

# VNI West Project Update Brochure

## Draft Route Report - NSW



The Victoria to NSW Interconnector West – known as VNI West – is a proposed new 500kV double circuit transmission line connecting the high voltage electricity grids in New South Wales and Victoria. The project is part of Transgrid's program to build the future grid and reliably transition to a clean energy future.



People. Power. Possibilities.



What is the project?

The construction of VNI West and other major projects like EnergyConnect and HumeLink will enable the integration of renewables, reducing carbon emissions and drive down wholesale electricity prices.

VNI West is being jointly developed with Transmission Company Victoria and will connect major projects EnergyConnect in NSW and Western Renewables Link in Victoria.

The preferred option runs from Transgrid’s Dinawan substation north of Jerilderie in NSW to new substations proposed near Kerang and Bulgana in Victoria.

What is an interconnector?

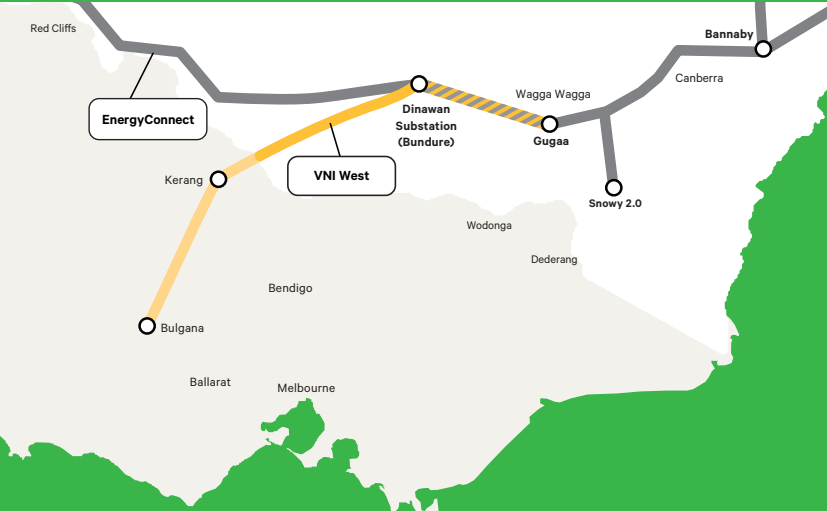
An electricity interconnector is a connection that allows power to flow in both directions between regions in the National Electricity Market (NEM), providing access to a larger number of electricity generators and greater ability to meet varying demand where and when it is needed most.

Where will VNI West be located?

Transgrid has identified a preferred route where the new transmission line could be located in NSW. This route is up to 2km wide and is located between:

- the ‘Dinawan’ substation, north of Jerilderie, being built as part of EnergyConnect
- the Murray River, north of Kerang (Victoria).

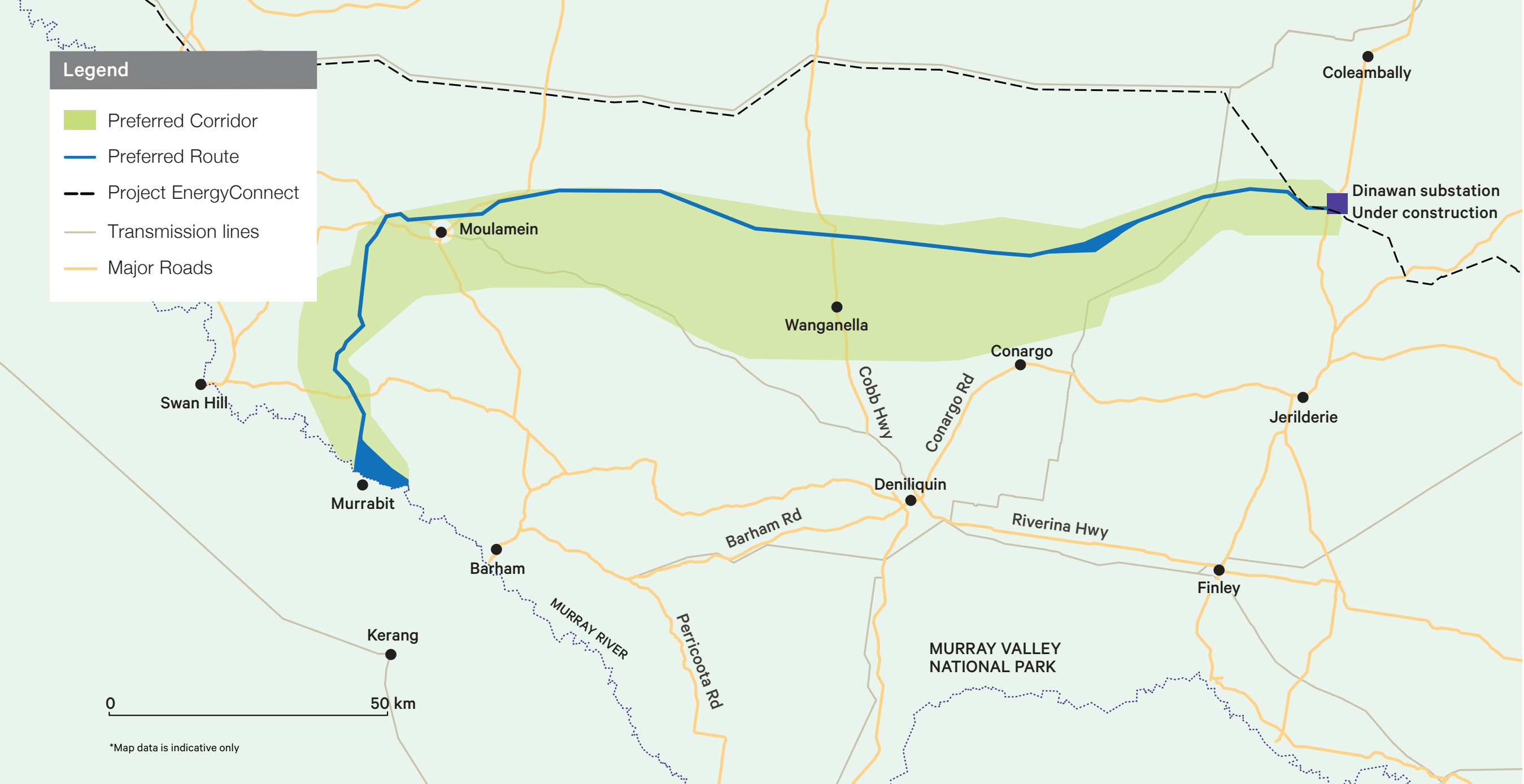
The next stage of the route development involves undertaking appropriate environmental assessment of the preferred route.



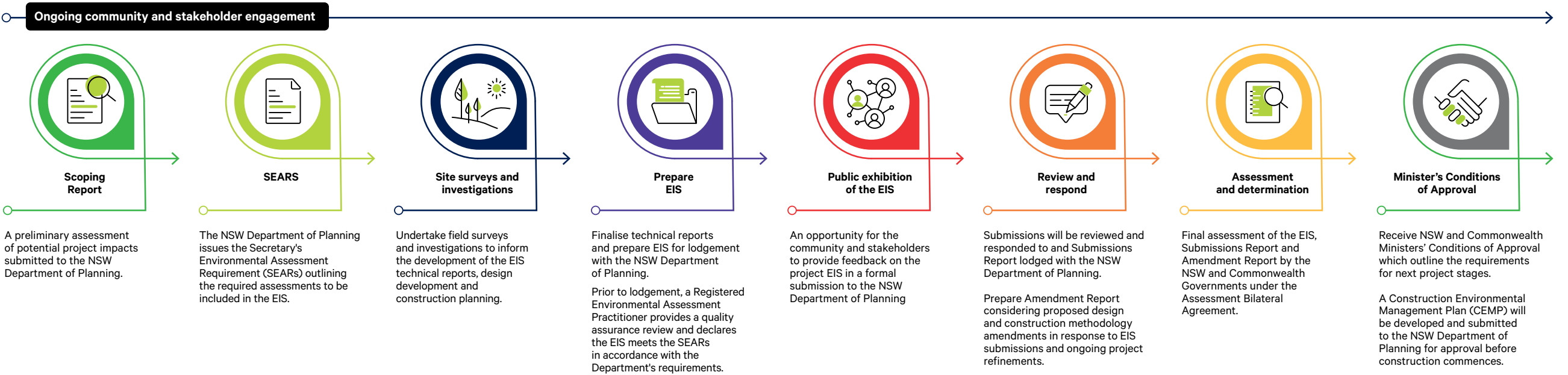
Why is the project needed?

VNI West will provide a vital new transmission connection that harnesses clean electricity from Renewable Energy Zones in NSW and Victoria. The project will help deliver the high-capacity transmission backbone needed to transform the NEM and support the transition to a clean energy future, as coal fired power stations close. VNI West will:

- increase in the capacity to share electricity between NSW and Victoria
- improve the reliability and security of electricity supply in both states
- increase access to renewable energy sources
- create an economic boost for regional communities through the provision of jobs, training and local supply opportunities
- help achieve renewable energy targets and the overall decarbonisation of the NEM, while continuing to deliver safe, reliable and affordable electricity to consumers.



Next steps in the approval process



How to Make a Submission

If you would like to make a submission on the draft route report, you can do so by:

- Sending us an email at [VNIW@transgrid.com.au](mailto:VNIW@transgrid.com.au)
- Writing to us at PO Box A1000, Sydney South, NSW 1235

You can decide whether to have your submission published, or have your name withheld. Personal details will be managed in accordance with Transgrid's privacy policy.

Why this Route?

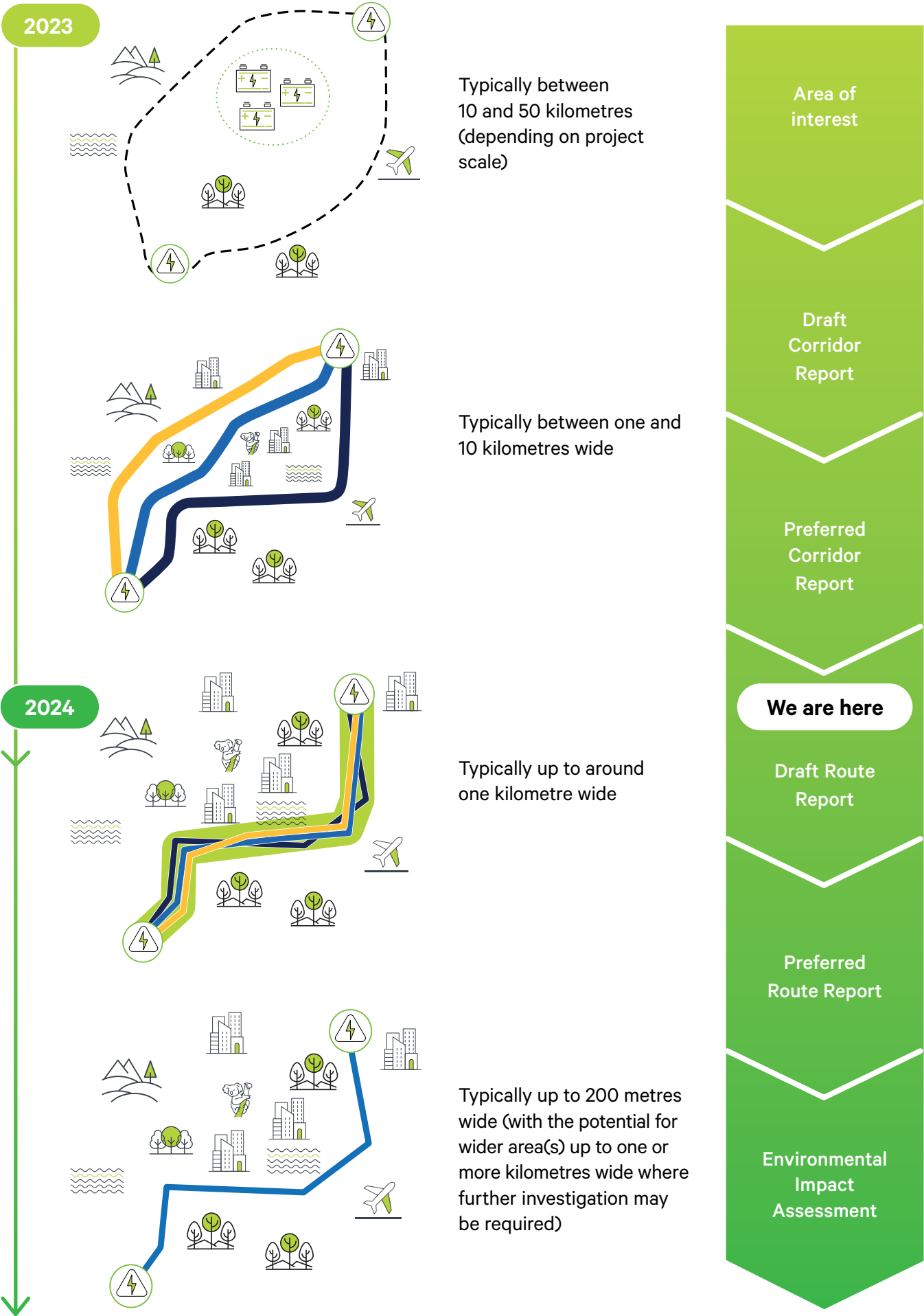
In the route selection process we determined a preferred route with review of the following themes:

- Technical**  
To find a reasonably direct route and avoid challenging technical conditions so we don't end up building unnecessarily long infrastructure, or using complex engineering solutions, which energy consumers will pay for.
- Environment**  
To protect important areas of biodiversity, like protected habitats, national parks and state forests.
- Community**  
To minimise potential impacts to the community and landholders.
- Aboriginal heritage**  
To protect and preserve known and potential Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and areas of Indigenous importance.
- Minimising loss of agricultural production**  
To protect important areas of agricultural operations with a focus on irrigated agriculture.

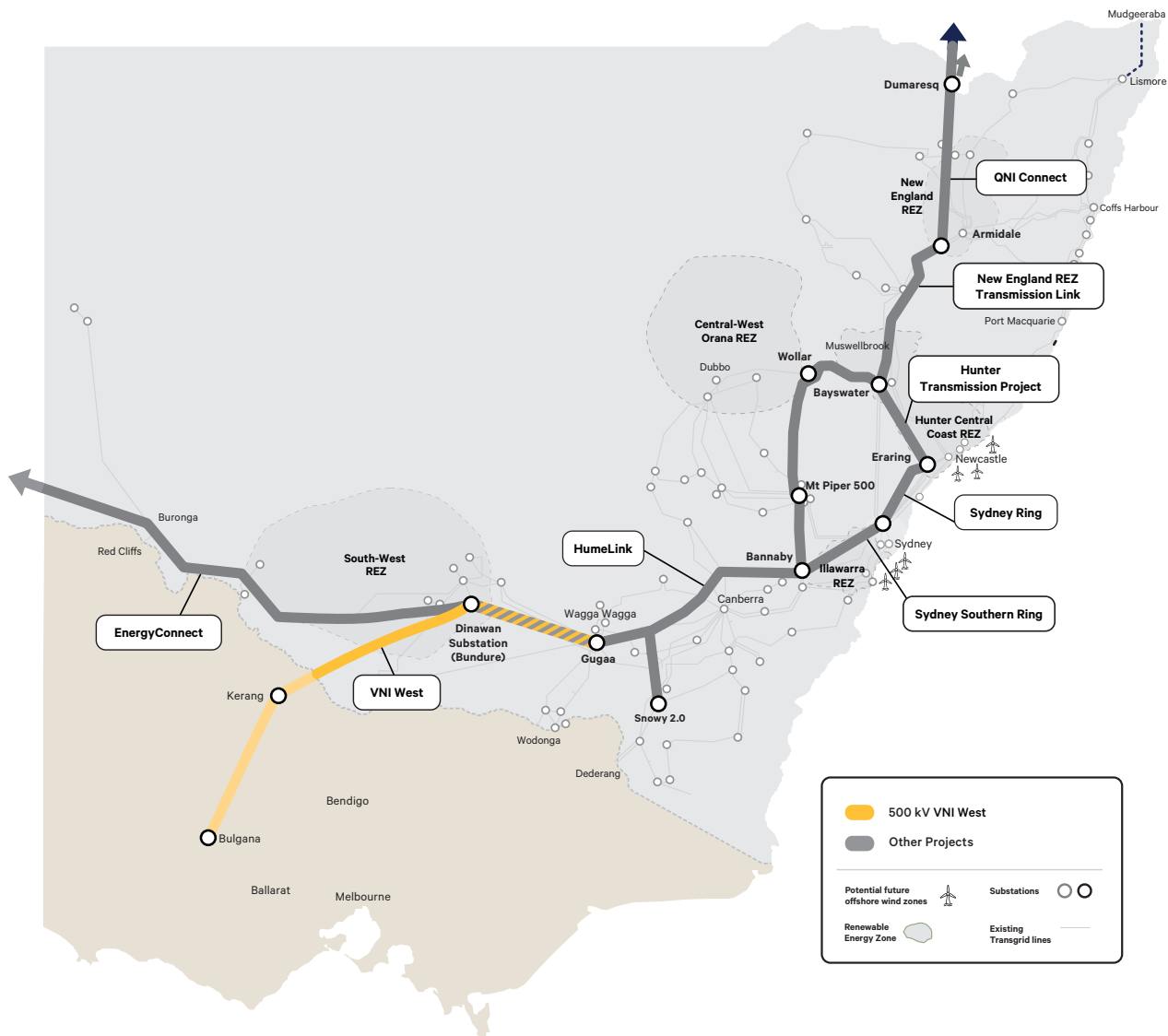
The preferred route runs in a north-south direction from the NSW/Victoria border towards the west of the Moulamein township before turning east around the north of the town. The route then travels in a generally east-west direction to the Dinawan substation, north of Jerilderie, following existing infrastructure such as Maude Road, Wanganella Moulamein Road, Mabins Well Road and existing property boundaries. The preferred route was selected for the following reasons. It will:

- Be in proximity to the least number of houses, providing the greatest opportunity to minimise visual disturbance.
- Have the lowest impact on irrigated agricultural lands, by following existing assets like railway corridors, roads, travelling stock routes and existing property fence lines.
- Have the least impact on previously identified Aboriginal sites.
- Have fewer impacts on existing waterways.
- Be further away from sensitive ecological environments, such as the wetlands associated with the Werai State Forest and other areas of the Edward-Wakool River Catchment.
- Have the least potential impact on the protected habitats of the endangered Plains Wanderer.

# Route selection process



# VNI West - part of the Integrated System Plan



\*Diagram shows NSW projects. Full ISP available at [www.aemo.com.au](http://www.aemo.com.au)



Scan the QR code for the draft route report.

## Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities through the development of VNI West. Please connect with us for more information.



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