

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P432

Name: Tony & Glenda Lloyd

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!

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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. Doing this will rip communities and families apart.

You are not walking over the top of farmers who feed you! If you think 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: Tony & Glenda Lloyd

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P433

Name: Guy Gilbert

Location: Yeungroon, VIC, Australia

Submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

My wife, Jan Cossar, is a fifth generation Cossar to be raised on the family farm at Yeungroon, near Charlton.

I have spent over 40 years visiting the farm, and working on it. It is sheep and cropping country, with immense beauty, open plains, and stunning vistas. Our children are sixth generation. They visit regularly, and consider it to be part of their heritage.

My principal concern with the proposed construction of high voltage powerlines on the farm is from an Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) perspective.

I have practiced as a barrister in OH&S law for many years, and have been involved with numerous cases where electrocution has occurred on farms. These events have resulted in multiple fatalities.

Two cases in particular come to mind. One was where the driver of a tip truck was dropping fertilizer on a farm. He was killed when he raised his tray and hit overhead powerlines. The other involved farmers who were transporting a windmill from one paddock to another on a farm. They were using a tractor with forklift tines on the front. Three were killed when the top of the windmill hit the overhead powerline. I have had many other cases where serious injury, or near misses, have occurred.

Having high voltage powerlines on a farm is inherently dangerous, because farmers are required to work near them, and/or cross under them, on a regular basis. This is especially so on a broad acreage farm like the Cossar farm. Over time, they have been using increasingly large, high and elevated machinery, for ploughing, sowing, and harvesting. Also, for cutting, carting and storing hay in sheds. It is common to move large field bins between paddocks, for the storage of grain. These are of a considerable height.

As you would be well aware, there are specific regulations in Victoria which govern working near powerlines. There are “no go zones”, then areas where a “spotter” is required, and then “open areas”. It is simply not

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practicable, financially or logistically, for a farmer like John Cossar to engage a spotter every time one is needed, given the cost and unpredictable timing as to when a spotter would be required.

The general OH&S risks on farms are well known. There are already far too many cases where death or serious injury occurs, with entanglement in farm machinery, tractor rollovers and the like. To add another danger, with high voltage powerlines, increases the level of risk unnecessarily.

From my experience, broad acre farmers are especially vulnerable, given their need to use large farm machinery on a regular basis. During the cropping cycle, farmers work incredibly long hours, often well into the night, when powerlines would be impossible to see. The concept of “look up and live” is meaningless in these circumstances. An added risk with these long night hours is that tiredness can lead to inattention with, in the case of power lines, accidental contact. Fatal consequences naturally flow. This is to be contrasted with for example a sheep or cattle farmer, who has little cause to be working on their farm at night.

I cannot see any evidence in the consultation report where this important risk is considered, nor how it might be mitigated. This to me is a major oversight. Given my concern for the safety of those on this farm, can you confirm how this issue is to be addressed?

Yours sincerely

Guy Gilbert SC

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P434

Name: Hayley Soulsby

Location: Buckrabanyule, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

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

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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- 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. The consultation process, although it has no doubt ticked all the boxes from a statutory point of view, from the perspective of someone who may be impacted by it has been woefully inadequate.

Hayely Soulsby

Buckrabanyule 3525

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P435

Name: Andrew McAllister

Location: Marnoo, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: Objection to Overhead Powerlines

VNI west powerline transmission Submission

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

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

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

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

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

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

Andrew McAllister

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P436

Name: Brian Wright

Location: Terrapee, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

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

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- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
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These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region.

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

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

Regards,

Brian Wright

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P437

Name: Bill Baldwin

Location: Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

Submission

VNI west transmission submission.

I didn't know anything about this whole powerline's proposal nearly to the point where it's too late to have a say, as a farmer whose farm is completely submerged by the blob of pink paint on the map, I am very concerned about the impact this will have on the growing of vital foods for the economy. And the farming operations that take place here to produce them.

Me a 23-year-old 6th generation farmer from Gre Gre who runs a large farming enterprise (8000 acres) is very displeased about the way the AEMO have put forward the plans for the lines, getting given a blob on a map that spans 41 kms wide 2 weeks before the deadline, just isn't proper consultation. No questions at all were answered properly in the late meeting that was held at the local hall, it was described as a "hash". Many people leaving more confused than what they were when they came. Questions as simple as how high? how long the lifespan of the towers? Were just not answered.

The inability to use machinery and run stock under these lines is a massive concern as the land under them and near them is deemed un arable. How can you have a business if you can't work the land its on. Taking over highly productive grazing and cropping ground, where's the sense in that when we are trying to feed a growing population.

How are we supposed to borrow money if what we have is less value because the slash in productivity these powerlines will cause to our farming Land?

This will impact our lifestyle and business not to mention the community itself this will tear us apart! Also suicide statistics that are continually coinciding with these powerlines and wind farms is mind blowing, take one step back and have a look at yourself and have a think about the consequences and not trying to please the greens who have never got their hands dirty and don't know what it takes to make a dollar and run a business.

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VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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

I believe with the anecdotal information I have that option 5 isn't going to be the weakest link so think again! Stop wasting your time clearly the best option is to put it underground along the highway and existing corridors it will be better for everyone now and the generations to come!!!!

It will always have effects on us for generations, that you as a business will be held accountable for forever, have a think about what you are doing to the people who feed you. These powerlines and wind farms are definitely not coming our way!!

Bill Baldwin

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P438

Name: Ben Lloyd

Location: Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

Submission

VNI west powerline transmission Submission

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Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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Name: Ben Lloyd

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P439

Name: Ben Batters

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report - Ben Batters - 5/04/2023

I am writing this submission in relation to the VNI West project and implore AEMO to choose a better alternative to the 500 kilovolt (kV) double-circuit overhead transmission lines. These reasons are outlined below. Solutions such as offshore power or solar and battery systems via the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) are superior to the VNI west project.

These options would avoid cutting through highly productive farm land and avoid damaging communities, the environment and inevitably destroying our way of life into the future. Electricity should be produced near where it is required instead of traveling massive distances, losing efficiencies along the way causing harm to people in rural communities, both financially and mentally and causing damage to the health of people living and working in close proximity to these transmission lines. I am the 4th generation of my family farming this land for over 100 years. I hope to pass on the land to my children in its original state so they can continue to farm sustainably into the future.

Farm land is our most valuable asset and resource. The proposal of 60-80m high towers on a 100m wide easement cutting through our farm land would have devastating impacts to our land, our livelihood, and our ability to farm properly in these areas into the future. My family and I farm north of St Arnaud at Sutherland, Swanwater, Gooroc, Coonooer West, Slaty Creek as well as Gre Gre to the west of St.Arnaud. We produce canola, wheat, barley, oats, lentils, vetch and oaten hay as well as wool and prime lambs. Farmers and people in this community already sacrifice so much to live in isolation from big cities, and we choose to live and work in this area because we enjoy the landscape, the environment, creeks, hills, plains, wildlife and everything it brings with it. 500 kilovolt (kV) double-circuit overhead transmission lines would destroy the land.

I believe as a farmer it is my responsibility to protect the land and grow primary produce for people of the world, however in doing this we are exposed to stresses, be that environmental (heat stress to crops, frost damage, droughts, and flooding) financial stresses, isolation. This has proven to have a major impact to mental health in this industry. I have already seen the announcement of this potential project cause major concerns to people in the area and I am concerned about the mental health of family and friends and i can already see the impact it is having. What is the overall cost to the people in these communities?

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

I am extremely concerned about the potential Electromagnetic Field (EMF) that these 500 kV double-circuit overhead transmission lines will emit. Population studies have shown that EMF can cause Leukemia in children. While we were told at the webinar that there was no link found and that AEMO were taking a cautious approach, this is not acceptable. There are numerous studies that show the increased risk of childhood leukemia from high EMF exposure levels. To say that there is no evidence, in a consultation webinar is a blatant lie. According to the study EMFs and Childhood Leukemia by Michael Kundi in the American National Library of Medicine, the association [between EMF and Leukemia] is not small, but is comparable or larger than that for all other factors considered by Belson et al. (2007). Second, the evidence is consistent across different continents, study types, measurement methods, and other factors.

These towers should not be placed anywhere near homes or workplaces. They should not be erected anywhere! They need to be kilometres away from anywhere where people will inhabit for any given period. This is why the Victorian Government's offshore wind policy needs to be the direction for renewable energy moving forward, not these transmission lines. As admitted by AEMO, they do not even result in more renewable generation being supported than some other options, but less! Option 5 doesn't have a connection around Bendigo to the existing network and because of that, Option 5 does not increase the transfer capacity between Kerang, Bendigo and Ballarat areas like the other options do.

Therefore, promises that these lines will help reduce blackouts in our area are untrue, meaning we will have to bear the negative economic, health and lifestyle implications of this flawed option 5, with no power benefits in return! EMF has also been linked to behavioural disturbances. We have consequently taken several steps to see that we avoid EMF wherever possible, particularly in our home where we had thought we could control the environment. If these transfer towers are placed anywhere near our home, we will lose this control which has the potential to unduly affect our family's health and consequently the wellbeing of our family. Please don't place these towers anywhere near our homes.

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 as well as the health and wellbeing of my young family and the loss of property value this will inevitably have. If these towers are built on my farm land, not only will they reduce the amount of land I can farm without equivalent compensation (\$8000 a kilometre for 20 years is an insult). They will directly affect my borrowing capacity, consequently putting the handbrake on any expansion plans to support our family into the future. 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.

The information provided so far do not even scratch the service of what information is required for farmers to work with these grotesque and hazardous towering structures. 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. The fact that \$8000 a

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kilometre is being offered for 20 years, not the life of the towers, which will continue to affect farm operations, income, and value well after this time as confirmed by the below statement, shows the lack of respect being shown to farmers regarding this project. It is offensive and unjust. The losses incurred by this project far exceed the compensation and measured cost by AEMO.

Most overhead transmission lines have a long lifespan, so decommissioning of existing transmission lines is not common but may occur if the transmission line is being replaced with a higher voltage line (source Electricity Transmission Lines, Bushfire Management and Community Safety). These 500 kilovolt overhead transmission lines create fire risks and the inability to fight fires when they start as dense smoke can increase the risk of an electrical arc or flashover which can endanger life and property (source Electricity Transmission Lines, Bushfire Management and Community Safety). As farmers we already deal with drought and floods, we don't need the added stress and pressure that these overhead transfer lines bring via fire risk. In 2018 the Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) power network started a wildfire in California and burned down more than 10,000 homes and 153,000 acres. Eighty-four people lost their lives. Overhead transfer powerlines are not something we want in the area and certainly not near our home.

Please find a safer, healthier option than Option 5 of VNI West Transmission lines. These lines are: - endangering health and lives because of the fire risk, - inability to use tractors and machinery 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 stop this project in favour of the three offshore wind proposals: Star of the South, Macquarie Group and Flotation Energy.

Together these three projects could generate 4.7GW of new capacity, power around 3.6 million homes and bring more than \$18 billion in new investments to Victoria. As quoted by AEMO, these offshore investments dramatically reduce the net benefits of the VNI West proposal from 1.842 billion to \$1 billion. The Star of the South consortium says its offshore project not only "delivers 18 percent of the state's electricity, but taps into the existing 500 kV LaTrobe Valley grid. Our modelling shows the Star of the South has the capacity to almost wholly, and reliably, cover the generation shortfall of a Yallourn exit and it would do so bereft of any short-term transmission upgrade to VNI West," it said.

So not only will VNI West's Option 5 threaten the livelihoods and health of thousands of farmers, their families, workers and communities, but they actually aren't even needed! In addition, the cited costs have already been exposed by former chair of the University of Queensland's Simon Bartlett. He has ridiculed AEMO's report which he says it miscalculates line distances and costs. As printed in The Weekly Times, page 4, Wednesday 22 nd March The actual distance measured using AEMO's mind-line analysis, by the professor and The Weekly Times are 231km for the Bulgana route and 189 km for the Ballarat route. AEMO's option report also puts the costs of its miscalculated 205 km Bulgana line at \$597m which equates to 2.9m/km for the Victoria section of VNI West, whereas it puts the cost of the 184 km NSW share of the line at \$751m, equal to \$4m/km.

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Professor Bartlett said “it costs virtually the same to build a 500 kV line in southern NSW and Victoria, the same materials, the same labour costs. It’s (the report) totally flawed. These points are in addition to his statement that unrealistic operation of Snowy 2.0 may have exaggerated the benefits of VNI. Furthermore, the submission states: By changing the VNI West/WRL connection point to Bulgama, around 100kms of VNI West 500kV transmission line has been removed from VNI West as well as the new 500kV/220kV Bulgama substation. Based on the \$8.2m/km average cost of VNI West, this would reduce VNI West’s cost by \$810m (\$414m NPV).

Transferring the \$810m to WRL and advancing the required investment by five years from 2031 to 2026, would increase the cost of WRL by \$541m NPV less any savings from adjusting the 220kV scope of WRL. However, as the WRL PACR did not include these additional costs, and AEMO is reluctant to re-apply the RIT-T to WRL, the VNI West \$800m savings from changing the connection point appear to be removed from VNI West and hidden under the WRL PACR “pillow”. Professor Bartlett, an expert with forty years’ experience in the power industry in electricity transmission, power systems and generation in Australia, Europe and Canada, has assessed the project and concluded that it’s totally flawed. This is evidence that this project is being rushed through without the necessary research and assessments nor regard for the true costs of the project. It is an insult to farmers that AEMO would think that it would be so easy to pull the wool over their eyes with this political stunt.

If there is still any need for debate, these overhead transfer lines also threaten natural capital and wildlife. In addition to the increased fire risk they pose, native vegetation and plantations—vital to the ecosystem, in supporting the numerous species of birds, frogs, insects on our farm—could be destroyed—vegetation that has been on our farm and in the area for centuries. Species such as Buloke (*Allocasuarina luehmannii*) trees which are native to the area are slow growing and take hundreds of years to establish. Buloke trees are an important food resource for the endangered southeastern subspecies of the red-tailed black cockatoo which we have been seen in the area. We have been working with Landcare to protect these historic and important trees, particularly around our home which alone is home to hundreds of these special trees. The damage to this species and many others is immeasurable and must be considered going forward.

The destruction of wedge tail eagle habitat is also a clear concern and a red light for these transfer lines to be erected anywhere near our home and on our farm. Wedge-tail eagles are shy breeders, which means they may desert their nests if disturbed. As landholders we are encouraged to retain at least 10 hectares of bush around nest sites and to avoid disturbing them. Wedge tail eagles, which are a protected species Australia wide are regulars on our farm. We are very careful not to disturb nests on our property, especially those in the bush near our home, to ensure that these birds continue to breed and their environment is protected. In addition to the damage overhead transfer power lines would cause to the vegetation that wedge tail eagles nest in, too much activity in the area due to construction, as well as the ongoing risk of electrocution from contact with power lines and installations (according to the Australian Government’s Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water) (Bell & Mooney 1998; Mooney 1997) could decimate the population in our region. Farmers in the area are particularly invested in protecting natural capital and wildlife, Landcare Australia started in our area! At Winjallock! These powerlines threaten what we are so passionate about and have worked so hard to convince Australians to protect!

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We know renewable energy is important. We also know there is a better way! The area for the proposed towers has also seen extensive flooding. With the recent floods in 2010, 2011 and 2022, roads were cut for months, with land inaccessible. It makes no sense to put electric towers in areas highly prone to flooding. This is further evidence that this project has not had adequate research or consultation and should not be the preferred option.

The area where these towers are proposed to run is such a pretty part of our country, a pretty part of the world, with its wide-open spaces, diverse landscapes and vibrant communities. It should be valued as an asset, a national treasure. These towers will trash all three, punishing those who choose to live in the country for these reasons and who have worked and continue to work hard to protect them. These towers are just another example of city centric policies with no regard for those in the country who are actually looking after the environment that these policies are supposedly protecting. By trashing these areas, our local tourism industry will be affected. People won't travel to the region to visit powerlines, especially when they know the related adverse health effects.

This will affect businesses. It will also affect employment in the region, increasing the difficulty of attracting and retaining staff. Please show the strength to choose the offshore wind farm option and further investigate Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) which will not affect mum and dad farmers, food production, the health and wellbeing of these farming families and their communities or the important contribution these farmers make to the economy. Please choose to protect endangered species and other common species to the area from becoming endangered and the natural habitat which we have been protecting and restoring. If these were on your farm, or beside your home, forever, wouldn't you want the common-sense option to be chosen, preserving our precious resources rather than this fundamentally flawed option. We are not numbers here in the country. We choose to live here and work here. Don't destroy our landscape by forcing these hazardous and grotesque towers on our land. The negative effects of doing so will reverberate throughout the community and be felt by future generations to come. These transmission lines will change the way we live and place financial and mental stresses on our communities. Please don't allow this. Think again.

Regards

Ben Batters

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P440

Name: Ashleigh Nugent

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.

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- * 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: Ashleigh Nugent

Location: Gre Gre & Tottington

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P441

Name: Alexa Cameron

Location: Avon Plains, 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: Alexa Cameron

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P442

Name: Andrew & Anne-Maree Bryce
Wattleton P/L

Location: Traynors Lagoon, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: Submission on the VNI West - Consultation Report

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

'I am a fourth generation farmer operating a family farm with my wife Anne-Maree. Our farming business is split between cropping, a self replacing Merino flock along with prime lamb production consistent with Marnoo and surrounding districts. Several years ago we were part of the NCCMA York Plains Conservation and Revegetation program of which Buloke trees and vegetation native to the area was fenced off. New corridors for native flora and fauna on certain farms in our area (including ourselves) were established for preservation and future generations. We created a Brolga habitat on our property to help preserve this endangered bird. The Brolga's have nested and bred on this property ever since my father could remember (he was born in January 1930). I am concerned about the impact on the environment and it's long term survival which we have invested strongly in.'

The 'pink blob' shown to us does not give you any clear indication of where the power line is actually going to be placed?? What we can see though, is that it runs through at least four different river systems and flood plains:-

-The Avon-Richardson river and catchment area.

-The Avoca river catchment area.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

-The Loddon/Campaspe river and catchment area.

-The Murray river system.

All these catchments are prone to significant flooding as history has proven since settlement and as recently as 2022 we witnessed the effects. If farmers are not allowed to irrigate in any way under these powerlines why in turn are they allowed to be built on flood plains? Is this nonsense or hypocrisy?? What about our biosecurity? Our ability to use machinery and farm as we normally do? Our ability to fight fires? Residuals in the soil? The impact on our land values? There have been no answers to our questions....

The use of 'surprise' tactics and lack of communication is extremely concerning. We and our community need more time and information to understand how our businesses/environment will be impacted.

Andrew & Anne-Maree Bryce

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P445

Name: Adam Soulsby

Location: Buckrabanyule, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

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

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. The consultation process, although it has no doubt ticked all the boxes from a statutory point of view, from the perspective of someone who may be impacted by it has been woefully inadequate.

Adam Soulsby

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P447

Name: Jennifer Sanderson

Location: Charlton, VIC, Australia

Submission

To whom it may concern:

As a property owner in the Coonooer Bridge and Charlton area I wish to express my concern regarding the positioning of the proposed transmission lines in this area. In addition to the reasons listed below my concern lies with the health impact on my family, the restraints on mobility for basic farming activities, and the devaluation of our land assets. We produce grain and the impact of biosecurity with unknown people entering our properties is a major concern. I wish to retain my family in our enterprise, however adding more restraints on the business does not encourage young farmers to remain in the industry.

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;

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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

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

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.

Yours truly,

Jennifer Sanderson

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P449

Name: James Devery

Location: Greens Creek, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

James Devery I'm a 5th generation farmer at Werenda Farm at Greens Creek. I co-own/manage property that has been in my family for generations along Tulkara Road, Perry Jones Road and Stawell/Avoca Road in Greens Creek. The farm spans over 3000 acres, producing merino wool and meat with currently 4000 head of sheep and crops consisting of barley, wheat, oats, canola and vetch hay.

Another reason to be concerned is my family are currently in the middle of building an off grid home on Tulkara Road only 3 kms from the proposed powerlines, we are concerned about the negative health effects of having large powerlines so close to our home as well as the noise they produce.

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.

James Devery

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P450

Name: Christopher Hargreaves

Location: Buckrabanyule, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: VNI West Submission - Chris Hargreaves, Buckrabanyule Vic

Our family farms at Buckrabanyule which falls within the footprint of the VNI West project. We run a mixed enterprise cropping and merino sheep operation.

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;

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- Inability to use tractors and machinery 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.

Chris Hargreaves, Buckrabanule Victoria.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P451

Name: Andrew Dalrymple

Location: Nareewillock, VIC, Australia

Submission

My name is Andrew Dalrymple I farm with my brother Chris in the Shire of Buloke and Parish of Narrewillock 923 Ha .It is a family run farm that Chris and myself run growing Wheat Barley Oat Canola Vetch Peas growing hay for export and own use as well as running 400 breeding ewes and lambs and turing out 700 lambs each year.

For the cropping operations using controlled traffic and GPS for guidance and just starting to us Drone to check on Ewes lambing and checking water daily

Raising a young family two girls aged 9 and 11 in the area it is a great concern with the unknown health implications of the power lines and their impact on the local 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.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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

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

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

Andrew Dalrymple

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P452

Name: John Feeny

Location: St Kilda, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West Impacts – Consultation Report

My sister and I own and operate a 960 hectare farm at Swanwater, north of St Arnaud. Our farm paddocks are contiguous and lie largely south west of the Swanwater Silo, with two of our paddocks being directly crossed by the rail line. This means that all of our land falls within the currently identified route/corridor.

The farm is used to produce grain being wheat, barley, canola, lentils and beans. We have previously grown chickpeas and safflower. This food is produced for domestic and foreign consumers. Additionally, we routinely agist stock on our property following harvest. The farm has sheds, silos, dams and existing powerlines as infrastructure.

My family took up an original selection for this land, so we has been farming here since the early 1870s. Accordingly, I can attest to a 150 year period of productive agricultural use that is now under threat.

I have only 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 have not received any formal notification as a potentially affected land owner and only found about the project via The Weekly Times. This understandably gives rise to concerns that the Authority has a pre- determined view as to the project, and is not consulting in “good faith” with affected communities/persons.

As noted above, the corridor for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that my family owns and operates a business on. I am concerned by the potential and ongoing negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on our 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.

Individual submission

VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

I am also concerned that there is not sufficient information available to me about the compensation that would be provided because of the impacts on my farming operations including reduced production, loss of amenity 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/area as 100 metre wide easements are being sought together with the placement of towers;
- inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines, noting that farm equipment is getting larger over time;
- impact of water access under powerlines, noting we are well serviced by the Wimmera Mallee pipelines, as well as having natural waterways and dams on the property;
- inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles through the imposition of inflexible no fly zones;
- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- spread of weeds;
- impact on areas of remnant vegetation;
- impact on local wildlife, particularly as we have wedge tail eagle nesting sites within our paddocks;
- fire risks and fire mitigation processes noting the property has been directly subject to fires during my lifetime;
- potential insurance impacts including premium rises;
- failure to close gates and other impacts on stock including their access to water;
- damage to crops including placing of tracks within easement areas;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery;

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- visual pollution and loss of amenity given our long association with this land where my ancestors lived and worked.

These impacts/issues must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region as well as affected regional communities including nearby towns.

I believe the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments 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 (which was then reported in the media) that the corridor for the VNI West project would change, I had no knowledge of the proposed project and no understanding of it potentially impacting our farm business. I believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made by relevant and informed decision makers.

Please note as I reside in St Kilda I am including my State and Federal Parliamentary Representatives, as I have requested to meet with them on this issue given it's potential direct impact on me.

John Feeny

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P453

Name: Colin Gilmour

Location: Cope Cope, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

The Gilmour family have been farming in this area for 5 generations, we farm around 2000 hectares, crops and 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 impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business.

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

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

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

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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

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

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

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

Colin Gilmour

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P454

Name: Rebecca Arbuckle

Location: Gre Gre, VIC, Australia

Submission

I currently live and work on a property at Gre Gre, Victoria, 3477.

I am a 26-year-old female who is qualified and works as Registered Nurse. I have been born and bred on this farm. I plan to farm the land you have decided to build these monstrosities on, for decades to come.

At this current stage between my parents and myself, we own almost 3,000 acres. This land is used for growing cereals and breeding merino sheep.

Would you appreciate if I were to come into your backyard and begin building a large 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line in the exact place you plan to raise your family??

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. You have not been able to answers these questions!

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.

Rebecca Arbuckle

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P455

Name: Renee Pomorin (Newall)

Location: Marnoo, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

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

The corridor for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that my family operate a business on. I am 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 my farmland, I am concerned that I have no information on what land access arrangements could be demanded by the transmission company before, during and after construction; what costs this would have on my business; and what my rights would be.

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

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

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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

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

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

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

Renee Pomorin (Newall)

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P456

Name: Naomi Goode

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

I write this submission as an owner and director of a broadacre cropping enterprise operating as

Goode Family Farming north of St Arnaud in the areas of Sutherland and Gooroc.

My husband is the 5th generation (our children are the 6th generation) of the family business. We live and actively work on the farm spanning across 3300 hectares of prime agricultural land.

AEMO's Option 5 proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line will have a direct and significant impact on our farming operation. Should this option proposed be realised, the line will run through our farmland in which we operate our business.

Depending on the exact route chosen, we determine this infrastructure will have a direct impact on up to 100 hectares of our land across multiple strategically acquired, designed and fenced parcels of land. At this level of impact, we determine an ongoing operational impact starting at \$500,000 per year. This will place significant strain on the business operation whilst continuing to manage the servicing of debt required for the expansion of the business over the past decade.

Beyond the loss of productive capacity and income, other concerns I have include the:

- Limited access to large parcels of land during construction
- Inability to manage pests and weeds within easements and surrounds

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- Decreased land value
- Lowered lending capacity
- Further difficulty to operate with positive cashflow in dry conditions
- Bushfire management issues
- Detrimental impact on the landscape
- Ongoing mental health concerns for all owners and directors in our business

The agricultural sector is a driving sector of the Northern Grampians Shire Council and therefore a reduced ability to drive outputs within our local ag sector will have a significant impact across all local sectors including manufacturing, retail, education and health sectors. This has the potential to be the demise of small communities such as St Arnaud.

I urge the Victorian Government and AEMO to consider undergrounding the proposed project alongside existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disruption to farm businesses in the region, or to utilise existing energy infrastructure easements within the state.

Naomi Goode, St Arnaud

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P457

Name: Stuart and Karen Coutts

Location: Boort, VIC, Australia

Submission

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We have only just become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Victoria to New South Wales. We are not regular social media users AND we have not been contacted directly even though this will impact our property immensely!

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:

- Mental health impact on the devaluation of our property that we have spent 20 years building
- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity.
- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines.
- inability to irrigate under powerlines.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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

This list goes on...

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.

I have no doubt that if you were to move forward with the installation of the transmission towers, there will be lives lost. Are these towers going up in your front yard???

Regards,

Stuart & Karen Coutts

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P458

Name: Peter & Carmel Jenkins

Location: Wallaloo, VIC, Australia

Submission

P.H. & C.J. JENKINS. [REDACTED]
FARM OF 1000 HA + 70% CROPPING 30% STOCK VIC 1000 EWES + LAMBS.
FAMILY FARM FOR 4 GENERATIONS CLOSELY HELD AND VERY
SOFT AFTER. I FEEL THESE POWER LINES WILL TOTALLY
DEVALUE THIS AREA AND TOTALLY DISRUPT MY OPERATIONS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P459

Name: Leonie McGurk

Location: Charlton, VIC, Australia

Submission

Please note – my submission is non confidential

My name is Leonie McGurk and I have been part of a fifth generation family farm for over 40 years. I write to add my voice to the absolute and total objection to the VNI West Project Option 5.

Lack of planning and foresight have resulted in a situation where thousands and thousands of dollars are being spent to devise ad hoc and inappropriate ‘so called’ solutions to a possible energy shortage. The premature closure of reliable energy producing infrastructure BEFORE reliable and environmentally friendly replacements are developed is nothing short of a disgrace.

As farmers we are proud custodians of the land. We honour and cherish all history. We safeguard all cultural heritage and environment, especially indigenous scar trees and other native flora and fauna. It is with a depressive sadness that we visualise these huge structures crossing our landscape and forever destroying all that we have worked so hard to protect and develop.

I also wish to express my disappointment, anger and frustration at the way your company has handled your ‘consultation.’ The first our family learned of this project was through the March 1st article in The Weekly Times.

After reading the article, it seemed reasonable to assume that further information and detail would follow to the residents of the proposed corridor. But nothing was forthcoming until the local VFF called a meeting to highlight the appalling likelihood that these transmission lines may become a reality.

There are so many ways these lines would negatively impact on an environment, farming enterprises and community as a whole. (See below). The stealth and lack of information and detail involved in this process is truly unbelievable in our ‘so called’ democratic society. People and their communities deserve respect, consideration and an informed consultation period regarding the potential building of these obscene structures.

No amount of financial payment can compensate for

- the blight on the landscape these monstrosities will create

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 which naturally involves whole families.
- 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
- Limited access to and around power lines if fires occur
- 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 power lines. 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.

Yours sincerely

Leonie McGurk

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P460

Name: Tony and Alex Holt

Location: Woosang, VIC, Australia

Submission

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

To Australian Energy Market Operator,

We are farmers who own land in the proposed Option 5 500Kv double-circuit overhead transmission line corridor. Our land is located in Woosang, Victoria. We run 3000 merino sheep and crop 1500 acres per year. We are a family farm with income spread across 3 generations.

Since the news of this proposed line was brought to our attention, we have been unable to sleep well, anxiety is high and the lack of information provided by AEMO has heightened our anxiety. There has been no consideration of farmers' mental health. In reference to the WRL line, AEMO chief executive, Daniel Westerman stated to media (at the Dean Recreation Reserve), 'I don't think the community has had adequate consultation.....the start of this process wasn't kicked off in the right way.' Well they are empty words because landholders in the Option 5 area have been treated in the exact same way. No consultation, no answers, no respect.

Adding to our concerns is the lack of consultation and the lack of answers to the questions and details about this proposed power line. Beyond the concerns for financial losses, we gravely fear for the health of our children and grandchildren and our livestock being exposed to EMF radiation.

Aside from the emotional, financial and health toll on landholders, what consideration has been taken to protect our endangered flora and fauna? Our precious and rare spider orchids, mallee fowl and other endangered bird species including Woodland birds; the hooded robins, diamond firetails and swift parrots! The diversity of the land completely surrounding Wedderburn and the wider districts provides an extremely unique sanctuary for endangered flora and fauna where 4 different biodiverse environments meet. This is why Wedderburn and district have an extraordinary number of 207 species of birds in and around Wedderburn, many of which are endangered, hence the theme of Wedderburn's huge painted bird murals used to bring awareness of bird protection.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

The nation's leading energy industry experts, Prof Bruce Mountain and Prof Simon Bartlett AM, condemn this proposal and call it a 'monumental mistake,' the 'biggest mistake in transmission planning in living memory,' that it will cause 'needless damage to the communities along the transmission corridor,' increase fire risk by 10 fold,' 'increase the risk of blackouts and increase costs.' These are alarming statements and warnings. They go on to inform the public of many other concerns, none of which have been counter-addressed by AEMO. This is pushing our stress limits past anxiety.

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

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

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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

Yours sincerely and anxiously,

Tony and Alex Holt

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P461

Name: Tim and Susan Lockhart

Location: Berrimal, VIC, Australia

Submission

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

To Australian Energy Market Operator,

Along with my husband, we are fifth generation farmers; we were raised by farmers and now we are the parents of two young sixth generation farmers.

Life on land is pretty darn good, we have our challenges but overall, we love what we do; there is an enormous amount of job satisfaction when we get things right.

Like all farmers, we work hard, we put in long hours in a self-employed occupation that's a gamble. With a gamble comes risks, stress, sleepless nights and mental health issues. Much of this goes unseen as farmers are the great pretenders. Farmers make passing comments such as, "she'll be right mate;" "it'll work out;" "it will be what it will be!" This attitude has helped us through many tough times but maybe it's time to get tough!

Recently our district has been blind sighted with the news that 500kV towers, the size of the MCG lights and powerlines, will be draped across farmland. The proposed route is from Dinawan to Bulgana, however details of the precise course of the double-circuit overhead transmission line appear to be confidential with the AEMO (Australian Energy Market Operator) keeping their cards very close to their chest. I believe, and I think that most of us (the landholders/farmers) believe, that the AEMO knows exactly where the powerlines will run.

Many questions are being raised by farmers regarding the health risks, land loss due to easements, increased fire dangers, limitations of machinery use, restrictions of irrigation and devaluation of land. Answers to these pressing and prevailing questions are not being provided by AEMO. It is our valuable farmland; surely, we deserve transparent and accurate answers to our concerns. There is fear and frustration circulating amongst the farmers with many expressing that not one dollar of compensation will be worth the negative effects.

Since the news of this proposed line was brought to our attention, our anxiety is high and the lack of information provided by AEMO has heightened our anxiety. There has been no consideration of farmers' mental health. In

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

reference to the WRL line, AEMO chief executive, Daniel Westerman stated to media (at the Dean Recreation Reserve), 'I don't think the community has had adequate consultation.....the start of this process wasn't kicked off in the right way.' Well they are empty words because landholders in the Option 5 area have been treated in the exact same way. No consultation, no answers, no respect.

Adding to our concerns is the lack of consultation and the lack of answers to the questions and details about this proposed power line. Beyond the concerns for financial losses, we gravely fear for the health of our children and grandchildren and our livestock being exposed to EMF radiation.

We believe that the following issues will occur.

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

Yours sincerely,

Tim and Susan Lockhart

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P462

Name: Jake Lanyon

Location: Melbourne, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We are mixed farming enterprise consisting of 1,200 ha of arable land. We have a 4,000 head self-replacing merino flock and crop approx. 500 ha a year. Our cropping program consists of cereal, pulses and canola. The implication of this project we be devastating to our business and the greater 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;
- loss of income;

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;
- inability to fight fires via aerial support;
- inability to use aircraft for aerial applications such as spraying;
- 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;
- Under MLA guidelines and quality assurance schemes we are unable to have people driving onto the farm property and potentially spreading weeds and disease as will be case with these easements;
- failure to close gates;
- damage to crops;
- Insurance implications;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery or stock;

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.

Jake Lanyon, Charlton

Des Lanyon, Yeungroon

Fran Lanyon, Yeungroon

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P463

Name: Cassandra Reeves

Location: Charlton, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: VNI West COMPLAINT

Hello,

My name is Cassandra Reeves and I am one of the many North Central Victorians who are concerned.

Our family owns over 5000 acres of land, much of which is farmed. We lease our farm land out to local farmers to use for both cropping purposes and grazing purposes. We also own and operate several Work Authorities and Vegetation Offset Rehabilitation Properties. The impact that these transmission lines would have on both our land and our business is astronomical. Not only would we be facing decreased land value, damage to our tenants crops and the inability to use machines, we would also potentially face the spreading of weeds that we work incredibly hard to maintain per our work authority. We work incredibly hard to keep our WA in top condition but also our numerous Vegetation Offset properties. This project threatens our livelihood and our way of life. We have operated in such a way for over 40 years and intend to continue for generations to come. We are currently 3rd generation in our family business. If this project goes ahead, you will singlehandedly end not only our business and livelihood but that of HUNDREDS of famers who work day and night every day of the year to provide crops to make the food you eat.

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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.

We, the residents, are concerned. We, the residents, have a right to knowledge. We, the residents, MATTER!

Yours faithfully,

Cassandra Reeves

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P464

Name: Cameron & Sophie Taylor

Location: Woosang, VIC, Australia

Submission

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

To Australian Energy Market Operator,

We are family members of farmers who own land in the proposed Option 5 500Kv double-circuit overhead transmission line corridor. Our land is located in Woosang, Victoria. We run 3000 merino sheep and crop 1500 acres per year. We are a family farm with income spread across 3 generations.

Since the news of this proposed line was brought to our attention, we have been unable to sleep well, anxiety is high and the lack of information provided by AEMO has heightened our anxiety. There has been no consideration of farmers' mental health. In reference to the WRL line, AEMO chief executive, Daniel Westerman stated to media (at the Dean Recreation Reserve), 'I don't think the community has had adequate consultation.....the start of this process wasn't kicked off in the right way.' Well they are empty words because landholders in the Option 5 area have been treated in the exact same way. No consultation, no answers, no respect.

Adding to our concerns is the lack of consultation and the lack of answers to the questions and details about this proposed power line. Beyond the concerns for financial losses, we gravely fear for the health of our children and grandchildren and our livestock being exposed to EMF radiation.

Aside from the emotional, financial and health toll on landholders, what consideration has been taken to protect our endangered flora and fauna? Our precious and rare spider orchids, mallee fowl and other endangered bird species including Woodland birds; the hooded robins, diamond firetails and swift parrots! The diversity of the land completely surrounding Wedderburn and the wider districts provides an extremely unique sanctuary for endangered flora and fauna where 4 different biodiverse environments meet. This is why Wedderburn and district have an extraordinary number of 207 species of birds in and around Wedderburn, many of which are endangered, hence the theme of Wedderburn's huge painted bird murals used to bring awareness of bird protection.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

The nation's leading energy industry experts, Prof Bruce Mountain and Prof Simon Bartlett AM, condemn this proposal and call it a 'monumental mistake,' the 'biggest mistake in transmission planning in living memory,' that it will cause 'needless damage to the communities along the transmission corridor,' increase fire risk by 10 fold,' 'increase the risk of blackouts and increase costs.' These are alarming statements and warnings. They go on to inform the public of many other concerns, none of which have been counter-addressed by AEMO. This is pushing our stress limits past anxiety.

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

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

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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

Yours sincerely and anxiously,

Cameron & Sophie Taylor (and children Ted & Poppy)

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P465

Name: Katherine Carter

Location: Wallaloo, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: Submission

Submission on the VNI West – 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;

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- 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.

Katherine Carter

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P466

Name: Shaun & Jess Polkinghorne

Location: Wedderburn, VIC, Australia

Submission

To Whom This May Concern

17/04/2023

To Be Published.

My Family is a 6th generation farming family and we greatly oppose option 5. There has been a complete lack of respect for the people that provide food and fibre for you!

These powerlines should be underground. We should not have to have a state full of visible metal junk for years to come.

Victoria is known for its beautiful farm land and pristine national parks and having these 80m high monstrosities would severely ruin the landscape for current and future generations.

The impacts on our farming business from this proposed option would be:

The value of our land will be significantly decreased.

The inability to use machinery under powerlines.

The use of GPS or autonomous vehicles would be greatly impacted.

Biosecurity issues (transmission of weeds and animal health)

The push from the government to enter into renewable energy to save the environment, yet the AEMO and the governments proposal is the longest using more materials and having the most impact on the environment. To Quote professor mountain "this would be a monumental mistake" AEMO needs to take some time and read through Professor Mountains report.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

This project lacks sensibility and cost effective measures, this is a band aid approach and a lot more thought, considerations and consultations needs to happen.

Option 5 is not viable nor the best option. I believe the Victorian Government and AEMO should consider undergrounding the proposed project at any cost along existing transport corridors or on public land to ensure minimal disturbances to farming businesses in the region.

Sincerely,

Concerned landholders

Shaun and Jess Polkinghorne

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P467

Name: Chelsea Gravener & Heath McNally

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We are a Farming Family of Kooreh Victoria and Mysia Victoria and residents of St Arnaud.

We operate a farm, (with our family) of approximately 7500 acres across the North Central region where we produce different varieties of grains and hay. We are home to approximately 3000 Sheep also.

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 or around 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.

Chelsea Gravener and Heath McNally and our 3 daughters.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P468

Name: Kerry Driscoll

Location: Clifton Springs, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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 daughter and husband operate a business on. We are concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on their farming operations, business and health.

If the transmission infrastructure was to be built on their farmland, we are concerned that they 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 their business; and what their rights would be.

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

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

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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

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

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

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

Alternatives can be found, perhaps by using existing infra-structure, definitely not by constructing expensive towers across farming land!

Kerryn Driscoll

Clifton Springs

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P469

Name: Elise Reading

Location: Wallaloo East, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: Elise's submission

I'm 6th generation located in wallaloo east.

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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

Elise Reading

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P470

Name: Bruce & Judith Argall

Location: Marnoo, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

To whom it may concern:

Myself and my Wife, Judith, are primary producers from the Marnoo area. We produce cereal crops and Sheep for both wool and meat and have done so for the past 45 years at our property. Our farm is approximately 2000acres in size and we farm with one of our sons, Benjamin, his wife Hannah and their young family. Marnoo has a rich agricultural history and has a local primary school and vibrant supportive community.

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 potentially grossly impacting our farm and community.

The corridor for this proposed transmission line potentially 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.
- The potential negative Health effects and the lack of study and/or evidence to determine the health effects to ourselves, our family, our livestock and our community.

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 while also determining the environmental impacts this would cause. More consideration is needed about the entire project, including listening to Professor Bruce Mountain

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

and Simon Bartlett and their expert opinions on the matter. See ref. ABC news article as accessed 10:00pm 17/04/2023.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-04-13/calls-to-scrap-aemo-transmission-plans-for-western-victoria/102208792>

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 my family and the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made and alternative options are thoroughly investigated.

Bruce and Judith Argall

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P471

Name: Lindee Parry

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

I am fourth generation; with STRONG possibility for an upcoming fifth, with a mixed farming (Wool, meat and broadacre) enterprise spread across both the BULOKE and NORTHERN GRAMPAINS Shires. Our family have, and have always had strong conservation views with a vested interest in planting trees, reestablishing nature corridors and wind breaks for a much-anticipated sustainable future; working in harmony with nature.

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;
- failure to close gates;
- damage to crops, spread of weeds;
- 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.

Lindee Parry,

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P472

Name: Stephen Parry

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

I am fourth generation; with STRONG possibility for an upcoming fifth, with a mixed farming (Wool, meat and broadacre) enterprise spread across both the BULOKE and NORTHERN GRAMPPIANS Shires. Our family have, and have always had strong conservation views with a vested interest in planting trees, reestablishing nature corridors and wind breaks for a much-anticipated sustainable future; working in harmony with nature.

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;
- failure to close gates;
- damage to crops, spread of weeds;
- 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.

Stephen Parry, .

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P473

Name: Thomson Goode

Location: Epsom, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission to VNI West

In 1875 my great, great grandfather Joseph Goode and his wife Honora (nee Hackett) took up an original selection of 160 acres at Sutherland. Further descendants have continued this fine tradition through to the present.

That original selection has grown to around seven thousand acres of which the family owns 4000 acres. My father Denis and brother Simon currently farm this land and they are worried about the impact these transmission lines will have on their business.

I object to the massive steel towers which you intend to dump on our family land. I believe they will devalue the land and other land surrounding them. I want to ensure that this land stays in good condition for future generations. I do not agree to any structures being placed on land which will cause a disruption to the present family business.

Regards

Thomson Goode

Epsom Viv 3551

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.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thomson Goode

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P474

Name: Paul Bibby

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

To whom it may concern

We have a grazing and cropping farming business in NGSC at Navarre & MorrlMorrl approx. 2000 acres.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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

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

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

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

Paul Bibby

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P475

Name: Christopher, Lee & Thomas Hewitt

Location: Gowar East, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: VNI West Transmission Project

My name is Christopher Alan Hewitt and I along with my wife and son run a mixed farming operation on approximately 3000 acres at Gowar East, Vic. We crop 1000 acres of Canola, Wheat, Barley and Oats and run 2500 sheep for meat and wool

I have become aware of the Vic. Government and AEMO'S proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to NSW.

I am concerned by the potential negative impact that transmission infrastructure will have on our farming operations and business.

If the Transmission infrastructure was to be built on our 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 our business; and what our 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 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 I have not been provided with information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure on our farmland, I believe the following issues will impact our ability to maintain a commercial farming operation now and into the future:

- * decreased land values and loss of productive capacity;
- * inability to use machinery under powerlines;
- * inability to utilise emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

* refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on sites causing issues with vendor declarations;

* spread of weeds;

* failure to close gates;

* damage to crops;

* materials left on sites 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 our farm business. I believe the community needs more time to respond to this project so a more accurate assessment of its costs and benefits can be made.

Christopher, Lee and Thomas Hewitt.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P476

Name: Nicholas Reading

Location: Wallaloo East, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- spread of weeds;
- failure to close gates;
- damage to crops;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery.

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

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

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

Nicholas Reading

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P477

Name: Jo Bear, Bright Futures Livestock

Location: Loddon Vale, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report 18th April 2023

To whom it may concern

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

I am concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my local community. The lack of communication, lack of respect and consultation to affected landholders is also a dangerous precedence for future projects that may affect landholders and rural communities.

These transmission lines will affect me and my family as follows

- decreasing the viability of our local community
- impacting the visual elements of the landscape
- corporations and the government showing little regard or respect for rural communities

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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 community. 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.

Jo Bear

Bright Futures Livestock

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P478

Name: Greg Bear, AH Bear & Sons

Location: Loddon Vale, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

18th April 2023

To whom it may concern

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

I am concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my local community. The lack of communication, lack of respect and consultation to affected landholders is also a dangerous precedence for future projects that may affect landholders and rural communities.

These transmission lines will affect me and my family as follows

- decreasing the viability of our local community
- impacting the visual elements of the landscape
- corporations and the government showing little regard or respect for rural communities

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.

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 community. 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.

Greg Bear

AH Bear & sons

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P479

Name: Linda Taylor, Carrs Plains Pastoral Co **Location:** Callawadda, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

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

The corridor for this proposed transmission line is very close to 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.

Our property is 1011 Hectares of prime cropping and sheep grazing farm land in a highly productive area. We grow Canola, Wheat, Barley, Faba Beans and run a self replacing Merino flock with 1000 lambing ewes and their progeny. Our family has farmed this property for 8 decades and have made many improvements and farmed sustainably. We have planted well over ten thousand native trees creating wildlife corridors and shelter belts. We conservatively manage the waterways and habitats. Our environment is hugely important to our way of life and the decisions we make on our property.

These powerlines would impact everything we have worked hard to achieve and would be incredibly detrimental to a community who contribute vast amounts to Australia's food bowl.

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

Individual submission

VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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 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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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.

Linda Taylor

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P480

Name: Tony Goode

Location: Donald, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission to VNI West

In 1875 my great grandfather Joseph Goode and his wife Honora (nee Hackett) took up an original selection of 160 acres at Sutherland. Further descendants have continued this fine tradition through to the present.

That original selection has grown to around seven thousand acres of which the family owns 4000 acres. Part of that ownership is my parcel of land which I lease to my brother Denis and his son Simon to farm.

I object to the massive steel towers which you intend to dump on our family land. I believe they will devalue the land and other land surrounding them. I want to ensure that my land stays in good condition for future generations. I do not agree to any structures being placed on my land which will cause a disruption to the present family business.

Regards Tony Goode

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P481

Name: Kevin Goode

Location: Sutherland, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission to VNI West

In 1875 my great grandfather Joseph Goode and his wife Honora (nee Hackett) took up an original selection of 160 acres at Sutherland. Further descendants have continued this fine tradition through to the present.

That original selection has grown to around seven thousand acres of which the family owns 4000 acres. Part of that ownership is my parcel of land which I lease to my brother Denis and his son Simon to farm.

I object to the massive steel towers which you intend to dump on our family land. I believe they will devalue the land and other land surrounding them. I want to ensure that my land stays in good condition for future generations. I do not agree to any structures being placed on my land which will cause a disruption to the present family business.

Regards

Kevin Goode

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P482

Name: Lauren Goode

Location: Chelsea, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission to VNI West

In 1875 my great, great grandfather Joseph Goode and his wife Honora (nee Hackett) took up an original selection of 160 acres at Sutherland. Further descendants have continued this fine tradition through to the present.

That original selection has grown to around seven thousand acres of which the family owns 4000 acres. My father Denis and brother Simon currently farm this land and they are worried about the impact these transmission lines will have on their business.

I object to the massive steel towers which you intend to dump on our family land. I believe they will devalue the land and other land surrounding them. I want to ensure that this land stays in good condition for future generations. I do not agree to any structures being placed on land which will cause a disruption to the present family business.

Regards

Lauren Goode

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P483

Name: Andrew Hemley

Location: Marnoo, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

To Whom It May Concern,

Our farm is on the flood plain of the Avon River and any alterations to the lands geographical features such as formed roads/obstacles, could result in undetermined flood patterns occurring over our land. These could have devastating effects on our business and livelihood. The surrounding farms will also suffer from these new flood patterns. These changes could result in land erosion and stock losses which will have a detrimental effect on our farming enterprise. We do not support the line going through our property or extra towers being constructed. We run cattle and sheep on our farm and also cropping both grains and growing hay for our livestock. We run 1200 sheep, 50 cows, 100 hectares of cropping and 40 hectares are used for hay production. A major concern would be the inability to aerial spray over our crops if a line was to go through. We farm on a flood prone area and the inability to spray would destroy our capacity to crop our land which is an integral part of our business.

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 two weeks ago and have had limited time to prepare this submission as well as the lack of communication/consultation from AEMO with landholders in our area. This was highlighted with the failure of AEMO to attend a meeting at St Arnaud on Monday the 17th April 2023.

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.
- Health factors and legalities of OH & S and Worksafe issues for people working in the vicinity of these major transmission lines.

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

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

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

After viewing the submission from Professor Bruce Mountain and Professor Simon Bartlett whom have ‘warned that if AEMO’s plans for the Western Renewables Link (WRL) and the Victoria – to – New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West) were to proceed, it would be the “biggest mistake in transmission planning in history” and if AEMO is listening to expert analysis of the project why are they not listening to these two professors one a Professor of Electrical Engineering and former member of the National Electricity Market’s reliability panel and the other the Victorian Energy Director Policy Centre Director - I unreservedly oppose the line going through my property and in this area and deny access to my property in any manner -AEMO or Wind farm personnel.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Hemley

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P484

Name: Charlie Reading

Location: Wallaloo, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

My name is Charlie Reading, I am a sixth-generation farmer who has had the honor and privilege to grow up on a farm in Wallaloo East. 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 – Which directly impacts our farmland.

I have spent my whole life on this 3000-acre farmland, which consists of 1500 head of sheep as well as an assortment of crops. In my short 27 years I have seen drought, floods, famine, and other rural adversities, but never have I seen a threat as immense as the one proposed to us today. The corridor for this proposed transmission line includes farmland that I operate a business on. I am concerned about the massive potential for negative impacts that the transmission infrastructure will have on not only my farming operations and business, but the health and wellbeing of my family, my unborn children, and the generations to come.

If the transmission infrastructure were to be built on my farmland, I am also 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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

rights would be.

Furthermore, the health warnings against these transmission towers are also of major concern. With studies and literature by credible professionals suggesting that these transmission towers and lines have links to devastating cancers, such as childhood leukemia. These impacts must be considered when evaluating the true costs and benefits of the proposed project across all agricultural business in the region.

It is impossible to provide an assessment on the exact costs incurred 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.

By erecting these transmission lines on our farmland, it would destroy not only our lives, but

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

countless others in our community for generations to come. I strongly 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 and families 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.

Charlie Reading

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P485

Name: Richard & Margaret Hobbs

Location: Charlton, Vic, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We object to the Victorian Government and AEMO's Option 5 proposal to construct a 500kv double -circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

We live in the Buloke Shire one of the shires the proposed transmission line goes through. We cannot find out exactly where the proposed power lines are going, there is just a vague broad smudge line on a map at this stage. Lack of information is one of the problems with the whole consultative process.

There is meant to be extensive community consultation. There was no flyer in the mail advertising the meetings. When were they promoted on radio (such as over the ABC Country Hour) or advertised in local papers or on local notice boards? There was apparently some mention on Facebook but not everyone is on Facebook. It feels discriminatory to people in rural areas where internet access is limited, to older people and anyone not on social media. There has been a lot of promotion in the news and from politicians about equality and this scenario does not feel very equal.

Even if it does not go through our property, as rural community members we are still concerned. Once again farmers and rural communities are being penalized, discriminated against, and asked to sacrifice in order to provide to the cities. The transmission lines will carve up productive food growing agricultural land, potentially affecting farmers livelihoods, well-being and mental health, the well-being of rural communities, and, also impact native vegetation, waterways and cultural sites along the route. The transmission lines will restrict the fire fighting capacity both on the ground and aerially putting lives and livelihoods at greater risk.

Reading the report there seems to be a lot of assumptions made (p10-11 of report) to try and make Option 5 have more net benefit than Option 3A. That is a major concern for the validity of the whole report. Option 5 appears to be the longest with high impedances and a more technically challenging design. There will be less renewable generation being supported and therefore fewer gross benefits. With all this how is it that the Engineering category rated so high for Option 5? (refer p13 of report Table 2 Results of the MCA)

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

We need a solution of least cost with the lowest impact on social, environment and community. The proposed VNIWest Transmission Line IS NOT the way to do this. There is an understatement of the costs.

The economics does not stack up. There is good potential for offshore wind power generation. The relative cost of wind and solar is cheap compared to the high cost of Transmission lines. The Victorian Government and AEMO should be utilizing the existing transmission lines to exploit and utilize this fact.

There is plenty of roof area in the cities that these lines are supposedly providing power for. If more renewable energy is required in these densely populated areas why cannot the \$4 billion dollars allocated for Option 5 be put towards installation of solar panels on existing rooftops in these cities to provide the additional power. This would remove the cost of high voltage transmission lines and reduce the impact on farming land, farmers and their well-being, native vegetation, waterways and sites of cultural significance.

We have not been provided with information about the exact route proposed in Option 5 or information that details the impact of transmission infrastructure on my farmland, we believe the following issues will impact a farmer's 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.

This whole proposal needs to be put on hold until there is further investigation into other options and a more accurate assessment of any costs and benefits can be made.

Richard & Margaret Hobbs, Charlton

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P486

Name: Leanne Holt

Location: Wedderburn, VIC, Australia

Submission

My husband and I along with our family, are broad acre farmers located in the Loddon & Buloke Shires. We have an extensive livestock production for wool and meat, produce cereal crops including canola, wheat, and barley and, in addition produce vetch hay for domestic and export markets. We are fourth and fifth generation farmers and are extremely passionate about our produce. We are extremely concerned about the impacts this project will cause to the use and productivity of our farm.

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 from. 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 provide 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 farming operation now and into the future:

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- o Inability to utilise emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- o Refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on the site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- o Spread of weeds;
- o Failure to close gates;
- o Damage to crops
- o 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 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.

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 farming 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.

Leanne Holt, Wedderburn

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P487

Name: Luke Zagame

Location: Charlton, VIC, Australia

Submission

To whom it may concern,

My name is Luke Zagame and I am contacting you directly to voice my concerns and objection towards the proposed transmission line through what would be the area and district on which I farm with both my parents and children.

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.

My property is situated in the Buckrabanyule farming district of Charlton, it is located on both sides of Douglas Rd, bordering Barrakee, O'Donnell's and Soulsby's / Crutch's & A Blairs Rd.

I am the 3rd generation of my family to farm the land and have 5 boys that love and enjoy primary production and the lifestyle that it provides and confident that they too will become the 4th generation to farm this land .

In addition to this, I also have a section of our farm fenced off to native remnant vegetation that is very special to the district as it is one of the last of some native trees in the area.

We are a broadacre farming business that grows a number of crops utilising GPS precision farming practices in conjunction with running 800 sheep. With the proposed transmission lines, unfortunately this would severely impact on the way in which we would be able to utilise this precision Ag as I understand that there will be the requirement for a large easement up to 100M required to access the transmission towers. To be able to manage both noxious weeds and vermin in these proposed easements would be a major challenge as who would be responsible for the management of them?

I also run a local rural merchandising business in Charlton, North West Ag Services, that supplies many of the district farmers and are concerned that it too would be directly impacted by the proposed transmission lines. As

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

my customers would have reduced area to farm and as mentioned above this would decrease their need for inputs that I supply to them.

From a community perspective, it would also impact as a major part of the Charlton district employment and commercial vibrance is funded from primary production and again as a whole this would be directly impacted if your transmission lines are allowed to go through and literally split our community!

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.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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

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

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

Please if you could reply with a confirmation of receipt of this email it would be greatly appreciated.

Regards, Luke Zagame

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P488

Name: Alan Holt

Location: Wedderburn, VIC, Australia

Submission

My wife and I along with our family, are broad acre farmers located in the Loddon & Buloke Shires. We have an extensive livestock production for wool and meat, produce cereal crops including canola, wheat, and barley and, in addition produce vetch hay for domestic and export markets. We are fourth and fifth generation farmers and are extremely passionate about our produce. We are extremely concerned about the impacts this project will cause to the use and productivity of our farm.

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 from. 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 provide 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 farming operation now and into the future:

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- o Inability to utilise emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- o Refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on the site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- o Spread of weeds;
- o Failure to close gates;
- o Damage to crops
- o 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 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.

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 farming 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.

Alan Holt, Wedderburn

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P489

Name: Bradley Holt

Location: Wedderburn, VIC, Australia

Submission

I operate a windrowing sub-contractor business which cuts the crops for harvesting canola and hay production. I do this for various farmers in the district. I am extremely concerned about the impact of this proposal on my business. I am concerned that with reduced farmland in the area I will lose a substantial amount of my business in this area and will have to travel considerable distances to secure work having a significant impact on myself, wife and growing family.

In addition to this business, I am employed on my parents farm where we conduct an extensive livestock production for wool and meat, produce cereal crops including canola, wheat, and barley and, in addition produce vetch hay for domestic and export markets. We are fourth and fifth generation farmers and are extremely passionate about our produce. We are extremely concerned about the impacts this project will cause to the use and productivity of our farm.

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 from. 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 farming operation now and into the future:

- o Decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- o Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;
- o Inability to irrigate under powerlines;
- o Inability to utilise emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- o Refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on the site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- o Spread of weeds;
- o Failure to close gates;
- o Damage to crops
- o 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 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.

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 farming 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.

Bradley Holt, Wedderburn

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P490

Name: Hayley Reading

Location: Callawadda VIC, Australia

Submission

Gday team please find the attached submission form that's been made up for you. Regarding the bloody powerlines

> you can use this exact one if you like! it just needs to be submitted on time...

>you can take parts out or write new things in.

> Please share this around and get as MANY people to submit as possible as this is a numbers game.

> Each family member to send a separate submission.

> Please put your name on the bottom and the area you live in or care about.

> Please ensure that the upper and lowercase letters are written correctly in the email address before you send it.

> Send the submission by wednesday to the email address below. Cheers bill

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 where 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.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- 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: Hayley Reading

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P491

Name: William Jackson

Location: Beazleys Bridge, VIC, Australia

Submission

Hi,

I am Will Jackson from Beazleys Bridge and I'm opposed to option 5.

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!

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P492

Name: Nigel Greenaway

Location: Beazleys Bridge, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

I own 1000 hectares of farming land in the Northern Grampians shire area township Beazley's Bridge, I am a fifth-generation farmer of mixed farming which consisting of livestock 3500 pigs and 3500 sheep this numbers fluctuates throughout the year due to lambing and the livestock market. Cropping consists of cereals and legumes on rotational sowing year to year we are a relatively small farming business and maximizing the total area of farm is extremely important to the day to day running of our business.

The proposed option 5 will disadvantage our business by lessening our physical area that we can farm. The conditions that the easements which each tower requires will make it impossible for us to farm under, the proposed compensation for any towers to be placed on our property will never fully cover the loss of production area.

We have expanded our business into the contract of silage, Hay in and around our local area, this will also impact our return on investment as the area will be decreased by the 100 m² restricted zone at the base of each and every tower.

I am the captain of our local CFA and my family are all volunteers this has raised great concern for the safety and wellbeing of our local brigade and broader 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.

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 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.

Nigel Greenaway

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P493

Name: Bridget Johnson

Location: Marnoo, 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!

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 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: Bridget Johnson

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P494

Name: Jerae Trigg

Location: Horsham, VIC, Australia

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: Jerae Trigg

Location: Horsham

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P495

Name: Brittany Mullins

Location: St Arnaud, 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.

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Name: **Brittany Mullins**

Location: **St. Arnaud**

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P496

Name: Cooper Reading

Location: Wallaloo East, 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 ageagricultural 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!

Cooper Reading

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P497

Name: Ash Sanders

Location: Gowanford, 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.

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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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: Ash Sanders

Location: Gowanford

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P498

Name: Kiarah House

Location: Donald, 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.

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- Where's the concrete in the ground go!
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- Everybody needs to be made aware of the social and environmental impacts that this will bring into the community.
- THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE. AND THE PEOPLE TO COME!

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

From a CFA point of view, 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: Kiarah House

Location: Donald, Victoria 3480

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P499

Name: Kobey Byron

Location: Callawadda, VIC, Australia

Submission

My name is Kobey Byron.

I am a committed member of Victoria's largest farm advocacy group, Victorian Farmer's Federation (VFF). I want to be heard and I will fight for my rights as a Victorian farmer.

I am the 5th generation farmer of thousands of sheep and cropping acres in Callawadda to which the corridor for this proposed transmission line includes majority farmland that I operate business on.

I am greatly concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on my farming operations and business. This is my home, my passion, my livelihood, and most importantly, my family's land. This is where I grew up, and this is where my future children will grow up.

I am deeply stressed as to what effects this project will have on our business, our future, and my family's mental health.

I am extremely concerned about the effects this transmission infrastructure will have on our business, our future and our children's future. To my understanding, this transmission infrastructure will be built right through and over the top of our property which can damage our crops and could potentially cause damage to valuable machinery. We will not have access to information on what chemicals have been used and the fact that this will dramatically decrease the value of our land.

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.

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 of 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 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.

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.

Kobey Byron – Callawadda, VIC.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P500

Name: Kylah Black

Location: Callawadda, VIC, Australia

Submission

My name is Kylah Black.

I am a committed member of Victoria's largest farm advocacy group, Victorian Farmer's Federation (VFF). I want to be heard and I will fight for my rights as a Victorian farmer.

My partner, Kobey Byron, and I are farmers of thousands of sheep and cropping acres in Callawadda to which the corridor for this proposed transmission line includes majority farmland that we operate business on.

I am greatly concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on our farming operations and business. This is our home, our passion, our livelihood, and most importantly, our land.

I am extremely concerned about the effects this transmission infrastructure will have on our business, our future and our children's future. To my understanding this transmission infrastructure will be built right through and over the top of our property which can damage crops and could potentially cause damage to valuable machinery. We will not have access to information on what chemicals have been used and the fact that this will dramatically decrease the value of our land.

Overall, I am deeply stressed as to what effects this project will have on our business, our future, and my family's mental health.

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.

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 of 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.
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- 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 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.

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.

Kylah Black - Callawadda, VIC.

Individual submission

VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P501

Name: Veronica North

Location: Kotta, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West - Consultation Report

As of 18 April 2023, 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.

In regards to my dairy farm, located in the corridor. My late husband and I purchased our farm 1976 where we ran dairy cattle and cropping. It should go without saying, we put our heart and soles into working our farm to raise our family with the prospect of retiring comfortable and possibly passing the land onto family. I have no doubt the transmission lines would dramatically devalue my farm, therefore effecting my life and prolonging my prospect of retiring. Farmers alike have given their life to contribute with feeding People and ask nothing in return.

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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- 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.

Ms, Veronica NORTH,

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P502

Name: Sophie Lang

Location: Charlton, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We farm near Charlton and have properties at Yeungroon, Buckrabanyule and Nareewillock, the land is used for cereal & legume cropping and grazing. Over many years we have made improvements to parts of the properties by tree/shrub planting, creek regeneration, and improved boundary and internal fencing. Autonomas machinery used for cropping is being considered to bring into our cropping program as the machines become available in the future.

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:

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- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;
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- 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.

Lang Family

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P503

Name: Michael Dignan

Location: Stawell, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We run a property the size of approximately 2000 hectares in the Callawadda campbells bridge district comprising of about 3000 Ewe's and 1000 hectares of crop varying between canola legumes and cereals we are looking at transitioning towards biodynamics in the future.

- I am concerned about property values in the whole of the state particularly our Shire the indicators are the masses the reduction in value could be 50% or greater.
- I'm also concerned about animal Health and Human health with the construction of these power lines in such close proximity to families and farms.
- I am concerned about the potential of power failure, due to the fact there will be one main line from Tasmania to Queensland. Which then opens potential for invasion from another country, simply for the fact they would only have to turn the power off and the whole of eastern Australia would be held at ransom.
- I don't see the need to build a new infrastructure in the form of this power line when we already have an existing web of power line that works extremely well and has done for a long time! little information about the benefit of a new line has been shared with the community we would be appreciated to understand why the risks to our community are not

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

being considered.

- 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;

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- 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.

Michael Dignan,

Stawell

Individual submission

VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P504

Name: J P Donaldson

Location: Buckrabanyule, VIC, Australia

Submission

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. Submissions close on Wednesday 5 April 2023 and must be emailed to VNIWestRITT@aemo.com.au)

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:

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- 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.

(NAME), (LOCATION) J P DONALDSON

BUCKRABANYULE 3525

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P505

Name: Megan Horgan

Location: Flora Hill, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission to VNI West

In 1875 my great, great grandfather Joseph Goode and his wife Honora (nee Hackett) took up an original selection of 160 acres at Sutherland. Further descendants have continued this fine tradition through to the present.

That original selection has grown to around seven thousand acres of which the family owns 4000 acres. My father Denis and brother Simon currently farm this land and they are worried about the impact these transmission lines will have on their business.

I object to the massive steel towers which you intend to dump on our family land. I believe they will devalue the land and other land surrounding them. I want to ensure that this land stays in good condition for future generations. I do not agree to any structures being placed on land which will cause a disruption to the present family business.

Regards

Megan Horgan

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P506

Name: Rhordan Holt

Location: Woosang, VIC, Australia

Submission

To Australian Energy Market Operator,

I am a 6th generation farmer with farmland in Woosang, Victoria which is situated in the proposed Option 5 500Kv double-circuit overhead transmission line corridor. Our farm enterprise runs 3000 merino sheep and crop 1500 acres per year.

I am 23 years old and have never before experienced anxiety but now with the family farm potentially being forced to have 80metre high transmission towers and line draped through our paddocks, a sickening feeling of dread is haunting me each day. Even the thought of these enormous towers being within eyeshot of our natural and loved landscape is beyond imagination. The tension within the farm household is very real and I am experiencing for the first time in my life, what it feels like to be disrespected, not valued and trodden on! AEMO has to take responsibility for their absolute and deliberate lack of community consultation. Farmers deal with a lot of tension but this is so different; it's a feeling of fear and dismay and it is the most awful feeling to have.

I am not against progress but I am against sums that do not add up and without comprehensive information from AEMO, how can we make informed decisions. How, you ask? We go to our VFF and to rallies and to public forums and to information evenings hosted by people who have already experienced AEMO's common practice of not providing information as landholders along the WRL Corridor know only too well. We also seek expert advice. Professor Bruce Mountain came to an information session yesterday and his information was clear, academic and concise and he described the VNI West and WRL proposals as 'monumental mistakes' and that they will bring higher power costs, increased fire risk and actually be a backward step using old technology. I'd very much like AEMO to explain to our community why the pre-existing transmission lines and sub-stations in La Trobe are not being considered as our State transitions to renewable energy. I am in favour of renewable energy; Professor Bruce Mountain explained it is the best way to provide Australia's energy needs with the infrastructure of Coal Fired Power Stations in Victoria now nearly at their used by date. He explained that the La Trobe transmission lines are underused and the perfect solution to our renewable energy future.

With AEMO not prepared to attend public information nights or provide detailed information about their VNI West line and the impact on landholders. it can only be assumed they have something to hide. Professor Bruce Mountain and Professor Simon Bartlett clearly stated that if AEMO were to proceed with their VNI West and WRL transmission proposal, it would be the 'biggest mistake in planning in living history.' They go on in their public

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

report as stating, 'AEMO is stuck in the past, pursuing a redundant vision that suits its corporate interests, under the guise of providing solutions for the urgent energy transition.' Strong and damning words which elevates the anxiety experienced by myself and my family when we imagine the horror of AEMO's proposal.

Beyond the concerns for financial losses and scarred landscape, what considerations have been taken to protect our land from biological contamination? Bio-security is paramount. We need to protect our livestock and crops from all potential hazards. What about EMF radiation? Irrigation? Headers and trucks and tractors moving under the lines? What about the impaction of soil from heavy vehicles, concrete trucks contaminated our soil and deeming it useless? Can you feel my tension, exasperation and fear? It is blistering through my veins as I write this!

What consideration has been taken to protect our endangered flora and fauna? Farmers don't just look after their livestock, they are so in touch with the land and have a strong tie and appreciation to the local flora and fauna. We have endangered birds such as mallee fowl, hooded robins, diamond firetails and swift parrots. Bush Heritage Australia often do fauna counts on our land to check the numbers of birdlife in particular but also many other native creatures too. Wedderburn and the wider districts provide an extremely unique sanctuary for endangered flora and fauna where 4 different biodiverse environments meet. This is why Wedderburn and district have an extraordinary number of 207 species of birds in and around Wedderburn, many of which are endangered.

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

- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity;
- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines;
- inability to irrigate under powerlines;
- inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- spread of weeds;
- failure to close gates;
- damage to crops;
- materials left on site causing damage to machinery.

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

Please find an alternative to the needless destruction of our community.

Yours most anxiously,

Rhordan Hewitt Holt

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P507

Name: Matthew Kane

Location: Boort, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

I am a farmer north of Boort, through the Barraport, Gredgwin, Leaghur, Canary Island area. Our farm consists of dryland and irrigation in we which we produce hay, grain, fat lambs and wool. Between owned and leased land we farm 5000ha. On our irrigation we grow winter and summer crop which consists of lucerne, forage sorghum and corn. The irrigation has flood and drip infrastructure which has come at a significant cost over the years. Powerlines of this size will significantly hinder the returns we need to pay back these costs by taking over land as well as making it difficult to perform the duties we need to to grow crops and pastures. Whether these lines end up on irrigation or dryland, the value of land will be decreased. These lines would be a waste of profitable farming land.

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:

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.

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.

Matthew Kane, Boort

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P508

Name: Matilda Hallam

Location: Marnoo, VIC, Australia

Submission

Good Evening,

I am the proud daughter of farmers who crop 6000 acres in the Northern Grampians Shire.

I have become aware of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuitoverhead 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;

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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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.

Thank you for reading this submission.

Matilda Hallam (formerly Douglas)

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P509

Name: Josh Pahl

Location: Penola, SA, Australia

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.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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: Josh Pahl

Location: Penola SA

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P510

Name: Campbell Spittle

Location: Marnoo, VIC, Australia

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.

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

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.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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: Campbell Spittle.

Location: Marnoo

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P513

Name: Armand Duxson

Location: Wallaloo East, VIC, Australia

Submission

I live on and operate our mixed cropping and livestock farm in Kanya and Wallaloo East. I am extremely distressed and saddened at finding our business and residential home in the potential pathway of these enormous transmission towers.

This is a fourth generation farm, the land has been meticulously cared for and nurtured, its value both as a business, to provide for our family and as a place of living and growing is paramount to our survival and happiness. We do not want the transmission lines to destroy the value of our land, reduce the productivity of our business or destroy the amenity of where we live. We definitely do not want to pass on land desecrated in such a way to the next generation if we can help it.

The powerlines will affect our farm business in many ways, all bad, the main ones are:

- the actual reduction in land value;
- the banks assessment of reduction in land value;
- loss of productive capacity;
- inability to use some 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;

Individual submission

VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- materials left on site causing damage to machinery and stock;
- damage to the local road network;
- increased bush fire risk;
- biosecurity breaches.

The RITT seems to be deliberately unclear and incomplete. The consultation in general by AEMO were such a deliberate waste of our time and effort, with zero information provided and no genuine attempt to engage with us.

Experts Professor Simon Bartlett AM and Professor Bruce Mountain's 118 page submission on the apparent non-compliances, major errors and lies in the RITT indicate a rouge agency that both State and Federal Governments need to remove from any position of power until an independent review of the RITT and into AEMO's apparent agenda to waste taxpayer money.

The report indicated that VNI West when estimated correctly will generate a net economic loss, meaning that electricity consumers will pay up to 3 x higher bills over the life of the project and beyond. This goes directly against the National Electricity Objective and is certainly contrary to governments claims that they are working at lowering electricity costs using renewable energy. It does not need to be built at ALL!!!!

I demand that AEMO's RITT and Professor Simon Bartlett AM and Bruce Mountain's submission are both independently reviewed. This is vital for correct and careful planning decisions to be made. Transmission is an expensive and a now outdated way of looking at electrical stability. Both State and Federal Governments need to get with the times and ensure that they don't build the 'biggest mistake in transmission planning in living history'. The independent review is necessary to ensure fairness for all affected parties but particularly for all consumers of whom this is supposed to benefit.

The MCA desktop assessment should only make up a small part of the selection criteria for a chosen route. The MCA does not capture the salient environmental, social and engineering factors which may impact on the timely development. We haven't even got the the actual MCA for us to comment on. This was another deliberate decision by AEMO to withhold this information and successfully stifle meaningful responses.

Environmentally it does not seem to allow for the large amount of flora and fauna in our area listed under EPBC, FFG and EVC such as Barking and Powerful Owls, Swift Parrots, Tree Goana, Striped Legless lizard and remnant Buloke Woodlands to name just a few. These and many more live on our farm land. The regular flooding of large section of our farm and general local area are another reason for transmission lines not to be built in this area.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

The main social issue is not rated in the MCA, social licence, of which AEMO, Vic Government and the entire project is failing terribly. Legitimacy is gone with the Ministerial Order under NEVA, credibility is gone with the complete lack of any real attempt to consult and trust cannot begin to be forged with such a woeful beginning.

The community has come together and will fight together to stop the progression of these transmission lines at every possible stage, stopping access to land and causing extensive delays and cost blow outs.

Armand Duxson

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P514

Name: Jacinta Whitfield

Location: Beaufort, 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!

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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: Jacinta Whitfield

Location: Beaufort VIC

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P515

Name: Kylie Hilton

Location: St Arnaud

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.

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Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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Name: Kylie Hilton

Location: St Arnaud

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P516

Name: Liana De Carli

Location: Wallaloo East, VIC, Australia

Submission

Only recently I have 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 my family owned and operated business. 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.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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 our property!

Liana De Carli

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P517

Name: Zane Bigmore

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- 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

Zane Bigmore, Sutherland/St Arnaud

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P518

Name: Vicki Bainbridge

Location: Wedderburn, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

My husband and I own 480 acres of land primarily used for cereal cropping in the Wychitella area of Victoria. The stubble is grazed by sheep after harvest.

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:

- Impact on the district's environment, local businesses, tourism and cultural heritage
- Independent academics report – stating it would be a huge mistake, costing taxpayer.
- decreased land value and loss of productive capacity.
- Inability to use tractors and machinery under powerlines.

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles.
- refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations.
- spread of weeds.
- greater fire risk
- damage to crops.
- Unsightly towers covering the landscape.

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.

Vicki Bainbridge, Wedderburn

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P519

Name: Andrew Bainbridge

Location: Wedderburn, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We operate a small land holding (just under 500 acres) on which we annually crop cereals by rotation. Due to the nature of our operation we are not in a position to graze livestock except by arrangement with others to agist the livestock of others seasonally following harvest.

Any large easement across our land will decimate our ability to operate the farm as we have for over 25 years.

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.

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

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
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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.

I am aware that eminent professionals have made public their opinions on the efficacy of this and the WRL project and question why the apparent rush and apparent secrecy of these projects without adequate consultation.

I reject the notion that compensation per se is limited. I have already been operating this farm land for longer than what I currently understand your compensation will last. The opportunity, while risky, to earn money from my land continues in perpetuity, your payments will cease at some point in the future. Yet the denial of my rights to use the land will continue in perpetuity, as will the opportunity to earn an income from it.

I urge you to publish the cost benefit analysis of the current project inclusive of realistic payments to farmers and alone with realistic costs to the environment, compared to the expected benefits of the proposal. If the proposal stacks up as well as you think it might you should not be concerned about the scrutiny.

Andrew Bainbridge

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P520

Name: David Hilton

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

VNI west powerline transmission Submission

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

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- Only to name a few of the basic destructive complications that the powerlines will have on the people who have to work and live with them!
- 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!

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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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: David Hilton

Location: St Arnaud

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P521

Name: Lachlan Douglas

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: Lachlan Douglas

Location: Gre Gre

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P522

Name: Paul Sanderson

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

My name is Paul Sanderson, and I am 5th Generation farmer. Our property stretches between St Arnaud and Charlton, and has been in our family since it was settled in the mid 1800's. This same area that you have proposed to construct extremely large transmission lines through.

I am truly concerned about the significant impact these will have on our farmland, our business and the wider community.

The potential impact to the profitability of our business, the environment and our community does not make Option 5 a viable option.

These are just a few potential impacts:

- Decreased land values
- Biosecurity risks through introduced weeds and diseases
- Loss of productive land, decreasing business profits and community wealth
- Inability to operate aircrafts and drones used for spraying, fertilising, surveillance and gps.
- Loss of gps and auto steer when operating in proximity
- Inability to irrigate
- Contamination to land throughout the building process and during inspection and maintenance
- Long term risk of exposure
- No insurance if damage has occurred to infrastructure
- Red tape complications when staff and contractors are operating near them
- Inability to use fire as a stubble reduction and herbicide resistance tool

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- Inability to fight bush fires within a proximity of the lines.
- Dividing small communities and causing angst and mental health issues
- Height restrictions on large farm equipment that is essential to the productivity gains required to run a modern day farming operation

We have invested large amounts of money and time into our businesses to ensure their continued existence by increasing productivity; overcoming serious issues we have faced such as controlling herbicide resistant weeds. All of which will be undone if large transmission lines are put through our farms.

The lack of consultation and information transfer is utterly disgusting and is unacceptable. AEMO have not provided clear information and guidelines in regards to the power lines and what we as farmer, landowners and neighbours can do when operating near them.

In addition to all these concerns, recent reports from Professor Simon Bartlett and Professor Bruce Mountain show there is no viability in these transmission lines and that it would be “a monumental mistake” if they were constructed.

With all of this taken into account, I am 100% against the proposed ‘Option 5’ transmission line project.

Regards,

Paul Sanderson

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P523

Name: Jim Craddock

Location: St Arnaud, 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 complicationsthat 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 Saturdaydo we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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!!!

Jim Craddock

St Arnaud

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P524

Name: Charlotte Sanderson

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Charlotte Sanderson, I am new to farming, marrying into the business in March of 2022 and farm with my husband Paul. Our property stretches between St Arnaud and Charlton, and has been in his family since it was settled in the mid 1800's, of which he and now, I, have great emotional ties to. I have seen the land be productive providing plentiful harvests of broad acre cereal crops in recent years. This same area, falls into the area that the Victorian Government and AEMO are proposing to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line. I am truly concerned about the significant impact these will have on our farmland, our business and wider community.

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

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

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

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

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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

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

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 believe that Option 5 is unviable and should not go ahead.

Regards,

Charlotte Sanderson

Charlton, VIC

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P525

Name: Sandra Craddock

Location: St Arnaud, 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 complicationsthat 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 Saturdaydo we? This could claim the lives and homes of many vulnerable people and animals again!

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

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!!!

Sandra Craddock

St Arnaud

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P526

Name: Chris, Karen, Oscar, Louis & Isaac Holt **Location:** Logan, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

We are a family with the 6th generation now farming our two family properties. All together we farm approx 5500 acres with 5500 sheep over 3 of the Shires in the Buloke, Loddon and Northern Grampians shires. We are Merino and Crossbred sheep farmers, with broad acre cropping such as Canola, Barley, Wheat, Oats and a variety of pastures. We farm both East & west of this proposed option 5. And have huge concerns for the current plan and any future builds.

Our kids in their 20's, are the 6th generational young farmers continuing the family tradition and it's heritage. We produce food and fibre for our country, and the world! This is taking land and opportunities away from our future & current farmers when we have been excellent caretakers of our land for the last 6 generations.

We have so many guidelines and processes to follow and comply with as primary producers, for the production of our stock and crops. This land will be under high threat of fire and bio security risks if this goes ahead. This goes against all that we strive for. It contradicts the guidelines and restrictions the Departments and Govt put upon us to be able to farm and then trade. This cannot be done to us without consulting, we have put hours days years and generations into farming for our country !

We became aware only a few weeks ago, of the Victorian Government and AEMO's proposal to construct a 500kv double-circuit overhead transmission line from Bulgana to New South Wales.

We are concerned by the potential negative impacts that transmission infrastructure will have on our farming operations and business.

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

We are also concerned that there is no information available to us about the compensation that would be provided because of the impacts on our farming operations including reduced production and decreased land

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

values. It is therefore impossible to provide an assessment on the costs to our business if the project was constructed on our land.

We believe the following issues will impact the 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.

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

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

Regards

Chris Karen Oscar Louis and Isaac Holt

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P527

Name: Karena Ross

Location: St Arnaud, VIC, Australia

Submission

Submission on the VNI West – Consultation Report

My name is Karena Ross. I have my own business in St Arnaud, and I also service the surrounding areas of Charlton, Wedderburn, Donald and Wycheproof. My Husband, my son, my father and brother all own or work for agriculture machinery businesses.

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, family and friends 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 family businesses and welfare of the people in our community. A negative impact on our farmers does not stop with them, it effects everybody.

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.

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 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

Karena Ross

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P528

Name: Ian Gould

Location: Richmond Plains, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: AEMO Powerlines

I run a 1200 hectare cropping and sheep property in central Victoria and the proposed powerlines pose a threat to my work and livelihood for the reasons stated below.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- * Inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- * Refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- * Spread of weeds;
- * Failure to close gates;
- * Damage to crops;
- * Materials left on site causing damage to machinery'

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

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

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

Ian Gould, Richmond Plains

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P529

Name: Julie Gould

Location: Richmond Plains, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: AEMO Powerlines

I run a 1200 hectare cropping and sheep property in central Victoria and the proposed powerlines pose a threat to my work and livelihood for the reasons stated below.

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;

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- * 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.

Julie Gould, Richmond Plains

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P530

Name: Ingrid Gould

Location: Richmond Plains, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: AEMO Powerlines

I run a 1200 hectare cropping and sheep property in central Victoria and the proposed powerlines pose a threat to my work and livelihood for the reasons stated below.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- * Inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- * Refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- * Spread of weeds;
- * Failure to close gates;
- * Damage to crops;
- * Materials left on site causing damage to machinery'

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

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

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

Ingrid Gould, Richmond Plains

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P531

Name: Hannah Johnston

Location: Richmond Plains, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: AEMO Powerlines

I run a 1200 hectare cropping and sheep property in central Victoria and the proposed powerlines pose a threat to my work and livelihood for the reasons stated below.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- * Inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- * Refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- * Spread of weeds;
- * Failure to close gates;
- * Damage to crops;
- * Materials left on site causing damage to machinery'

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

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

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

Hannah Johnston, Richmond Plains

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P532

Name: Sam Johnston

Location: Richmond Plains, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: AEMO Powerlines

I run a 1200 hectare cropping and sheep property in central Victoria and the proposed powerlines pose a threat to my work and livelihood for the reasons stated below.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- * Inability to utilize emerging technologies such as drones and autonomous vehicles;
- * Refusal to give notice or inform landholders what chemicals have been used on site causing issues with vendor declarations;
- * Spread of weeds;
- * Failure to close gates;
- * Damage to crops;
- * Materials left on site causing damage to machinery'

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

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

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

Sam Johnston, Richmond Plains

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P533

Name: Paigan Gould

Location: Richmond Plains, VIC, Australia

Submission

Subject: AEMO Powerlines

I run a 1200 hectare cropping and sheep property in central Victoria and the proposed powerlines pose a threat to my work and livelihood for the reasons stated below.

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

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.

Paigan Gould, Richmond Plains

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P133

Name: Confidential

Location: Confidential

Submission

Subject: Stakeholder comment

It is with great dissatisfaction that I only days ago learned of the proposed establishment of a major power line (understatement) through my local community. It is outrageous that the community is largely unaware of this and that the stakeholder feedback is required before people are actually fully informed regarding the likely position of the lines in regard to their properties and homes, and how this will impact their future work and lifestyle, property values etc. the stakeholder consultation should be extended to allow communities and individuals time to seek required information. This is not a minor change for small farming communities who rely on the land, the local businesses who require successful farms for their own income, and those who relocate to our areas for the quiet, and beautiful untouched feel....

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P005

Name: Confidential

Location: Confidential

Submission

Subject: Objection to VNI West Proposal

Good afternoon.

I would like to bring to your attention the environmental importance of the Patho Plains between Pyramid Hill and the Murray river near Gunbower.

The plains are a home for the critically endangered Plains Wanderer and the proposal to build a 500kv transmission line across this country will cause serious disruption to this important area that is nationally significant.

The original VNI west KerangLink **must** be maintained as the preferred route for many reasons;

- KerangLink traverses farmland with much of the area dewatered
- The soils are heavy clays and can be difficult to farm without water
- The land is mostly cleared and the environmental values low
- KerangLink has the most capacity. Why build a new line with half capacity? This makes no sense!

I trust common sense prevails and this development is built away from important environmental, residential and farming sites between Gunbower and Echuca.

Regards

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

SUBMISSION NUMBER: P040

Name: Gunta Bisenieks

Location: Buckrabanyule

Submission

Subject: Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)

Dear AEMO,

Re: VNI-West Overhead Transmission Lines

We are responding to the proposed development of the VNI-West overhead Transmission Lines from Bulgana, to Kerang in Victoria to Dinawan in New South Wales.

As residents living in Buckrabanyule and within the area of the Option 5 corridor of the proposed building of the overhead 500Kv transmission lines from Bulgana to Kerang, we vehemently oppose the overhead transmission project.

Although we are not farmers, we are residential landholders within the proposed project corridor as outlined in Option 5 of AEMO and Transgrid's most recent Consultation Report. We relocated to this area from Melbourne to enjoy a better quality of life with fresh air, unimpeded views of the countryside, appreciation of the environment, its ecological diversity and a tranquil lifestyle. Our objections to the overhead project are based on the following points:

- We find it difficult to reconcile the building of overhead transmission lines as a more cost effective energy project financially when ethically weighed against the legacy of the transmission towers which will impact residents, communities and the biodiverse environment for many years to come. This is not to mention the effects on the agricultural sector for farmers, their machinery, crops and livestock for the production of wool and meat. This would also affect emergency services, in particular, air ambulance and aerial fire support.
- Considering the significant focus on renewable energies, and rightly so, why then revert to ageing standards and technology in the installation of overhead lines just because they are more cost effective and easier to build? Although this approach suits financially invested and other stakeholders, it appears to be a regressive and short term view for future energy infrastructure ventures. The energy industry has for many years profited very well from consumers via their ever increasing utility costs - may be it is time to restore the imbalance, enhance integrity and improve community relationships. Although not ideal, an underground cabling transmission would be more preferable to the proposed 50m to 80m structures obstructing uninterrupted views and safer for the environment, people and wildlife using the land.

Individual submission

VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

- As you would be aware, energy transmission in many European countries already encompasses submarine and underground transmission infrastructure. The Danish Viking-Link development is a 765Km long interconnector link with Britain and Denmark with onshore and offshore cabling.ⁱ The German A-Nord HVDC Underground Power Transmission Project utilizes an underground cabling system linking the north of Lower Saxony to North Rhine-Westphalia for a distance of 300Km.ⁱⁱ The SuedLink project, also in Germany, will be 100% underground cabling covering a distance of 700Km from northern Germany to Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg in highly variable terrain.ⁱⁱⁱ The Netherlands have already adopted changes to their Electricity Supply Structure Plans and, in 2010, capped the total length of overhead transmission and distribution network - *“These days, every new kilometer of aerial line must be compensated by changing a corresponding length at a different location from aerial into underground cables—a compensation principle.”*^{iv} These are already part of legislated and European practices for transmission lines.
- In this day and age, we already have high volume gas transmission lines, water transmission pipes, telecommunication cables which are all installed below ground, yet, the high power voltage lines are still persistently built above ground which poses a greater risk to the environment, productivity and health and safety concerns. Within the CBD and urban areas of Melbourne and other Victorian towns, high and low transmission lines are being relocated from overhead to below ground. Housing developments are also designating all utilities underground. Why then is this proposed venture prepared to utilize antiquated infrastructure in the form of overhead transmission lines?
- Some areas of the proposed Option 5 corridor are also highly flood prone which local history can attest to. Flood insurance has greatly increased since inundation in areas that are designated flood zones and we do not wish or need to pay additional or increased premiums for bushfire insurance as well.
- We already experience extreme weather events and there is no guarantee that these will not increase in the future. We are already subjected to lightning strikes causing fires, gale force winds, fluctuations in seasonal temperatures sometimes into the high 40’s in summer and desert cold winters at times below 0^o with dirt roads becoming impassable after heavy rains. We have noticed the increase in frequency and intensity of these weather events since we first relocated to this area 15 years ago.
- There is also the environmental impact on the area. It may just look like areas that are *“treeless”* in parts, however, even these areas are home to a diversity of flora and fauna. The area bereft of trees still sustains life and is the inherent habitat for animals and birds including protected Wedge Tailed Eagles. Recommendations stated as *‘best management practices’* in The Energy Alliance Grid brochure state *“Network planners should conduct habitat risk assessment or predictive relative abundance modeling to define the likelihood of eagle presence at any particular location and develop the most appropriate avoidance strategy.”*^v Furthermore, mention is also made of disturbances to the eagle whether audible or visible even from hundreds of metres away can affect their nesting habits i.e. in leaving their chicks and/or leaving the area for years maybe never to return. *“Commercial development near nesting habitat -*

Individual submission



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This can include construction of renewable energy facilities and associated infrastructure such as overhead transmission.^{vi} It is already well documented of the impact that wind turbines have had on these magnificent birds as well as other bird life. We also have populations of protected Owls, Falcons, Kytes and Cockatoos in this area as well as many other bird species. Farmers dams and paddocks also abound plentiful with animal life during the different stages and seasons of agriculture.

- No amount of financial compensation is adequate to compensate for the loss of wildlife or lifestyle or for the decrease in land and residential value now or into the future if overhead transmission lines are built. What financial compensation is offered now and over the coming years could also be contributed towards the cost of the underground version. The legacy remaining after 25 years, will still be an ugly spectacle on the landscape. The real value and net benefit in this area is the lifestyle and environment itself which also incorporates visual amenity.
- The issue of cultural heritage for indigenous and non-indigenous peoples also needs to be seriously addressed, respected and appreciated. In sensitive areas, underground trenching can easily be diverted around these sites and zones and are less imposing on the landscape than transmission towers.
- No guarantees or advice regarding testing has been given on the effects either of interruptions or interference of overhead transmission lines on technologies of farming machinery and practices or local telecommunications including satellite connections, public and personal medical apparatuses and health issues.
- We also are concerned about the lack of detailed information and community engagement for this venture. Our first knowledge of the project in this area was by word of mouth and a leaflet from the local Community House received only a few days ago in the letter box. We have never received a notice from the Buloke Shire Council or yourselves. What information was found after the fact was for webinars, meeting, briefings etc. that were conducted during late February/March in a number of regions and all, bar two, were offered during the day whilst most people were at work. This wouldn't appear to capture a broad section of the community and webinars did not, apparently, allow for questions or discussions with presenters. The only information from the Buloke Shire Council was a small notice of a few lines on their website advising of the proposed project and an email address for AEMO for submissions.

In conclusion, we now pose a question – how many executives and employees within the energy industry live within 300m or in close proximity of high voltage overhead transmission lines/towers? The data would be interesting!

We thank you for the opportunity to provide our personal views and comments in response to the proposed NWI-West Transmission Lines project.

Kind regards,

Individual submission



VNI West – Additional Consultation Report

Gunta Bisenieks & Peter Zabarauskas
Buckrabanyule

ⁱ [Viking Link Interconnector \(viking-link.com\)](http://viking-link.com) – Accessed 31.03.2023

ⁱⁱ [A-Nord HVDC Underground Power Transmission Project, Germany \(nsenergybusiness.com\)](http://nsenergybusiness.com) – Accessed 01/04/2023

ⁱⁱⁱ [World's longest underground transmission line will transport wind energy to Germany's grid \(renewableenergyworld.com\)](http://renewableenergyworld.com) – Accessed 01/04/2023

^{iv} [Going Underground: European Transmission Practices \(power-grid.com\)](http://power-grid.com) – Accessed 01/04/2023

^v [Transmission Line Threat to Wedge-tailed Eagles.cdr \(energygridalliance.com.au\)](http://energygridalliance.com.au) – Accessed 01/04/2023

^{vi} [Transmission Line Threat to Wedge-tailed Eagles.cdr \(energygridalliance.com.au\)](http://energygridalliance.com.au) – Accessed 01/04/2023