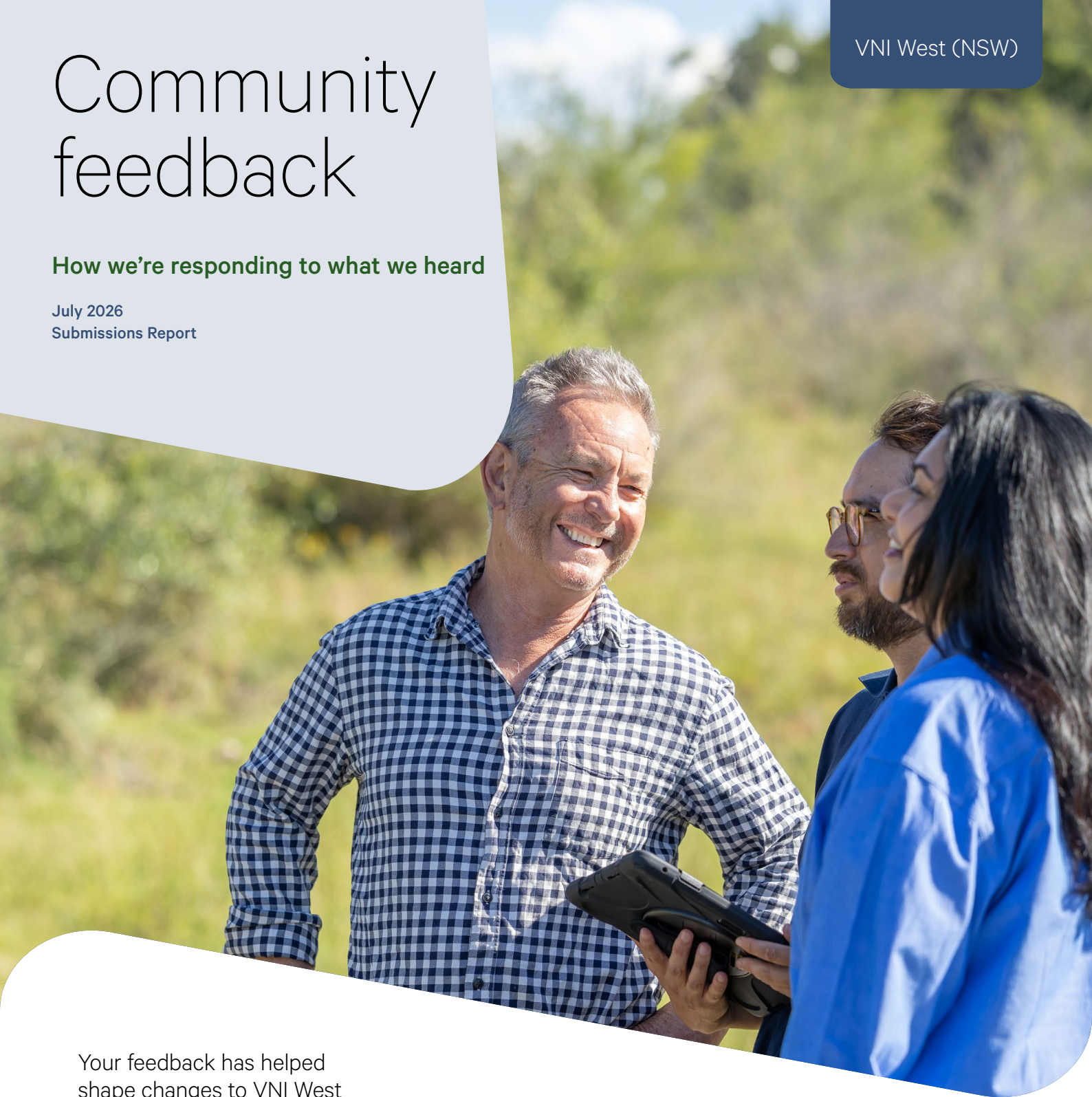


Community feedback

VNI West (NSW)

How we're responding to what we heard

July 2026
Submissions Report



Your feedback has helped shape changes to VNI West

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.

The project is progressing towards the final stages of planning in support of the environmental assessment.

Based on your feedback during the public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in August 2025, and to address further design and technical requirements of the project we've:

- considered issues raised in submissions and written feedback
- refined parts of the project design and construction approach
- updated mitigation and management measures where potential impacts have changed, including biodiversity, transport and cultural heritage.

We have also made commitments across a number of direct concerns, including, Property Management Plans (directly affected landholders), a Biodiversity Offset Strategy, Community Wellbeing Strategy, Community Investment and Benefits Plan, Bushfire Emergency Management Plan, road upgrade and maintenance programs, workforce and local industry participation initiatives. We also remain committed to ongoing engagement through detailed design and delivery.

This fact sheet provides a summary of what we heard during the EIS exhibition period and how we're responding.

Who we heard from during the EIS exhibition

VNI West is a proposed new 500 kV double-circuit overhead transmission line connecting the electricity networks in New South Wales and Victoria.

Between 1 August and 29 August 2025 the VNI West (NSW) EIS was placed on public exhibition by NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). During this period, Transgrid held 16 drop-in community information sessions across the project area to share information and encourage participation in the EIS process.

Following these sessions, DPHI received 144 submissions in response to the EIS. This included submissions from 21 government agencies / public authorities, the four local councils (Edward River, Murray River, Murrumbidgee and Wagga Wagga), and 119 from community members (including landholders) and local community organisations.

How we've structured our responses to issues raised

We received feedback on the need for the project, impacts on farming operations, biodiversity, visual impacts, community wellbeing and bushfire risk. These issues helped shape further refinements to the project and informed our response.

We've brought together the feedback submissions received into a single Submissions Report that includes two main approaches to organise issues raised and outline how we're responding:

- Submissions from Government agencies and Councils are responded to individually, addressing each issue raised
- Issues noted in submissions from community and community organisations are aggregated, and a single response is provided on each of the issues raised.

The Submissions Report should be read in conjunction with the Amendment Report, which documents the specific refinements and changes made to the proposed project since the EIS went on public exhibition.



The Submissions Report, Amendment Report, and each of the submissions received are publicly available on the DPHI Major Projects Planning Portal.

What we heard through submissions

Government agency and public authority

Submissions from government agencies and public authorities raised issues generally focused on matters within its regulatory responsibilities or assets being managed, rather than expressing overall support or opposition to the project.

Government agencies considered the project's impacts to be manageable, provided that:

- mitigation measures proposed are implemented
- consultation and engagement continues
- adaptive management occurs during detailed design and delivery.

In response, we've refined the project design, with additional and revised mitigation measures incorporated into the Amendment Report to address issues relating to biodiversity, water, biosecurity, transport, cultural heritage, emergency management, infrastructure interactions and cumulative impacts. In addition, we're continuing our commitment to ongoing agency engagement, revising construction and traffic arrangements, and adopting an adaptive management approach during detailed design and construction.

More information on the issues raised by government agencies and public authorities as well as the responses can be found in Chapter 5 of the Submissions Report.

Local council

Councils focused their submissions on managing impacts within their local government responsibilities. The primary concerns raised were:

- Roads and transport
- Worker accommodation and housing
- Water supply
- Local economic benefits and employment
- Environmental impacts
- Cumulative impacts from multiple, concurrent infrastructure projects.

Transgrid is committed to ongoing engagement and sharing additional technical details to ensure project impacts on local infrastructure, services and communities are appropriately managed.

More information on the issues raised by Councils as well as the responses can be found in Chapter 6 of the Submissions Report.

Community and organisation submissions

Of the community submissions, about half were received from the Riverina-Murray region (including border towns on the Murray River), with the following geographic spread:

- 89 submissions from NSW
- 22 submissions from Victoria
- five submissions from Queensland
- three submissions from South Australia.

We recognise many submissions expressed concern about the project's impacts and showed strong opposition, with the dominant themes being:

- Need for the project and cost justification
- Impacts on agriculture and farming businesses, including biosecurity
- Biodiversity and vegetation clearing, particularly potential impacts on threatened species and ecological communities
- Community wellbeing and social impacts
- Bushfire and safety concerns
- Cumulative impacts from multiple energy projects
- Visual impacts, both during construction and in operation
- Local jobs and economic opportunities
- Aboriginal heritage protection
- Route selection and alternatives.

In order to address community concerns, we've identified four key focus areas:

- avoidance and minimisation of impacts through project design refinements,
- property-specific management measures,
- long-term environmental and social management programs, and
- ongoing engagement with landholders, communities, councils and government agencies.

More information on the issues raised by community as well as the responses can be found in Chapter 7 of the Submissions Report.

Project changes and refinements

How we're planning to reduce impact and improve outcomes

July 2026

Amendment Report



Summary of changes as a result of your feedback

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.

The project is progressing towards the final stages of planning in support of the environmental assessment.

Based on your feedback during the public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in August 2025, and to address further design and technical requirements of the project we've:

- considered issues raised in submissions and written feedback
- refined parts of the project design and construction approach
- updated mitigation and management measures where potential impacts have changed.

What's driving the need for changes

Since the public exhibition of the EIS, we've been working to reduce potential impacts, improve constructibility and ensure that the project remains aligned with broader network and renewable energy developments.

Transgrid has identified several project refinements and proposed amendments to support these outcomes.

The proposed amendments and refinements respond to:

- feedback received from community, stakeholders and landholders during and after the public exhibition of the EIS
- issues raised through written feedback in the EIS submissions
- ongoing project design and construction planning
- coordination with Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) regarding infrastructure requirements to support the South West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)
- the timing and impact of the Victorian section of VNI West.

What do we mean by 'amendments' and 'refinements'

A project amendment is a proposed change to the legal scope of what we are seeking approval for.

A project refinement is a smaller adjustment that fits within the existing boundaries of the project description.

The Submissions Report should be read together with the Amendment Report, which documents the specific refinements and changes made to the proposed project since the EIS went on public exhibition. Both reports, and each of the submissions received, are publicly available on the DPHI Major Projects Planning Portal:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/victoria-nsw-interconnector-west>.

Summary of amendments and refinements

What's been amended

Compared with the project described in the EIS, we are proposing several amendments to support network performance, future renewable energy development and construction requirements. These include:

- additional infrastructure at the future Dinawan substation to support the integration of renewable energy from the South West REZ, including an additional 500 kV transformer, new 330 kV switch bays, and associated electrical equipment and systems.
- additional electrical equipment at the existing Wagga 330 kV substation to improve voltage stability and network efficiency, including two new shunt reactors, supporting earthworks, and a new internal access road connected to Ashfords Road.
- additional road upgrades, intersection improvements and cattle grid upgrades to support construction traffic, improve road safety and accommodate heavy and oversize overmass (OSOM) vehicles during construction.

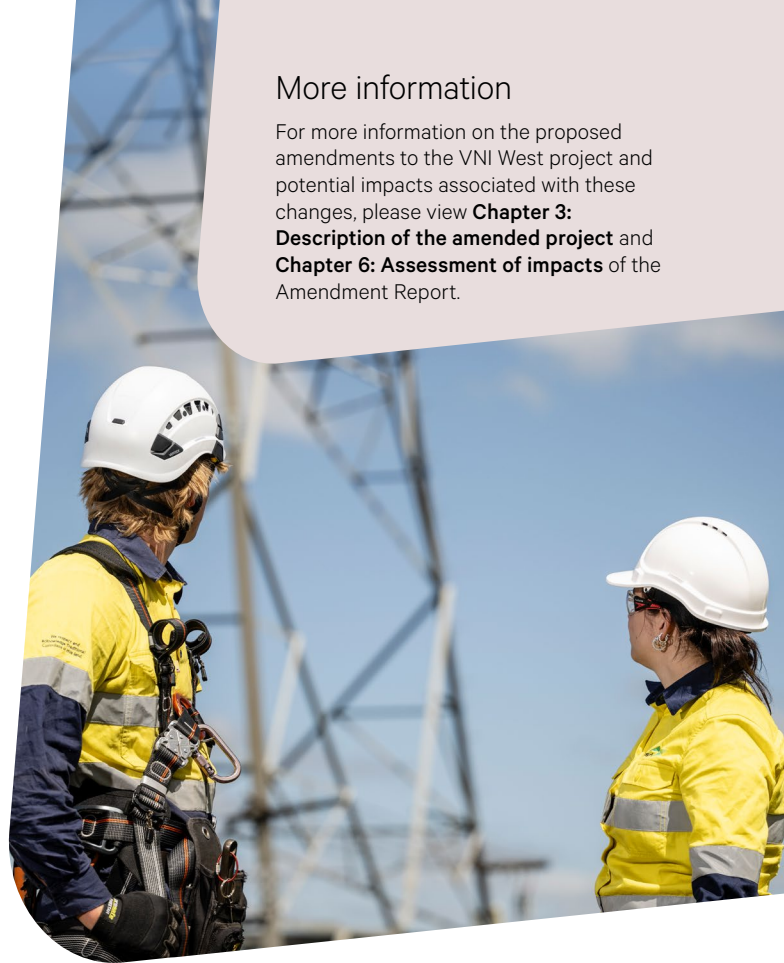
What's been refined

These items were already included within the EIS and have been refined to improve project outcomes and potentially reduce impact. The proposed refinements to the EIS include:

- *Temporary construction facilities* – we've changed how we propose to provide temporary worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds. This includes assessing new sites, some sites being removed and relocated, and the two Cobb Highway facilities combined into one. This reconfiguration aims to reduce the overall footprint and improve construction efficiency. The Amendment Report also describes desktop assessment undertaken to consider an accommodation facility near Tarcutta. This option is no longer being pursued as an option following stakeholder and community feedback.
- *Project footprint refinements* - the indicative disturbance footprint has been refined to help minimise impacts on landholders, properties and existing infrastructure. This has included adjustments to transmission line infrastructure locations, such as tower locations, temporary work locations including brake and winch sites, and other ancillary infrastructure.
- *Access track refinement and rationalisation* – we've refined track locations across both the 500 kV and 330 kV (network upgrade work at Wagga) to improve constructibility, reduce the extent of disturbance and optimise long-term operational access requirements.
- *Construction staging updates* – to deliver the project in two stages to better support ongoing delivery of renewable energy projects associated with the South West REZ as well as better reflect the timing of, and connection to, the VNI West (Victoria) project.
- *Construction access routes and OSOM haulage routes* – following additional consultation with local councils and Transport for NSW, and ongoing construction planning, changes have been made to use more suitable transport routes and minimise potential traffic impacts. These include revised access routes to project locations, updated transport arrangements for major equipment and changes to the ports from which OSOM equipment may be delivered.

More information

For more information on the proposed amendments to the VNI West project and potential impacts associated with these changes, please view **Chapter 3: Description of the amended project** and **Chapter 6: Assessment of impacts** of the Amendment Report.



How we've updated mitigation and management to accommodate changes

Stakeholder feedback has directly informed many of the mitigation measures and design refinements.

The amendments and refinements proposed in the Amendment Report do not fundamentally change the project's overall impact profile. Where potential impacts have changed, we've updated mitigation measures and project management frameworks to avoid, minimise or manage impacts.

These updated mitigation measures are included in Appendix C of the Amendment Report.

What happens next

The VNI West (NSW) EIS, Amendment Report, and Submissions Report have been submitted to the NSW DPPI 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 of VNI West Stages 1 and 2.

Following this decision, the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water will 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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Want to stay updated?

To learn more about upcoming consultations and explore more information on VNI West in NSW, please visit transgrid.com.au/vniw or scan the QR code.

