



# VNI West Community Consultative Group

**Meeting 6 – 29 August 2024  
Jerilderie**

## Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri, Wamba Wamba, Perrepa Perrepa and Yorta Yorta people as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today.

We pay respect to Elders past and present.



# Agenda

Time	Agenda item	Time allocated	Presenter
9:45 – 10:00	Morning tea	10 mins	
10:00 -10:05	Acknowledgement of Country	5 mins	Brendan Blakeley
10:05 – 10:10	Welcome, introductions and housekeeping and review of previous minutes	5 mins	Brendan Blakeley
10:20 – 11:20	What are you hearing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councils’ response to Scoping Report – Edward River, Murrumbidgee and Murray River Council</li> <li>• Telecommunications and emergency services along the corridor</li> <li>• Roads and infrastructure</li> </ul>	60 mins	Brendan Blakeley
11:20 – 11:50	Project Director’s Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transmission Line Corridor – Wardia Kessal</li> <li>• Murray River Border Crossing update – Nathan Menser</li> <li>• CCG Recruitment – Reem Nasr</li> </ul>	30 mins	Colin Mayer
11:50 – 12:50	Community investment and benefits update	60 Mins	Paul McFadyen
12:55 - 1:00pm	Wrap up and close	5 Mins	Brendan Blakeley

# Review of Meeting 5 minutes and action items



# Action items

Agenda item	Description	Person responsible	Status
2. Project Director's update	ACTION: Provide link to all AER VNI West CPA and Humelink CPA	Secretary	Completed and included in agenda and minutes under Resources
	Question: Land tax – clarify how land tax applies to Transgrid property assets (freehold and easements) Question: Depreciation of property assets – is there an inbuilt tax concession associated with depreciation of easement interests Question: Is your depreciation put into a sinking fund?	Secretary	In simple terms the easements form part of the overall project cost which TG will receive a fixed return. The easement is a property right acquired over land whilst the physical land remains in the landowner's ownership. The easement is treated as an asset, but its value does not change from its purchase price. Unlike land, easements are not a saleable asset.
	Provide a full list of channels that CCG can continue to request telecommunications support.	Secretary	Provided separately – with meeting agenda
3. What are you hearing?	ACTION: Follow up with Alison Glenn on unresolved Landowner query	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager	Closed out with AG
	ACTION: Follow up with Alison Glenn on landowner discomfort/concerns with recent engagement	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager	Closed out with AG and landowner
4. Working with Landowner's	ACTION: Provide indicative timing on land access/acquisition program (Slide: where are we up to?)	Property Team	Provided separately – with meeting agenda
	ACTION: Follow up with EnergyConnect team on any tax work undertaken	Property Team	No general (project wide) tax work undertaken on EnergyConnect that the team is aware of.
	ACTION: breakdown of what was included in CPA1	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager	Provided separately with meeting agenda
7. Social Impact assessment and Community benefits	Question regarding extending invitation to local Members of Parliament.	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager	Response provided in Minutes.

What are you hearing?

Brendan Blakeley



# Project Director's update

## Colin Mayer



# Project Director's update

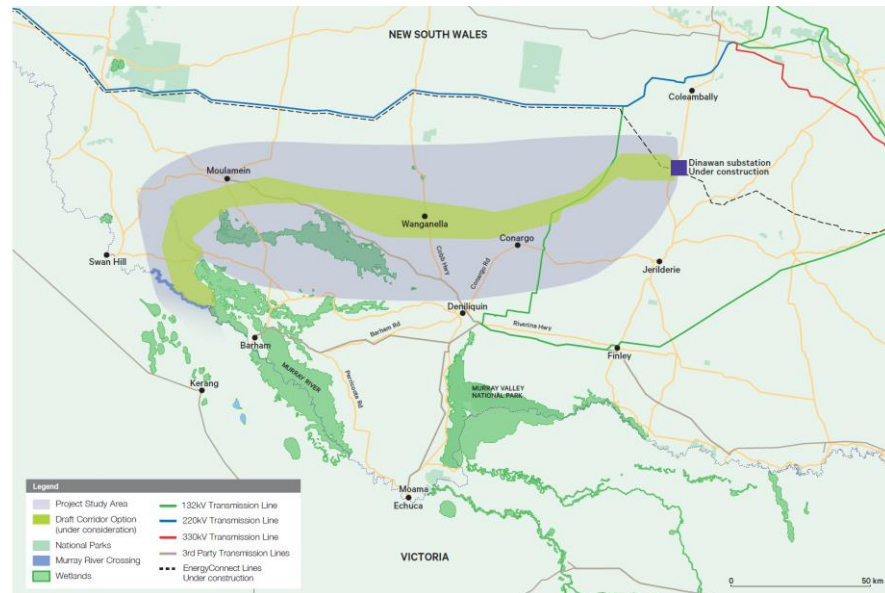
## Status

- The NSW Government deemed VNI West as Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) on 3 July 2024.
- Procurement Strategy for VNI West
- Environmental Impact Statement
- Indicative 200 metre transmission line corridor - We have commenced issuing notifications to landowners showing an indicative 200 metre transmission line corridor on their property. Letters are being progressively issued.
- VNI West border crossing point joint announcement - September



# Project footprint

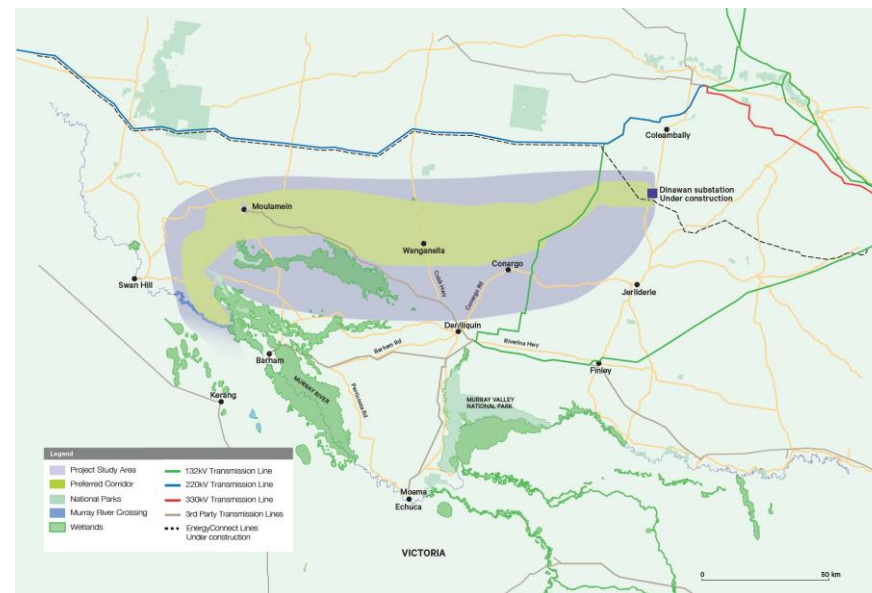
- The narrowing of the preferred route to a smaller corridor (~200 metres wide for the transmission line corridor and ancillary facilities) is now underway for detailed assessment as part of the EIS.



June 2023

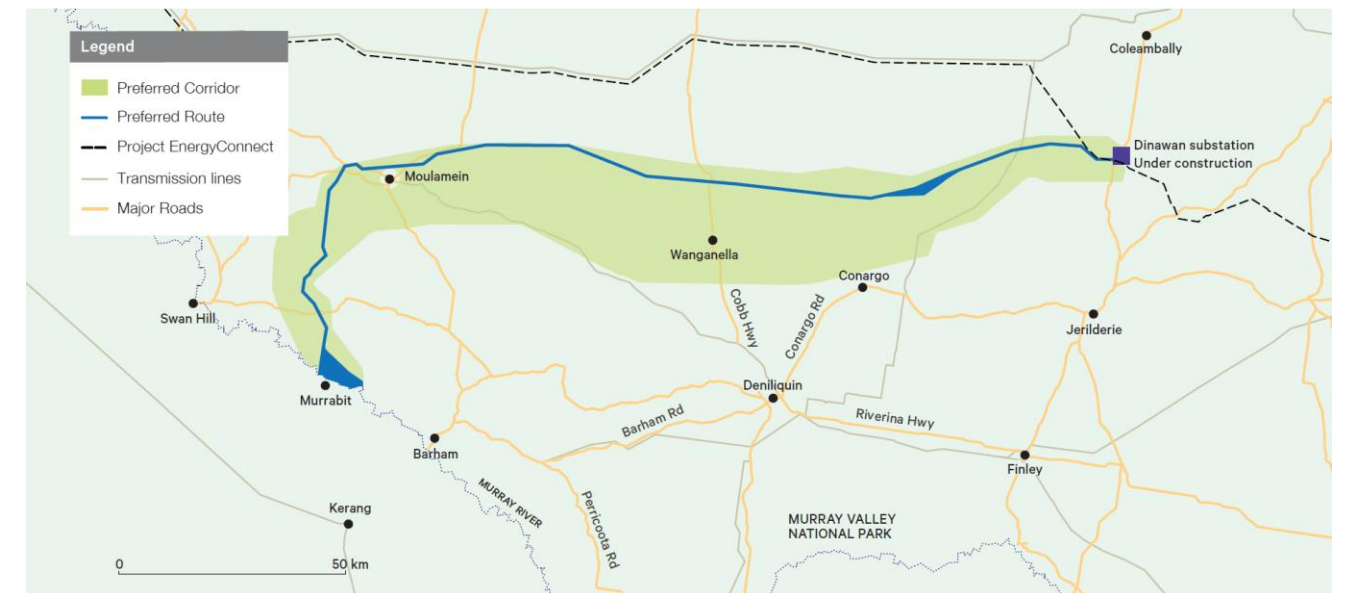
Area of interest

Draft Corridor Report



October 2023

Preferred Corridor Report



February 2024

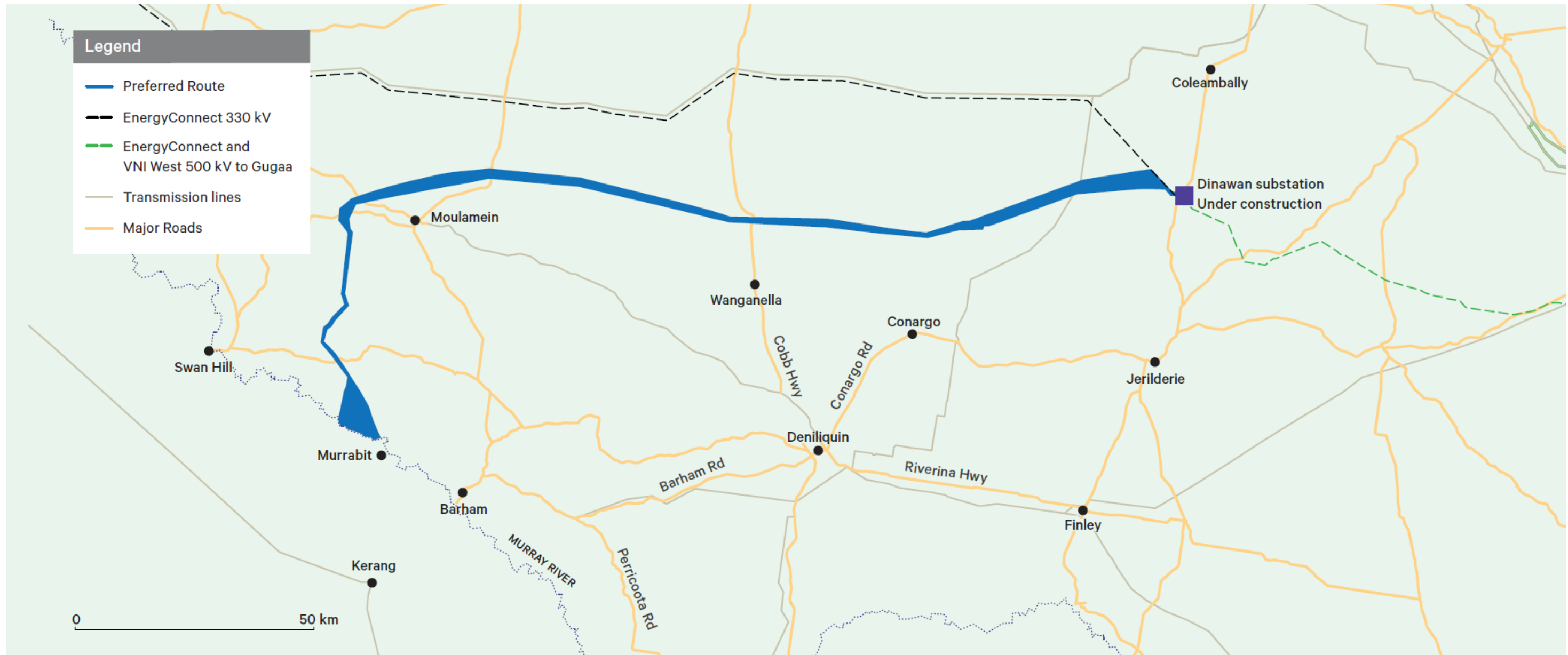
Draft Route Report

# Project footprint

March 2024

Preferred  
Route Report

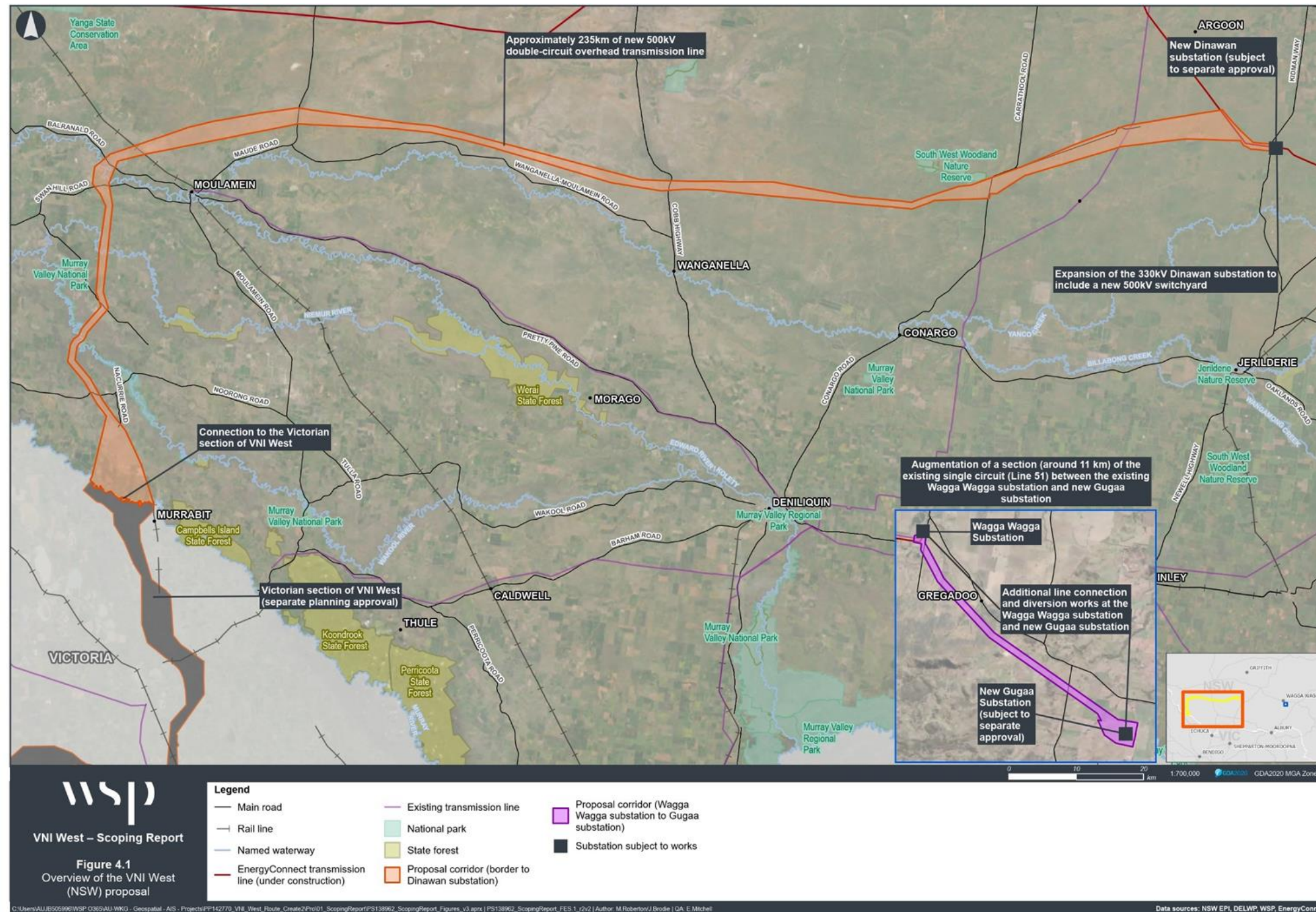
Environmental  
Assessment



# Project footprint

April 2024

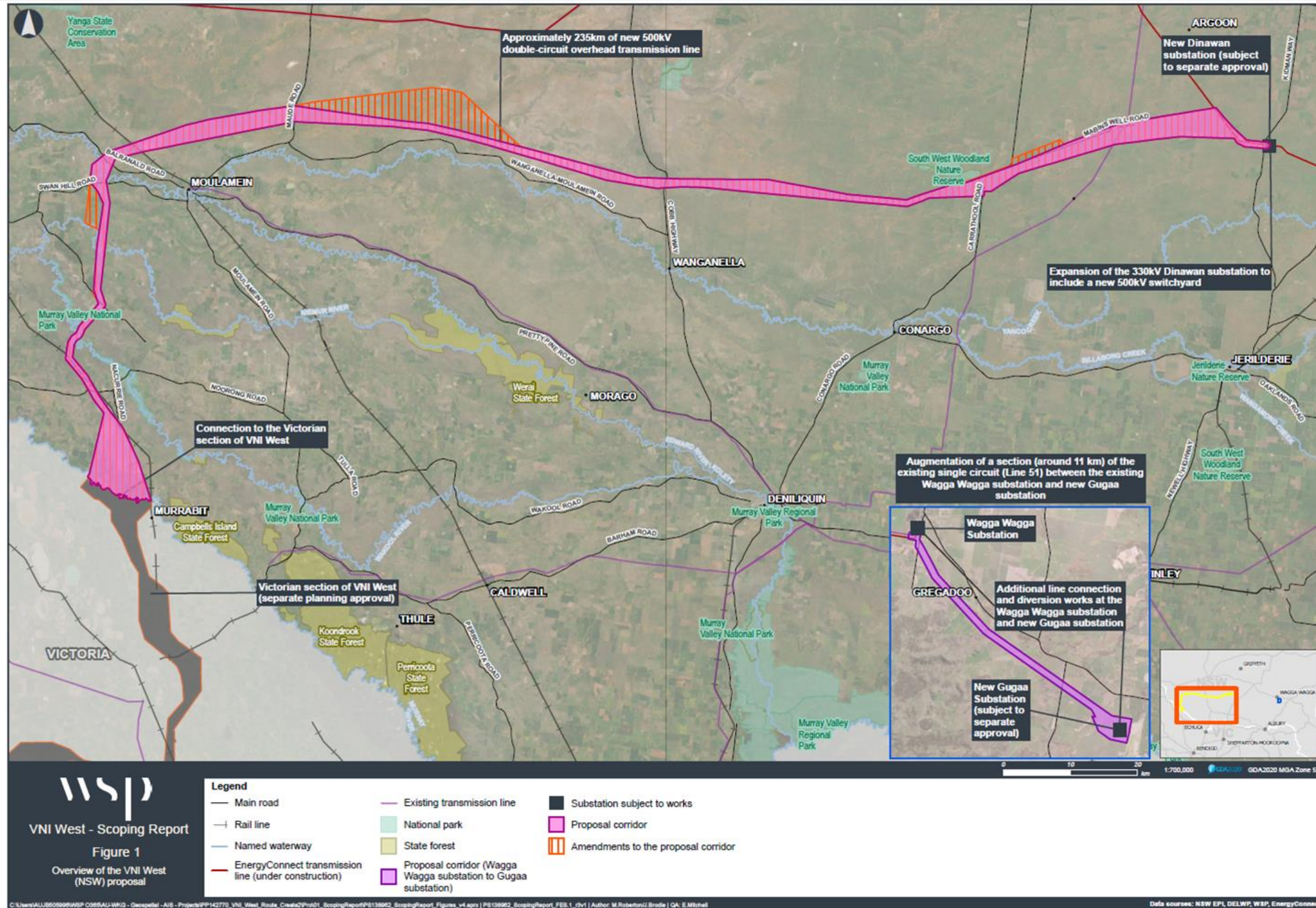
Scoping Report



# Project footprint

August 2024

Addendum  
Scoping  
Report



# Planning and approvals

## State processes

- Project declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure by NSW Government on 3 July 2024.
- An addendum letter outlining minor corridor changes was submitted to NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on 16 August 2024. These changes were based on:
  - preliminary environmental investigations, including targeted biodiversity and heritage assessments
  - landowner and stakeholder engagement
  - concept engineering design studies.
- Draft SEARs have been issued for agency comments. Final SEARs are imminent.

## Federal processes

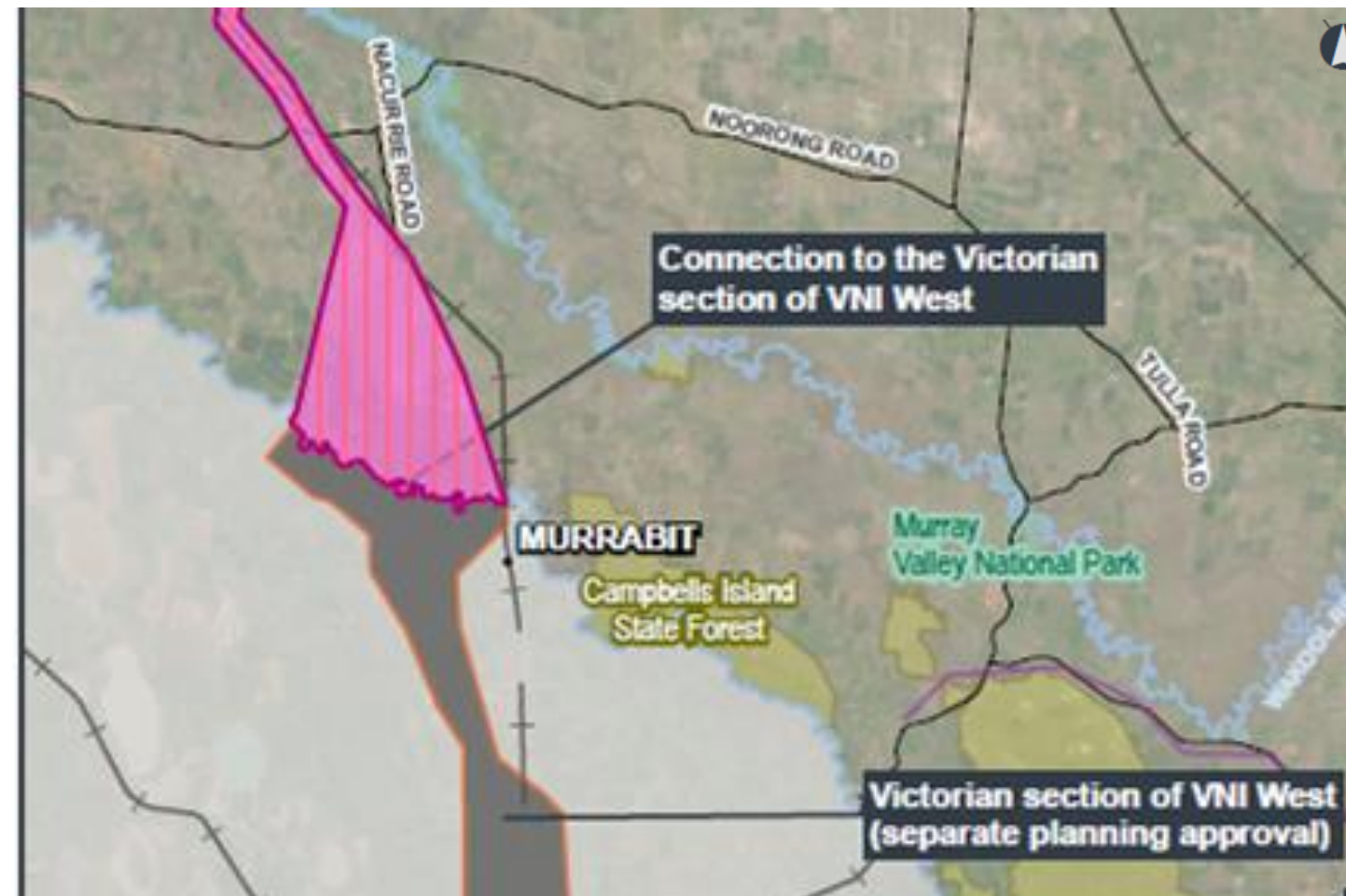
- The Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water (DCCEEW) placed the EPBC Referral [EPBC 2024/09871] on its website for public comment from 7 August – 21 August.

## Indigenous engagement

- A second round of AFGs (Aboriginal Focus Groups) took place 7 – 9 August in preparation of the cultural heritage surveys and test excavation works started from 19 August 2024.



# Murray River Border Crossing



# CCG Purpose

*The purpose of the VNI West Community Consultative Group (CCG) is to:*

- provide a forum for community members, stakeholders and local councils to seek information from Transgrid and provide feedback to inform Corridor refinement and the subsequent Environmental Assessment process
- provide a forum for open and constructive discussions about the VNI West project
- help Transgrid better understand community perspectives and issues related to the project
- work with Transgrid to develop ideas for community benefits and project legacy.

Community Investment  
and Benefits  
Paul McFadyen, Engagement Lead





# Community Investments and Benefits

## Why do we do Community Benefits?

The purpose of a Community Investment and Benefits Plan is to guide the development of Transgrid's community investment opportunities within the project footprint.

It outlines how we aim to deliver social and economic outcomes and benefits and our commitment to create positive and lasting relationships with our local communities and stakeholders.

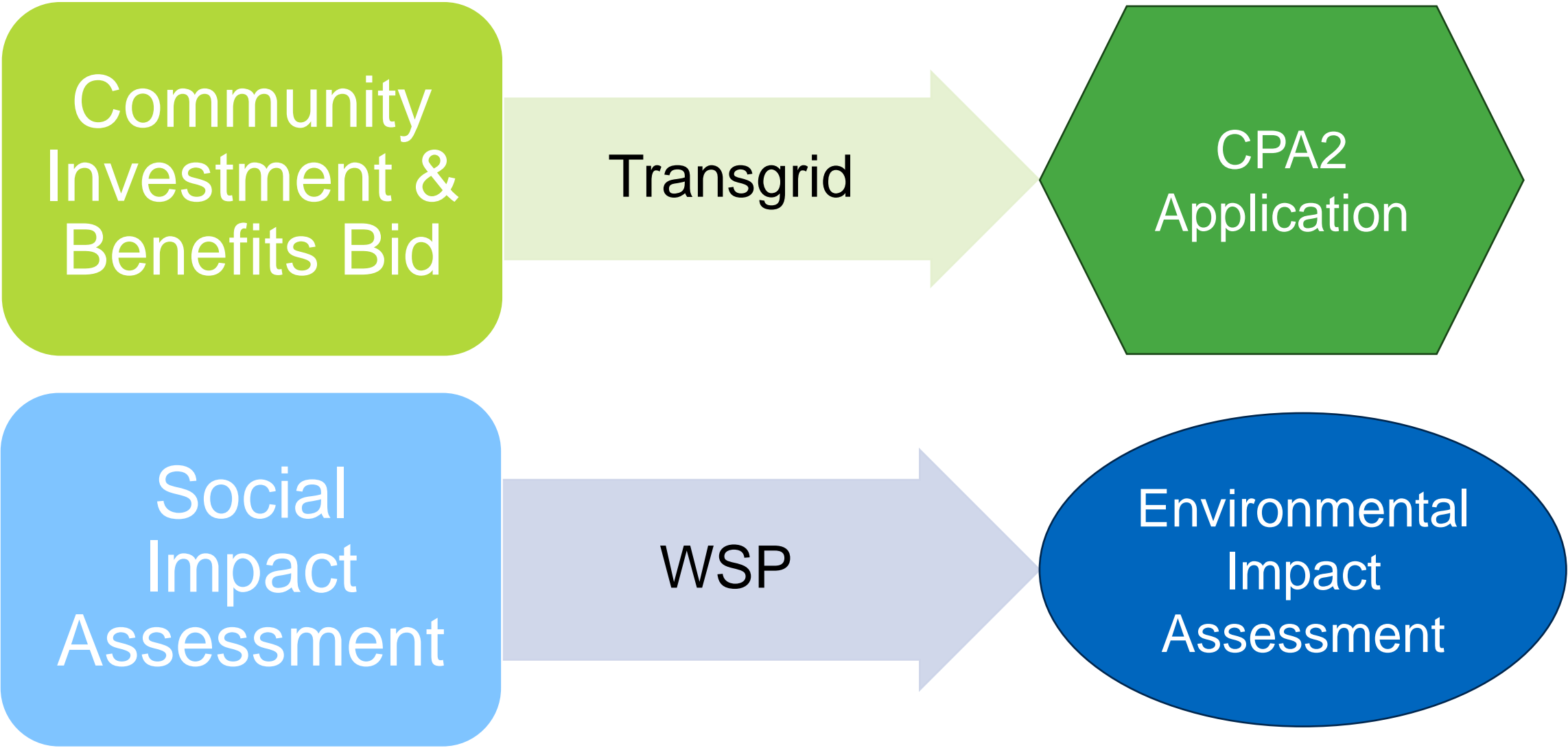
The plan outlines how the project will engage and work with communities and stakeholders to identify needs, develop viable investment opportunities and secure funding for these initiatives.

The plan will also build on mitigations proposed as part of the Social Impact Assessment.

## Three main areas that we focus on:



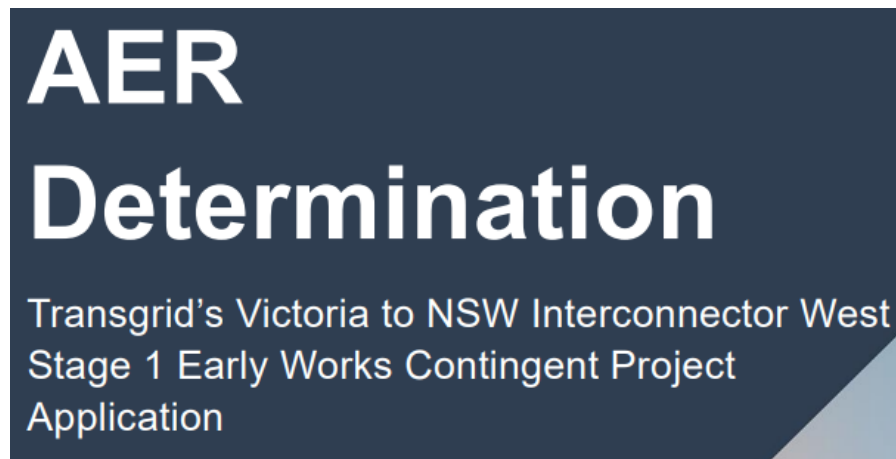
# Community Investment & Benefits and Social Impact Assessment



# Community Investment & Benefits



The [Australian Energy Regulator](#) (AER) regulates network costs and sets the price that distributors can charge for transporting electricity to homes and businesses. The AER works to ensure energy consumers have access to a reliable and secure market and that they pay no more than necessary for energy to their homes and businesses.



*“Engagement that facilitates collaboration and a dialogue between landholders, communities, the broader consumer base, and Transgrid.*

*Effective engagement provides us the evidence to be satisfied that the proposed activities are in response to the feedback received during the engagement and meet the needs of the specific communities”.*

## **HumeLink Stage 2 CPA – AER Decision (2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024)**

### **AER Chair Clare Savage:**

AER says it accepted all of Transgrid’s proposed costs for engagement and social licence activities for HumeLink.

“We expect Transgrid to build and maintain social licence throughout the life of this project and respond to community feedback,” Savage said on Friday.

“This includes undertaking meaningful and high-quality engagement, as well as providing communities with additional benefits and activities to recognise the impact and costs borne by local communities as the project progresses.”



VNI West (NSW): \$1.65 Billion Project



**Aim for total investment initiatives of  
between \$10m and \$30m**

# Assessment Criteria

## Community Need

*Does it address community needs & aspirations? Who will benefit?*

## Sustainability

*How will the initiative run once investment is completed?*

## Initiative Delivery

*What expertise is needed / other parties are required to implement and maintain?*

## Cost & Benefit

*Are the anticipated benefits greater than the cost?*

# Focus Group Sessions

## In-person

- 46 people attended in-person Focus Group sessions held in Wanganella, Jerilderie, Moulamein & Mallan.
- Most participants were affected landowners and neighbours to the project footprint.
- Additional session at Conargo on Thursday 8 August initiated by the community – 17 participants.

## Online sessions

- Sessions held on 20th August (evening) & 21st August (midday) - 9 participants
- We have also gathered relevant information and feedback provided throughout our engagement since July 2023.

Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector  
Have Your Say on Community Investment & Benefits



VNI West is a proposed new 500kV double circuit transmission line connecting the high voltage electricity grids in NSW and Victoria.

We would like to hear from local communities on how we can provide benefits to the area as part of the project.

Join us for a series of engaging discussions where you can share ideas for potential benefits and ways to invest in your community.



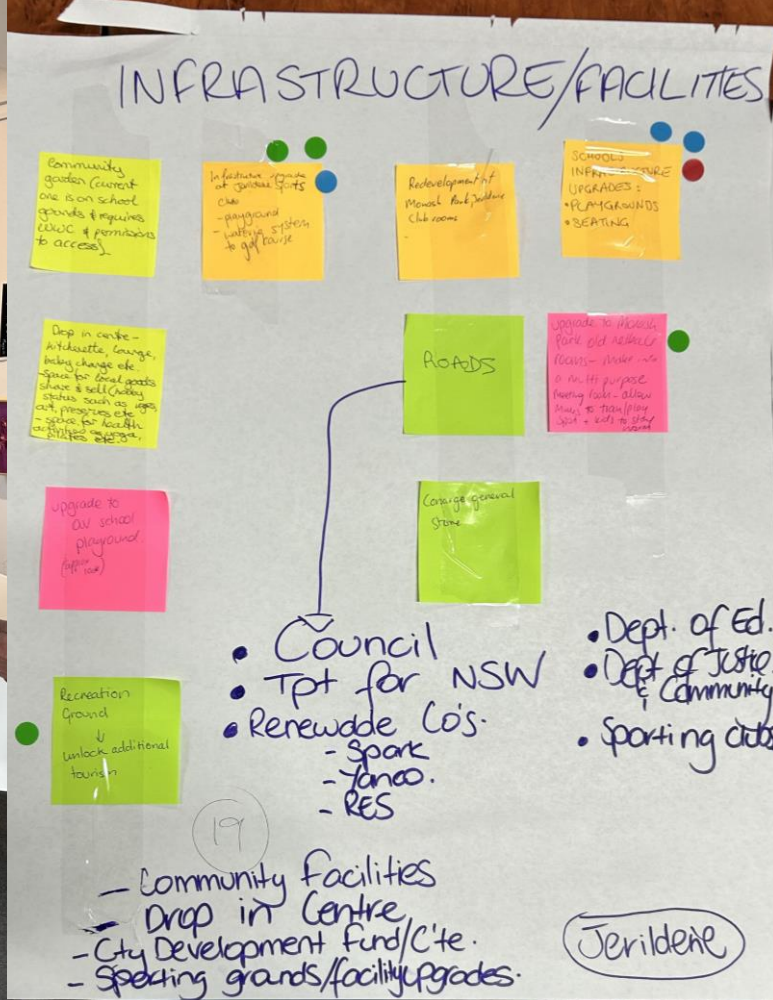
Please scan the QR code to register your interest

### We'll be hosting the following in person sessions:

Tuesday 6 August 8am to Midday Wanganella Hall Lang Street Wanganella	Tuesday 6 August 4pm to 7pm Monash Tea Rooms Jerilderie Football and Netball Club Jerilderie	Wednesday 7 August 4pm to 7pm The Moulamein Gallery 33 Morago Street Moulamein	Thursday 8 August 8am to Midday Mallan Hall and Recreation Reserve Cunninyeuk Road Mallan
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For more information on VNI West, please contact the project team via:

Website: [www.transgrid.com.au/vni-west](http://www.transgrid.com.au/vni-west) Phone: 1800 955 588 Email: [vniw@transgrid.com.au](mailto:vniw@transgrid.com.au)



# What have we heard so far?

## Key themes



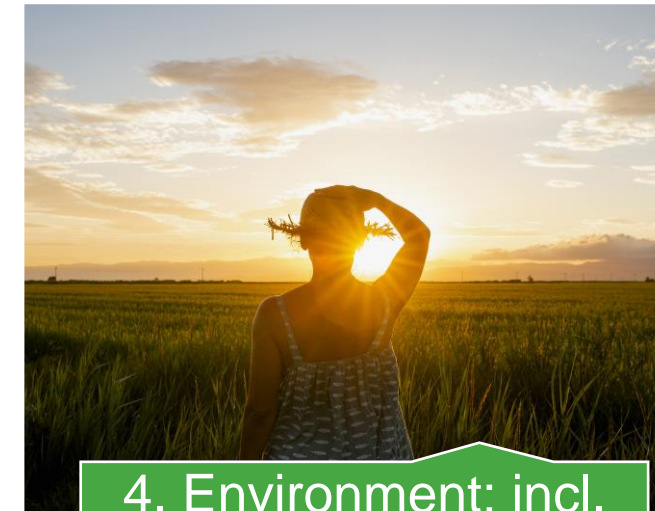
1. Connectivity & improving telecommunications



2. Improving infrastructure (including roads)



3. Access to services: Health, Mental health Housing, Childcare



4. Environment; incl. bushfire preparedness and management



5. Community Projects (eg Moulamein Wharf; Conargo Community precinct upgrade)

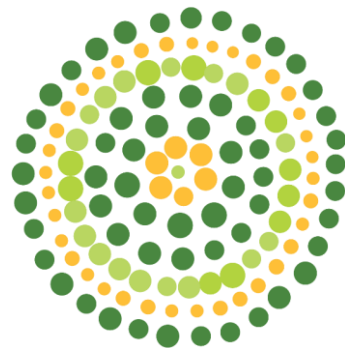


6. Education and Training (eg Education hubs, Scholarships)

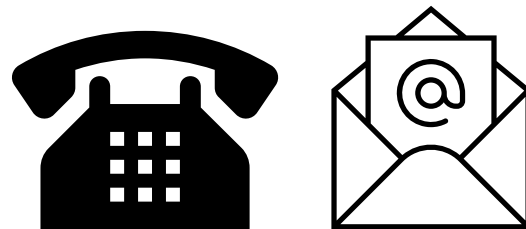
*Establish  
Community  
Foundation  
Models*



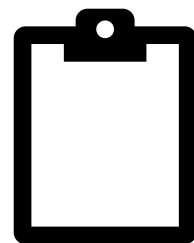
# Next Steps – other ways people can provide input



Sessions with First Nations Groups  
September 2024



Contact us via phone or email

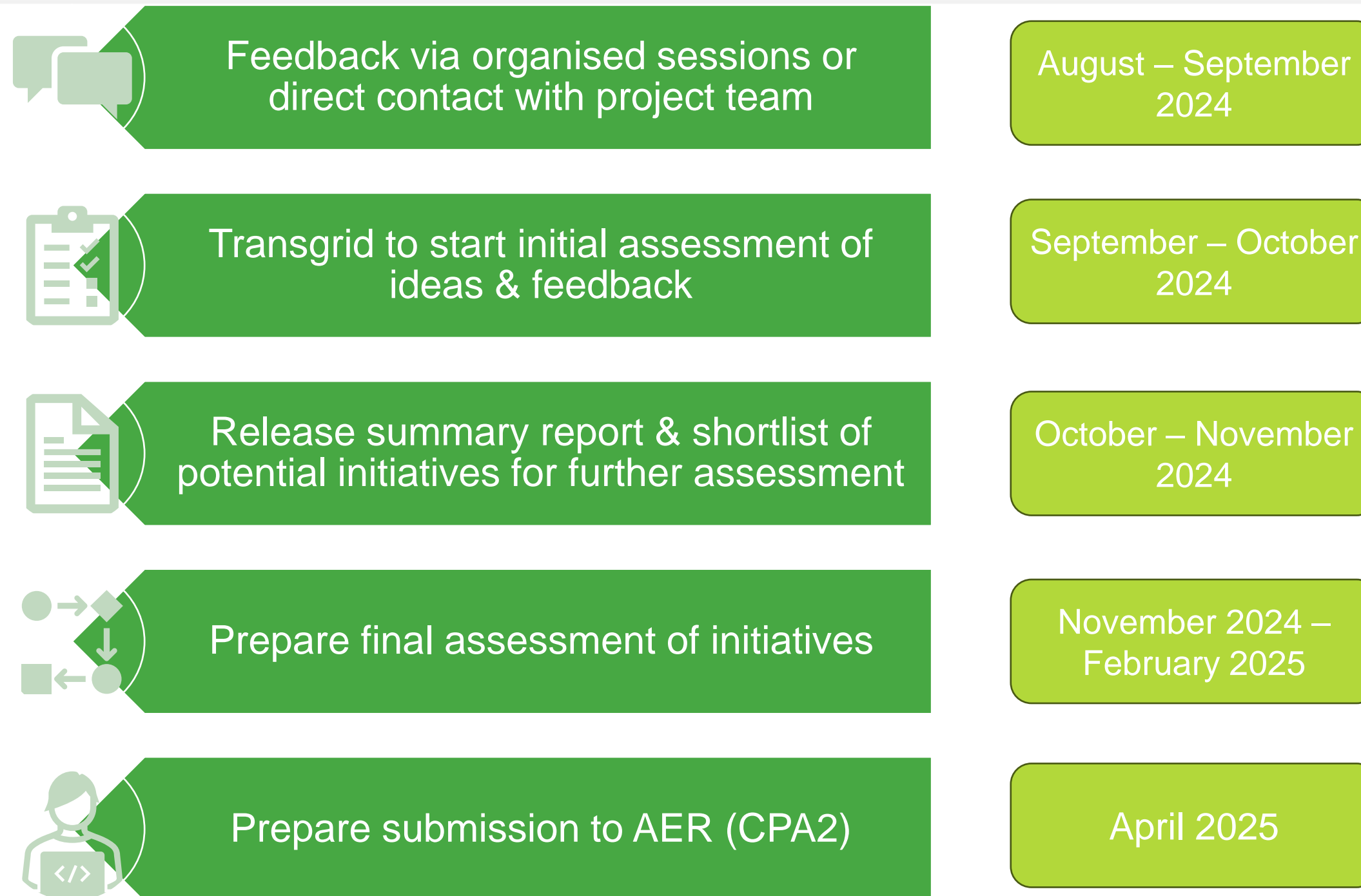


Survey (online and hard copy)  
September 2024



Feedback loop with community and stakeholders  
September – October 2024

# Community Benefits & Investment Submission Timeline





# Questions and comments





**Meeting close**

**Thank you for your time**

1800 955 588

[vniw@transgrid.com.au](mailto:vniw@transgrid.com.au)

[www.transgrid.com.au/vniw](http://www.transgrid.com.au/vniw)