKS, BESS & ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN VICTORIA, NSW & AUSTRALIA - including but not limited to:-

**Public Health & Safety Risks - Personal Discomfort & Health Impacts from Electrical Force - EMR & Deprivation or Contamination of Life Sustaining Food Resource Land, Food Supplies & Water Supplies.

**Unplanned for, Not Even Researched & Not Appropriately Assessed, Toxic Carcinogenic & Teratogenic Fire/Smoke Hazard Risks.

**Energy Deprivation - Lack of Reliable, Affordable Electricity - Resulting from Inferior, Unreliable Solar/Wind Generation causing Austerity, Suffering, ill Health & Loss of Basic Services.

**Consequential Skyrocketing Electricity Prices - Causing Austerity, Suffering, Cost of Living Crisis & Potential Death from Hyperthermia.

**Unjust Mistreatment of Landholders & Rural Communities Forced to Endure Such Detrimental Plans - Causing Extreme Distress, Anxiety, Depression, Grief, Family/Social Fracturing & Loss.

**Deprivation of Rural Outlook & Quality of Life - With Unhealthy, Distressing Noise, Infrasound & Visual Pollution.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

**Emotional Distress, Suffering & Hardship Caused by Government Inflicted Skyrocketing Energy/Cost of Living Crisis.

**Detrimental Consequences of increased SF6 emissions.

**Increased Economic Hardship due to Failure of Councils to do their Due Diligence, to Address Compliance, to be Transparent & to be Honest, to Address the Facts & Community Concerns, ie. Additional Council charges for Flawed Assessments & Wrong Approvals - Leading to Unplanned for Clean up & Remediation Costs for Abandoned, Derelict, Contaminating Solar/Wind EG Works & BESS.

**Any Detrimental Cost Implications for Ratepayers from the Council's & any NSW Government Body's Persistence in Ignoring Their Duties Regarding the Unethical Hosting, Procurement & Power Purchase Agreements With Energy Generation Reliant on Unethical Slave Labour Supply Chains.

**Loss of Productivity & Income Due to Contamination, Increased Fire Risk & Heat Island Impacts from Solar/Wind EG Works & BESS.

**Any Cyber Security Breaches or National Security Threats & Harm Caused.

**Any Costs Incurred for Ratepayers & Taxpayers by Dealing With the Obvious, Economic Suicide - the Financial Consequences for the Future of Making Seriously Retrograde Decisions by Hosting & Approving Such Harmful Solar/Wind EG Works, BESS & Associated Unnecessary

Transmission Infrastructure.

Yours Sincerely,

Lynette LaBlack

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P311

Name: Roy & Joan Postlethwaite

Location: Coonooer West, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: OBJECTION TO POWER LINES - OPTION 5

We would like to lodge our objection to the proposed power lines your company AEMO, plan to run through our region, (Known as option 5 - Running between St.Arnaud & Charlton in Victoria) .

This region is prime dry land farming, producing valuable export dollars for our nation and food for the world. Your Company has not to date, been able to to give the farmers any solid facts about the proposed route the Power lines will be taking, nor restrictions that may apply to the land use around the poles. We are told that your company has not held talks with the CFA and their local branches to advise what restrictions will apply. Fire is a very real threat in this region as our summers are long and dry, making harvest residue (stubbles) very vulnerable to lightning strike and fires from machinery and access through our properties in case of emergencies is vital to reducing risk.

Your representatives do not seem able or willing to present all the truthful facts to the public for us to make a valued decision on your desired route, hence we are all very hesitant to move forward with your proposal.

There seems to be other options which are more cost effective than Option 5. that should be considered as they would have far less an impact on new land holders and reduce farming outputs.

At the St. Arnaud meeting on Monday 17th of April, which your company did not attend, Professor Mountain gave us the outline of his report to government and opened our minds to using existing infrastructure in the Latrobe Valley which could be enhanced to support Wind Turbines and solar energy at a minimum of the cost of option 5. Things have changed since a National link was proposed, what some 10 –12 years ago and technology has improved, perhaps it is better to have independent smaller grids that if hacked will not cripple the whole nation??

You state that farmers will be compensated for 20 years but what happens after that, the power lines will still be on our properties??

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

Our land values will drop by 30%, plus our usable cropping land will be considerably reduced for production and for sale when the power lines go up – are you willing to compensate us that 30% when we sell???

We repeat

WE OBJECT TO OPTION 5 – AND ANY POWER LINES GOING THROUGH OUR PROPERTY.

We do not feel confident that AEMO is representing all the facts for us to make a valued decision.

Sincerely

Roy and Joan Postlethwaite.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P312

Name: Brad & Naomi Medlyn

Location: Marnoo, VIC, Australia

Submission

To Whom it May Concern

Re: SUBMISSION ON THE VNI WEST – CONSULTATION REPORT

We are writing to you to strongly object to the VNI West Project.

Our family operate a mixed farming operation with property at Rostron, Stuart Mill, Carapooee and Marnoo East in Victoria. We crop approximately 1,800Ha and run approximately 4,000 sheep, including a White Suffolk Stud.

The operation of the stud means that we have to be extra vigilant with biosecurity issues, not to mention the increasing requirements from a cropping perspective on traceability for grains produced for human consumption.

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 and we are gravely 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 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 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:

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- Inability to use tractors and machinery under power lines;
- 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.
- Aesthetically displeasing.

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 re-consider the appropriateness and viability of the line given the report published by Professors Simon Bartlett AM & Bruce Mountain. It seems unfathomable that a project of this scope could go ahead when the evidence clearly points to alternatives that would make use of existing infrastructure and resources and be much more cost effective.

Until 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.

This process has been dishonest, misleading and misinformed. To see independent professionals use words such as 'Monumental Mistake' when describing the project raises serious alarm bells.

We strongly object to the construction of the 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line construction.

Regards,

Brad & Naomi Medlyn

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P313

Name: Jeff Mitchell

Location:

Submission

Dear Sir,

I make this submission to you to object to the Western Renewables Link and VNI-West - Option 5 proposal proceeding to implementation.

I note you have received a comprehensive technical and environmental assessment of the proposal which was prepared and lodged with you by Dr's Bartlett and Mountain (independent experts) dated 13 April 2023.

In my submission against the Option 5 proposal I, after reviewing the assessment by these independent experts and, to the extent of my understanding, agree with its conclusions and attach their report to this submission to support the detailed and technical aspects of my objection to this proposal.

From my understanding, the reason Option 5 is being proposed to progress through this development corridor is that it met with significant resistance from communities in the more efficient and cost effective development corridor to the south and east, which saw the path of the proposed transmission line take a more direct route closer to the stronger industrial and residential growth centres of Bendigo and the Loddon Valley.

If AEMO is prepared to accept and respond to the objections of these communities and consider an alternate route which will result in significantly higher cost to the state and reduced efficiency then the objections of the communities along the Option 5 path are no less valid.

To be clear, and using the working assumption that this infrastructure is necessary, (though I note the assessment of the independent experts that it does not have sufficient merit for its development to proceed) then my objection is not against the transmission of electricity but is absolutely against how AEMO is proposing to do it.

The environmental impact of these pylon towers through the proposed corridor is immense, from an environmental perspective i.e. (bushfire risk as reverenced in the attached report) commercial impact on agricultural activity via the operation of easements and the physical presence of the towers, which at circa 80m in

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

height are abjectly incongruous with the features of the landscape, they will be well beyond the relative relief of the surrounding terrain and much higher than the natural vegetation of the region.

In addition to their proposal. As stated above if this infrastructure is required, then the proposed mode is abjectly wrong from any aspect of rational consideration.

I lodge my objection to Option 5 proceeding.

Regards

Jeff Mitchell

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P314

Name: Tim & Karina Polkinghorne
Banavie Merino

Location: Marnoo, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: Stakeholder Submission re Option 5 - Tim and Karina Polkinghorne, Marnoo

We hereby lodge the following submission as a rejection of the Option 5 proposal within the VNI West Consultation Report.

We are a farming family spanning between Marnoo through to St Arnaud, Wedderburn and Charlton, we run stud and commercial sheep as well as cropping.

We are a seed stock supplier or genetics to the merino sheep industry across Australia, New Zealand and Argentina.

We have built a farming enterprise withing the Northern Grampians Shire and Loddon shire, our business has been structured to be paid off over a 30-year period, if the proposed project goes ahead our family's business will be under serious threat, likewise our 5 employees family's the towns libraries schools hospitals etc.

As we farm in many areas, some of which will be affected by the power lines we are angered at both the certain and probable impacts of this proposal, and the lack of consultation and short time frame for negotiation or objection.

In the introduction of the power lines there is a greater risk of weeds and disease to our property and the question is who is responsible for controlling these as we are not to work under or near the lines.

As the route of the 500kV transmission lines will impeach on our property, this will result in loss of production and revenues as we operate as dryland cropping for grain production and sheep grazing farm these losses will well exceed the compensation being offered.

We are extremely concerned about how these lines will affect our kid's health and the health of any stock that will be running near them.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

We have been to 2 meeting in St Arnaud one where you had no answers to our questions and the other you showed no respect by not turning up and discussed, I find this offensive that you show no respect to the time taken away for our business and think you can just change our business structure.

There seems to be more Questions than Answers to the life span and what happens to them when they are no longer in use, and why they can't use the infrastructure that already exists.

I am more than happy to discuss this issue further if required.

Sincerely

Tim and Karina Polkinghorne

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P316

Name: Cass Reeves, Reeves Earthmoving

Location: Wedderburn, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: VNI West Transmission Line Option 5 Objection

To Whom It May Concern,

Reeves Earth Moving Pty Ltd are a local Wedderburn Family business. We have been operating for well over 40 years in this area. We currently service all the way to Mildura. We are contracted to Boral Constructions, Loddon Shire, Buloke Shire, Northern Grampians Shire, Yarriambiack Shire as well as VLine, Bild Group etc.

Reeves Earth Moving own over 6,000 acres over the Northern Grampians, Buloke, Loddon and Macedon Shires. We are not farmers, we are Earthmovers. We do however lease the majority of our land to farmers. We even donate the use of our land to local sporting clubs, allowing them to crop the paddocks and reap the rewards to funnel back into the sporting clubs. We are proud to support our communities in the best ways we can.

We also own and operate 6 Work Authorities which are located from Teddywaddy to Kurting to St Arnaud. Each of these Work Authorities has at least 1 (if not more) Vegetation Offsets which are located within the area for rehabilitation purposes as required by law. We currently work with the following Government Agencies – Vic State Govt, Earth Resource Regulator, Worksafe, EPA, EcoDev, DEWLP, DJPR and DEECA.

Are you currently aware that in your Option 5 for the VNI West Transmission Lines there are over 19 Work Authorities? These include Work Authorities owned and operated by Boral Construction Materials, Mawsons and the Northern Grampians Shire Council. Have you considered the ramifications your proposed transmission line would have to these operations? Do you understand the time, money and effort that goes into securing a Work Authority? What about the time, money and effort involved in maintaining a Vegetation Offset? Do you know the value of the bonds each of these Work Authorities has to ensure these properties are maintained perfectly and can be rehabilitated upon completion?

I am not even taking into consideration the 7 Work Authorities which are on the boundary of your Option 5. Reeves Earthmoving own and operate 4 of these 7.

Do you understand what goes into maintaining a vegetation offset? The weed and pest management we must undertake at great cost. The fencing we must ensure is in place. The tree planting we must undertake. The

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

biosecurity on these properties is of the utmost importance and you threaten that simply by standing close to our properties. Will you pay our weed and pest management bills? Will you fix the fences you damage? Will you replant the trees and plants you drive over?

These Work Authorities and earthmoving businesses are the same businesses you will rely on to build your transmission lines. The concrete you need, that will come from Boral or Mawsons. The sand that goes into the concrete comes from local work authorities. The gravel for the roads you will need to construct to gain all weather access, that comes from work authorities. The machines you will need, local earth movers. Naturally you can outsource all of this to companies and businesses from outside this Option 5 area, but that will vastly increase your costs as the cartage rates for trucks, the hourly rate for machines will all increase.

We don't expect you to do nothing, and simply not build. We understand that either way this transmission line will be constructed somewhere. We, at Reeves Earth Moving Pty Ltd, are simply asking for more information, more community engagement and more thought put into the people you are going to affect with this.

You state that Option 5 is the best option. Is this the option that affects the least amount of people? Is this the option where you have the least amount of push back from residents? Is this the option where you have the most government support?

We simply ask that you ensure that decision you make regarding the location of the VNI West Transmission Line is made based on what is best for the residents and the area you are putting it in and not made because someone who has never been to our area of North West Victoria believes no one lives there and no one cares.

We are very proud people. We work hard. Many of the local businesses and farmers are 3rd/4th/5th generation. This is all they know and whilst yes times change and as such we must evolve, you can't expect people to change their entire way of life at the drop of a hat.

We ask that you reconsider your decision for the location of the VNI West Transmission Line. Please don't make the mistake of expecting us to allow this to happen with no community consultation. Unfortunately for you, you must engage with the community and inform them of the plans. I hope that this can happen again in the St Arnaud region in a calm and peaceful way.

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.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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 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.

Kind Regards, Cass Reeves

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P317

Name: Danny Blair

Location: Nareewillock, VIC, Australia

Submission

To Mr Daniel Westerman CEO

I am a 5th generation farmer whose family began farming in the Narrewillock district in 1862. I returned to the family farm after my partner and I escaped life in Melbourne working as technicians. We concluded the fresh, clean air of the country; is where we wanted to raise a family. Along with my partner and 3 children we farm 4200 acres of land. We run 2000 sheep and crop wheat, barley, oats, canola and legumes on rotation. We produce wool and meat for the domestic and export market. Our grains, oilseeds and legumes also supply the export and domestic markets both for human consumption and as feed for livestock.

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 effects that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business, along with my ability to continue to farm as I currently do.

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 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. It will impact on my ability to continue to farm as I currently do:

- 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 utilise 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;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery;
- weed control and spread of weeds;
- damage to crops;
- biosecurity issues;
- failure to close gates;
- firefighting issues;
- stress and EMF effects to livestock;
- destruction of established wildlife corridors;
- insurance liabilities and implications

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

I am also concerned about the ill effects of EMF on breeding livestock and on human health. There has been no information supplied about EMF levels in the area directly surrounding these towers.

I believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should seriously consider the submission of Professor Simon Bartlett, AM and Professor Bruce Mountain, Director, Victoria Energy Policy Centre, Victoria University in which they state there is a much more credible alternative.

At very least, 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 20th 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 and organisations such as the CFA, Landcare and Catchment Management Authorities have the right to provide a submission so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

Danny Blair

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P318

Name: Tess Healy

Location: Rupanyup, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West - Consultation Report

My name is Tess Healy and I work on the family farm, operating over 3600 acres. We run anywhere from 500-1000 lambs during summer/autumn months and crop the full farm capacity with winter crops including wheat, barley, canola, lentils, beans and vetch.

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;

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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. The mental health impacts of this project cannot be underestimated either.

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.

I believe strongly that should the Victorian Government and AEMO push ahead with this plan without true and thorough consultation with farmers and those directly impacted by this project, then the land that will no longer be viable in a farming operation should be purchased back at market price prior to the projects installation, along with boundary fences and access routes established at the Governments expense after consultation with the owners of the property. This includes conveyancing costs and documentation.

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.

I look forward to your response, and consideration for the people this project effects.

Tess Healy, Rupanyup, VIC

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P319

Name: Susan & Stuart Gould

Location: Mysia, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We operate a 2500-hectare farming business in the Mysia and Wychitella districts. We crop around 400 hectares per year (mainly dryland cereals). We also have a breeding flock of 2800 Merino ewes that we run on regenerative principles. Additionally we irrigate around 80 hectares of land to grow pasture or crop. We operate with a farm debt of over 2 million dollars that relies on the land retaining its current value. Around 30% of our land adjoins the Waranga Western channel and has the potential to be irrigated. We are utterly devastated that this proposal is planned for our region. Our personal major concerns centre around the following issues

1. The easements and transmission lines will fracture the logistics of our farming operation
 - destroying the fencing and structures required for our pasture rotations that are a fundamental element to regenerative agriculture.
 - making it difficult, unwieldy and longwinded to access paddocks and to go under the transmission lines with our large machinery required for broad acre cropping
 - the irrigation side of our farm and the irrigation potential of our farm which is our drought resilience strategy will be irrevocably destroyed.
2. The equity of our farm will be reduced due to the devaluation of our land.
3. We have a huge opportunity to grow our business , as we have the irrigation channel through our property and very rich black loam soils. We have four children who want to be involved in farming and grow the irrigation side of the business into horticulture. These lines will destroy their dreams and the family continuity of our farm.
4. The impact on the landscape will have a huge impact on the wellbeing of our community. We want our young people to stay in the area and we want visitors to come to region. These hideous and unsightly lines will further marginalize our communities and they will be seen as an undesirable place to live or visit.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

5. We have a First Nations midden on our property that is on an old watercourse. This is directly east of Mt Buckrabanyule. From the midden, Mt Buckrabanyule is clearly seen as the shape of a serpent that is so significant to the Aboriginal people. Putting transmission lines through this space is a major offence to this important vision.

6. We feel utterly bereft that our dreams, hopes and ambitions for our farm are suddenly threatened. We live out on the farm to immerse ourselves in the rhythms of farm life and beauty of our surroundings. To have that taken away is beyond catastrophic for our wellbeing.

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;

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- 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.

Susan and Stuart Gould

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P320

Name: David Weaver

Location: Boort, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We have been farming in the Boort area for 6 generations (149 years) on our family's original selection. We produce Wool, Beef, Sheep Meat and cereal, oil, seed and legume crops. Our holding consists of 3200 hectares, of which 1100 hectares is irrigated.

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;

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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;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery.
- Interference with GPS Guidance from overhead powerlines

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.

David Weaver

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P321

Name: John Wright

Location: Terrapee, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

I farm and live at Terrapee in both the Buloke and Loddon Shires and my property has been built up over 70 years starting with my Father, I am second generation and my son is third. On our 1100ha farm we run 600 merino sheep and breed fat lambs and crop a broad range of cereal, legume and oil seed crops and we produce vetch hay. Our farm is continuously cropped using controlled traffic, GPS and in the future look to take advantage of autonomous vehicles.

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:

- proximity to houses as close as 300 metres;

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- 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;
- aerial agriculture applications and aerial firefighting;
- insurance implications.

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.

In summary, I am vehemently against the devaluation of my farming asset that has taken more than 70 years to build up just to accommodate an overhead transmission line that will greatly impact my ability to operate a broad acre cropping operation including all the reasons I've stated above.

John Wright

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P322

Name: Margaret-Anne Wright

Location: Terrapee, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

I farm and live at Terrapee in both the Buloke and Loddon Shires and my property has been built up over 70 years. On our 1100ha farm we run 600 merino sheep and breed fat lambs and crop a broad range of cereal, legume and oil seed crops and we produce vetch hay. Our farm is continuously cropped using controlled traffic, GPS and in the future look to take advantage of autonomous vehicles.

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:

- proximity to houses as close as 300 metres;
- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;

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- 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;
- aerial agriculture applications and aerial firefighting;
- insurance implications.

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.

In summary, I am vehemently against the devaluation of my farming asset that has taken more than 70 years to build up just to accommodate an overhead transmission line that will greatly impact my ability to operate a broad acre cropping operation including all the reasons I've stated above.

Margaret-Anne Wright

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P323

Name: Chloe Freeman, Ian Coates

Location: Traynors Lagoon, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

Dear AMEO,

Together with my wife, father and uncle I run a multi generational mixed farming enterprise in Traynors Lagoon, 25 kms west of St Arnaud, 3478. Our livestock and cropping program covers approximately 5000 acres and is the primary income for five families. It is my belief that AEMO's proposed construction of double-circuit overhead transmission lines could fall within our property, directly impacting our livelihood and the way we operate our business, to what extent I do not know as the information provided to us has been insufficient.

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

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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

Individual submission



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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.

Ian Coates & Chloe Freeman

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P324

Name: Terry Phillips

Location: Callawadda, VIC, Australia

Submission

RE: Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

My name is Terry Phillips. I have attended the only available information session (to my knowledge) in this area for the Victorian Government and AEMO’s proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales. 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 am appalled at the lack of information provided around this proposal, particularly to those that may be impacted by this structure. At the information session many of our questions could not be answered. The map on the fact sheet showing the ‘investigation corridor’ is vague and lacks detail – obviously reflecting the lack of clarity provided by the government body concerned. There is a small chance (according to the pink blob representing the investigation corridor on the map) that my farm will be impacted, but I also hold concern for those who will definitely be impacted even if I am “lucky enough” not to have the lines cross my land.

My farm is organic certified and my certifying body has already stated that I will lose my certification if these lines cross any of my land. I have worked hard over the past 45 years to build my land up to what it is today and I am passionate about the organic way of farming. I am concerned that these power lines will reduce not only the financial value of my land but also the environment I have created by planting 80,000 trees and 45,000 salt bush plants over the last 30 years. I have fenced off all creeks and gutters and created laneways to every paddock. My laneways run East - West and according to the “map” if these lines run through my property, it will run North – South, in effect making my entire lifetime of managing my land in a practical and environmentally friendly way, null and void.

My property has, in recent years, 3 families of Curlews; these are ground dwelling birds that are endangered. Wedge tailed eagle nest in the trees along the creek on my property. Due to lack of chemical use and the tree plantings on my farm there are prolific flocks of blue wrens and many native bees. Goannas live in many of the trees around the property, further proof that this land needs to be retained as an organic farm and unofficial wildlife sanctuary.

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:

- Loss of Organic certification status
- Refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations (no chemical used on this property for 30 years)
- Spread of weeds (no herbicides used on this property)
- Loss of use of major throughfares on my property
- Loss of habitat and paddock windbreaks (80,000 trees and 45,000 salt bush planted)
- Decreased land value and loss of productive capacity
- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines
- Failure to close gates (stock held on this property)
- Damage to crops (organically grown crops of high value)

These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region. Surely the only answer to this is to go underground with this infrastructure. Underground using existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region is a no-brainer to me.

Yours Sincerely

Terry Phillips

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P325

Name: William Barratt

Location: Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

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 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: William barratt

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P326

Name: Sam & Lauren Reading

Location: Wallaloo, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We are a sheep and cropping farm of 3360ha. Currently running 5500 Merino and first cross sheep. Cropping 1820ha. Located in the Callawadda and Wallaloo districts.

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;

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;
- 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.

Sam and Lauren Reading

Wallaloo / Callawadda

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P327

Name: Adam Kulk

Location: Smeaton, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: Objection to AEMO Project Update Number 6 (VNI West Project)

To whom it may concern,

Firstly and importantly, I acknowledge the need for renewable energy, though contend the route of the transmissions lines, and potential terminal station at Mount Prospect, is fundamentally flawed for several reasons.

The AEMO and Transgrid's additional consultation report and summary document project update number 6 emphatically prioritises economic interests above social, cultural, historical, geographical, agricultural, tourism and aesthetic considerations. The Hepburn Shire is home to some of the most scenic, unique and productive lands in Australia. It is simply absurd that short-sighted economic arguments and technical considerations dominate in order to justify the unjustifiable when considering the route of the transmission lines, -and potentially, the Mount Prospect terminal station-. It is disappointing that underground power lines have not been considered as an option given the shire's unique environment. Put simply, the obvious and crucial question remains; Why ruin a pristine environment in the name of economics?

I moved to Smeaton in 2009 from Melbourne to enjoy a scenic, peaceful country life. In my time in the area, I have valued and enjoyed many clubs and events in the region that will be significantly impacted by 80 metre transmission lines. Such treasured events include picnics, horse riding and attending the annual Kingston Show - which originated in Smeaton in 1859-, bush walks, fishing at Hepburn Lagoon along with community and tourist events at Andersons Mill. I have always experienced a true sense of sublimity and awe when driving or walking through the 1918 Kingston Avenue of Honour on a bright summer's day, through the winter fog or when slowly watching the leaves change colour, drop and become reborn in the spring. If you have not experienced any of these events or locations for yourself -which is doubtful given the planned denigration of the site by planned transmissions lines- I implore you and your family to visit the area with an open mind and heart to see for yourself the many treasures of these beautiful, scenic historically, geographically and agriculturally significant lands. Transmission lines will indelible stain on several 'pristine' environments and arguably 'the dearest place on earth' (Sewell, 1997, p.3; Bourke, 1957 as cited in Sewell, 1997, p. 53).

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

Similarly, the Hepburn Shire Community plan (2015) emphasise the importance of the town's history and heritage, as well as landscape and environment, stating 'Smeaton is surrounded by significant and picturesque natural features' (p. 4). Additionally, the community vision highlights the need for Smeaton to be a place where 'aspects that the community values are retained and protected' (p.4).

The Hepburn region has been loved and poetically described for many centuries for its natural beauty and abundance. In the Diary of a Welsh Swagman (1869-1894) Joseph Jenkins poetically describes the beauty of the Smeaton region. His dairy entry from 1869 states:

I journey towards Smeaton through fine agricultural country...I was up an hour before sunrise and beheld most wonderful colours in the sky, the likes of which I had never seen before.

How splendid was the view

To see the coloured sky.

Dark and white, red and blue,

I cannot reason why.

All things below, all things above,

Declare the Author's pure love.

(Evans, 1869, p. 4)

The planned 80 metre transmission lines within the local volcanic regions will ruin a pristine environment. Financial and technical factors should not be the primary consideration, and this line of thought portrays a biased, unbalanced and one-sided worldview to justify the unjustifiable. This argument ignores the many other significant social, cultural, historical, geographical, agricultural, tourism and aesthetic factors imperative to this unique volcanic region. Frankly, AEMO and Transgrid's arguments are economic rationalism on steroids. To the people and communities in this region, who know and values these lands, the biased economic justification for the towers is simply preposterous. Please consider more appropriate and less sensitive landscapes/environments if metal transmission lines are the only option being considered for our country's future renewable energy plans.

Thank you for your consideration of my objection to the project. I consent all or part of this objection (barring my address and email details) being copied, used, published either in part or in whole by AEMO or the Hepburn Shire Council.

Best regards,

Adam Kulk

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P328

Name: Hannah Knights

Location: Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

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!
- 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: Hannah Knights

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P331

Name: Jacinda O'Sullivan

Location: Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

I write as a partner in a farming enterprise Bolangum Hills Farms that utilises approximately 8400 acres of land in the Northern Grampians Shire: Kara Kara Ward to producing food and fibre for the nation. Predominately growing cereals, canola, beans, wheat, barley and oats along with meat and wool. This business supports three generations of families to live.

I have recently 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, my community, my family and my business.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on farmland that my business is dependent upon, 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 concerned 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 the farm land.

The State government demands there must be fair and transparent communications with parties that will be impacted by the VNI West project. This has not been achieved at any level. I attended the drop-in session where my four questions were taken on notice and written down by AEMO staff, no one has contacted me or addressed these questions since. I attended a meeting on Tuesday 21st March with representation by the VFF, Northern Grampians Shire Council, AEMO and Vicgrid.

Questions were asked about access requirements, rules around easements and entries, bio security risks, fire risks, health, leakage, how modern farming technologies will interact with power lines, why the option with the

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

least gross benefit is being chosen, uninsurable assets and the ability of CFA to conduct their fire response adequately. No answers were given that demonstrated these issues had been considerations and the impacts evaluated. I also completed a webinar where responses to questions were given with generic sheets that included a preamble “factsheets are external to AEMO and the VNI West project but still provide a sufficient guideline”. This is not reasonable.

With approximately 14 days to put in a submission AEMO falls well short in provide fair and transparent engagement with the community and landholders. Prior to March 2023 I had no knowledge of the VNI West project being changed and have no opportunity to understand how it will potentially impact my business. An extension of the consultation process is needed to meet the minimum requirements for genuine engagement with business that will be impacted. Discussions of short, medium and long term consequences must be had.

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

- loss of productive capacity
- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;
- decrease land values
- 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 and respond to land and farm cyclical needs.
- damage to crops;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery.
- The decommissioning of the towers and the waste this creates
- Family mental and physical health

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. The land my business use is in floodways and fire prone areas this must be considered.

I believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider using existing transport corridors, public land or non-agricultural land.

Farming businesses provide essential foods grown locally, with the least travel kilometres, that directly address food scarcity concerns now and for the future. There is limited land that has the necessary rain, nutrients and climate to produce food and its scarcity must be valued accordingly.

The extensive infrastructure requirements of alternative energies must have the least impact on food growing land in Victoria.

Your Sincerely

Jacinda O'Sullivan

GRE GRE Vic 3477

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P334

Name: Craig Pickthall

Location: Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

Submission

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.

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!

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 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!!!**

Name:

Craig A. Pickthall

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P335

Name: John Newall

Location: Marnoo, VIC, Australia

Submission

My name is John Newall and I have a broadacre cropping property based around Marnoo in the Wimmera district.

In addition to the points made below I am extremely concerned about the following impacts the proposed line will have on myself and my property:

- Biosecurity
- Failure to comply with farm security
- Limited access to and around powerlines if fires occur
- Affecting GPS systems in machinery working in the area
- Requirements for permits to use tractors and machinery under powerlines.

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;
- 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.

John Newall

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P337

Name: Diane Newall

Location: Marnoo, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

My name is Diane Newall and I have a broadacre cropping property based around Marnoo in the Wimmera district.

In addition to the points made below I am extremely concerned about the following impacts the proposed line will have on myself and my property:

- Biosecurity
- Failure to comply with farm security
- Limited access to and around powerlines if fires occur
- Affecting GPS systems in machinery working in the area
- Requirements for permits to use tractors and machinery under powerlines.

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

Individual submission

VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P339

Name: Greg Hose

Location: Traynors Lagoon, VIC, Australia

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!
- 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: *Gregory J Hose*

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P340

Name: Lois Hose

Location: Traynors Lagoon

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.

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- 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!

Name: *Lois Hose*
Location: *Traynors Lagoon.*

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P341

Name: Linda McIntyre

Location: Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: VNI West powerline transmission Submission

To Whom it may concern.

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.

We have not had any questions answered, no consultation.

3 people out the front of the local town hall, who cannot even answer a question as simple as how tall the towers are, is just not consultation at all.

- * Cannot 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 is 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 must work and live with them!
- * Everybody needs to be made aware of the social and environmental impacts that this will bring into the community.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

* THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE. AND THE PEOPLE TO COME!

From a CFA point of view, if fires cannot be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We do not 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 is not 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. That will rip communities and families apart.

It is 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!!!

Name: Linda McIntyre

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P342

Name: Jason McIntyre

Location: Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: VNI west powerline transmission Submission

To Whom it may concern.

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.

We have not had any questions answered, no consultation.

3 people out the front of the local town hall, who cannot even answer a question as simple as how tall the towers are, is just not consultation at all.

- * Cannot 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 is 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 must work and live with them!
- * Everybody needs to be made aware of the social and environmental impacts that this will bring into the community.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

* THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE. AND THE PEOPLE TO COME!

From a CFA point of view, if fires cannot be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We do not 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 is not 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. That will rip communities and families apart.

It is 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!!!

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P343

Name: John Bennett & Allison Bouchier

Location: Lawloit, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

Our properties are located at Wallaloo East, Kanya, Bolangam and Tulkara, Navarre comprising 3240 hectares.

Our farming operations consist of the primary production of cereals, oil seeds and legumes. We also run approximately 5000 head of sheep on these properties.

We are concerned about the safe usage of our large agricultural equipment, which includes tipping trucks, long augers and wide boomspray equipment within proximity of your proposed infrastructure.

We also have concerns about possible health issues created by your proposed infrastructure, for ourselves and our staff.

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;
- 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.

Regards

John Bennett & Allison Bouchier

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P344

Name: James Shaughnessy

Location: Marnoo, VIC, Australia

Submission

VNI West Powerlines Transmission Submission

5/4/23

Thankyou for the opportunity to present my views regarding the AEMO proposal.

I am a farmer with land inside the catchment area described for the high voltage transmission infrastructure. As such I strongly support the view of the potential negative effects on farm efficiency from the infrastructure as will have been outlined on other submissions.

What additionally is of major concern to me is the continued degradation of the natural landscape witnessed over many years through the installation of major infrastructure. In fact I find it lamentable, not withstanding that it serves to supply a genuine need of our state or national community.

This requirement is caused from unabated population growth, with short term vision of how to cope with the demands that it creates.

So I ask when will this stop, and why can't it stop with this project through undergrounding. It is accepted that higher initial costs will result however offsetting long term benefits will accrue.

Apart from the uplifting effect to all that experience a less diminished natural landscape there would be a case for reduced compensation to affected landholders as well as effectively

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

addressing the concerns from other submissions as referred to above.

It also needs to be stated that the proposal as put to the public going right back to its beginnings, with a route taking in the potato growing country around Ballarat, has remained poor, being short on detail both in documentation and in consultation efforts with the public. Based on that alone it never really deserved to succeed, at least in a time efficient manner.

Thanks for your consideration of this submission.

James Shaughnessy

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P346

Name: Wayne McIntyre

Location: Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

Submission

VNI west powerline transmission Submission

To whom it may concern,

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

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

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 holder 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.
- * Implications operating machinery under the lines.
- * Implications running stock under lines.
- * Unable to fight fires underlines.
- * 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

- * Mental health - Beyond Blue statistics note that male farmers die by suicide significantly higher than 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
- * Requirement 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.

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 farm land. 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 supply.

Name: Wayne McIntyre

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P347

Name: Jason Barratt

Location: Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: No power lines on my property

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 including reduced production and decreased land values.

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 utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles
- Inability to Carry out aerial spraying
- Machinery gps signal lost/disabled near power line
- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- Animal Biosecurity
- spread of weeds;
- failure to close gates;
- damage to crops;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery.
- Fire fighting ability
- Inability for crop residue burning
- tower proximity to dwellings

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- Compensation
- Privacy
- Mental health
- limitations on future farming generations to operate

These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs of the proposed project across all local businesses. I see no benefits of this project for agricultural businesses or the local community, I strongly oppose this project across this corridor and believe alternative options must be investigated

I believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider the way they undertake community consultation as to date it has been inadequate and insulting to our community , already people in our community are anxious about the potential impacts of this project and this is fuelled by the lack of information and short consultation period .

Jason Barratt

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P348

Name: Trent Carter

Location: Marnoo, VIC, Australia

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 suggested area on the publicised map for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate an agricultural business within. I am deeply 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 our local town hall, who cannot even answer a question as simple as how tall the towers are, isn't satisfactory at all.

- We cannot work under the lines safely.
- Use machinery under the lines.
- Cannot Run stock under lines.
- Cannot 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 must 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 cannot be fought near or under the transmission lines, it could burn acres and acres before it is brought under control.... We do not 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 is not 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.

This will rip communities and families apart.

I will not allow these power lines to be erected on my property!

Sincerely

Trent Carter

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P349

Name: Chantelle Petrie

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

I Chantelle Petrie 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 in which we have been shown as a pink blob for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I and my family operate a business on. I am gravely concerned by the Guaranteed negative and detrimental impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

Farmers have been trying to gain access to further information regarding these Transmission Lines and asking many questions, in response NONE of our Questions can be or are not being answered. All of the information has been kept Hush Hush from us famers. We have a right to know what is going on as the land owners.

Concerns that have been raised in regards to construction of the lines include:

- No Notice to inform land holders of what is actually going on
- Failure to close gates
- Spread of Diseases (Foot and mouth disease, NO THANK YOU)
- Spread of Weeds
- Damage to crops/Land
- Materials left on site
- Failure to inform what chemicals have been used onsite causing issues with Vendors declarations.
- Maintenance on the power lines (We don't want no helicopters hovering over our land scaring our stock)

This is just some of the concerns that we have in regards to construction

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

Other Concerns include but are not limited to:

- Decreased value of Land
- Loss of Productivity as these power lines take up acres of our land
- No use of ANY vehicle under the lines
- No use of emerging Technologies
- Inability to fight fires anywhere near them – hence high risk of another Black Saturday
- Spread of Weeds/Grass
- The noise of the lines
- Mental health concerns
- Decreased production of food sources for the world
- Ruining the Future of farming

These power lines WILL claim the lives of so many people to mental health issues alone, in which it is already impacted us farmers. This shouldn't be up for discussion, we shouldn't even need to be objecting to this as it shouldn't even be an option. Put the lines underground along existing transport corridors NOT on highly productive farm land.

These powerlines are not being erected on my property!

Chantelle Petrie

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P351

Name: Heidi Lang

Location: Kanya, VIC, Australia

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 Lang, Kanya

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P352

Name: Christopher Barratt & Isabella Ewert-Hamilton **Location:** Traynors Lagoon, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We are Broadacre farmers located at Traynors Lagoon in the Shire of Northern Grampians . We run both fat lambs and Merinos alongside our cropping operation. My family has been farming in this area for 6 generations .

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:

- . Biosecurity , weed brought in from all over the country / animal diseases
- . inability to control fires in easements hence potential for large out of control fires .
- 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;
- .• failure to close gates;
- damage to crops;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery.
- . the impact this proposal will have on our long term health .
- .mental health / stress on both individuals and the community
- .insurance - are we covered if we hit towers?

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

Christopher Barratt , Isabella Ewert-Hamilton .

Traynors Lagoon 3477

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P353

Name: Darren Petrie (Petrie Farming)

Location: Sutherland, VIC, Australia

Submission

Transmission towers letter

I have become aware that the Victorian government and AEMO's proposed overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

A mixed farming of crops, sheep and wool located about 8 km on the north west side of St Arnaud and reaching as far as Traynors Lagoon and Gre Gre south.

The corridor for the proposed transmission line includes farmland that I own and operate a business on. It is of great concern and objection of the negative impacts the transmission line will have not only on my farming operations but also on my mental health and wellbeing.

What are my rights where is all the information on this transmission infrastructure. What arrangements could be demanded by the company before, during and after construction and at what cost to my business.

What information is available to me about compensation that would be provided because of such impacts. Will said compensation be ongoing just as said transmission lines will be ongoing for years and years or do you have a time frame for compensation payments and therefore a time frame for the transmission lines to correspond with the compensation payment time frame.

Whilst I have not been provided with information that details impact of the 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:

- Inability to use tractors and machinery
- Decreased land value
- Loss of productivity which can lead to loss of produce for the people of the state

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- Inability to utilize emerging technologies
- Spread of weeds
- Damage to crops
- Failure to close gates leaving potential for stock loss and wandering on roads causing accidents
- Materials left on site causing damage to machinery/stock
- Chemical used on site causing issues with vendor declarations
- Potential fire risks
- Cost of permits to access land under transmission lines
- Mental health and wellbeing

These are some of the concerns I have with this proposal. And should be considered when evaluating the true costs of the proposed project across all farmland in the region.

I believe that the Victorian government and AEMO should consider underground option on public land or existing transport corridors to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region.

Darren Petrie

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P354

Name: Margaret Petrie (Petrie Farming)

Location: Sutherland, VIC, Australia

Submission

I have become aware that the Victorian government and AEMO's proposed overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

A mixed farming of crops, sheep and wool located about 8 km on the north west side of St Arnaud and reaching as far as Traynors Lagoon and Gre Gre south.

The corridor for the proposed transmission line includes farmland that I own and operate a business on. It is of great concern and objection of the negative impacts the transmission line will have not only on my farming operations but also on my mental health and wellbeing.

What are my rights where is all the information on this transmission infrastructure. What arrangements could be demanded by the company before, during and after construction and at what cost to my business.

What information is available to me about compensation that would be provided because of such impacts. Will said compensation be ongoing just as said transmission lines will be ongoing for years and years or do you have a time frame for compensation payments and therefore a time frame for the transmission lines to correspond with the compensation payment time frame.

Whilst I have not been provided with information that details impact of the 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:

- Inability to use tractors and machinery
- Decreased land value
- Loss of productivity which can lead to loss of produce for the people of the state
- Inability to utilize emerging technologies

Individual submission

VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- Spread of weeds
- Damage to crops
- Failure to close gates leaving potential for stock loss and wandering on roads causing accidents
- Materials left on site causing damage to machinery/stock
- Chemical used on site causing issues with vendor declarations
- Potential fire risks
- Cost of permits to access land under transmission lines
- Mental health and wellbeing

These are some of the concerns I have with this proposal. And should be considered when evaluating the true costs of the proposed project across all farmland in the region.

I understand that this connection has to go somewhere but not as transmission towers making huge impacts on farmers, farming land, production of world supplies and the mental health and wellbeing of the people which is already happening. Not forgetting the generations before us and the generations to come, what are we going to do without future farmers, where will you get your bread.

I believe that the Victorian government and AEMO should consider underground option on public land or existing transport corridors to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region.

UNDERGROUND OR NOT AT ALL

Margaret Petrie

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P355

Name: Stephen Richards

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

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!
- 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: Stephen Richards

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P356

Name: John Richards

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

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.

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- Use machinery under the lines.
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- 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: John Richards

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P357

Name: Roger Richards

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

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!
- 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: Roger Richards

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P358

Name: Kirsty Richards

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

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!
- 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: Kirsty Richards

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P359

Name: Jeff & Mary McLoughlan

Location: Wooroonook, VIC, Australia

Submission

FROM - Jeff + Mary McLoughlan

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

(Please provide a short description of your farming operations, where they are located and what you produce eg. Area of land for cropping / number of livestock. Provide any additional information you believe will be useful for AEMO to understand the impacts of transmission lines on your business and community.)

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 *Abandon Option 5.*