

Dinawan substation

Updates to support future energy connections

July 2026
Amendment Report

Introduction

How updates to the expansion may affect the site and surrounding area

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share feedback, ask questions and participate in the VNI West (NSW) consultation process so far. We have finalised planning activity for the project to support the environmental assessment.

VNI West is a proposed new 500 kV double-circuit overhead transmission line that will connect the electricity networks in New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria.

This factsheet provides an overview of the proposed amendments relating to Dinawan substation expansion works, which form part of Stage 1 of the project*.

*For more information on Dinawan substation expansion works, refer to Chapter 3 of the Amendment Report.

Where planning has progressed to

Since the public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in August 2025, Transgrid has further refined the project based on community and stakeholder feedback, as well as ongoing design and technical requirements.

These proposed amendments and refinements have been assessed in an Amendment Report submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) alongside a Submissions Report responding to issues raised during the EIS exhibition period.

These updates form part of the final stage of the planning approval process.

What changes are covered

The Dinawan substation expansion was assessed as part of the EIS.

Since exhibition, we’ve undertaken further assessment to reflect the updated project footprint and proposed refinements.

This includes changes relating to:

- expansion of the 500 kV switchyard footprint
- additional electrical infrastructure to support connections from renewable energy generation projects in the South West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)
- modifications to the existing 330 kV substation
- updates to construction areas, including workforce accommodation and construction compounds and access requirements
- assessment of construction activities, and updating environmental, land use and operational considerations associated with the expanded footprint.

Changes to the Dinawan substation since the EIS

The EIS proposed Dinawan substation expansion works to support the project.

Since exhibition, discussions with EnergyCo confirmed the need to support connections between future renewable developments within

the South West REZ and the transmission network. This requires additional infrastructure at Dinawan substation.

The table below compares what was proposed in the EIS with the updated scope of works:

What was presented in the EIS	What has been updated as part of the Amendment Report
The EIS proposed a new 500 kV switchyard (requiring around 17 hectares) to be constructed adjacent to the Dinawan 330 kV switchyard. The 500 kV switchyard includes: • two 500 kV/330 kV transformers • six shunt reactors (equipment that helps stabilise electricity voltage across the transmission lines during load changes, particularly at times of lower electricity demand) • a range of supporting 500 kV electrical, control and protection systems • minor modifications to the 330 kV switchyard.	The scope of works at Dinawan substation has expanded from around 17 hectares to approximately 20 hectares. The amended project would expand the 500 kV switchyard area (as described in the EIS) to include: • an additional 500 kV/330 kV transformer • additional supporting 500 kV electrical, control and protection systems. The amended project would also include modifications to the Dinawan 330 kV switchyard to support the South West REZ expansion works, including: • expansion of the 330 kV switchyard area to allow for the connection of the South West REZ transmission lines • supporting 330 kV electrical components • additional earthworks, drainage, fencing and access works. The amended project also describes how the temporary worker accommodation and construction compound area at the Dinawan substation site will feature a layout different to the EnergyConnect layout, to allow for the future connections from renewable energy generation projects.

What this means for landholders and the community

- The overall substation footprint has increased to accommodate additional infrastructure
- Some construction areas, including workforce accommodation and compounds, have been expanded or reconfigured
- Additional infrastructure will support connections to renewable energy projects in the South West REZ
- Construction activity will remain within the broader project area assessed through planning
- Individual impacts will continue to be managed through ongoing engagement and site-specific planning.





Figure: Dinawan substation during construction of EnergyConnect. The proposed 500 kV substation will be located to the right of the 330 kV substation.

How the project will be delivered

VNI West is proposed to be delivered in two stages. This staging reflects the opportunity to connect renewable energy projects in the South West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) as soon as practical, and to also align with a schedule delay announced by VNI West in Victoria.

Stage 1

Stage 1 of the project is being developed in conjunction with Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo), as part of EnergyCo's South West Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure Project (or South West RNIP). This stage is expected to start in mid-2027 and take about two years to complete. It includes:

- the expansion of Dinawan substation to manage both the 500 kV network and additional infrastructure to facilitate connections from the South West REZ.
- a planned upgrade to approximately nine kilometres of Transmission Line 51 at Gregadoo, between the existing Wagga 330 kV substation and the future Gugaa 500 kV substation. Additionally, Transgrid will undertake reconfiguration work at both Wagga 330 kV and Gugaa 500 kV substations resulting in a 500 kV connection between Gugaa and Dinawan, and maintain continuity of 330 kV supply along Transmission Line 51 to Tumut.

Stage 2

Stage 2 of the project is expected to start in mid-2028 and be complete in late 2030, and includes:

- construction of a new 500 kV transmission line between Dinawan substation and the NSW-Victorian border.
- new electrical equipment to be installed at the existing Wagga 330 kV substation (Ashfords Road, Gregadoo), with additional civil and earthwork at the substation site to support this equipment installation. The equipment planned to be installed are shunt reactors, which helps manage voltage changes in the network.

What happens next

The VNI West (NSW) EIS, Amendment Report, and Submissions Report have been submitted to the NSW DPHI for review before a determination is made.

If approved, the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces will issue the Conditions of Approval for construction and operation of VNI West Stages 1 and 2 (described above). The Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water will also review the determination and decide whether to grant approval, including any additional Conditions.



Get in touch

If you have questions or would like more information, please get in touch.

We're committed to keeping you informed and are available if you have questions.

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