

VNI West proposes the construction, operation and ongoing maintenance of a 500kV double circuit overhead transmission line that would connect the high voltage electricity grids in NSW and Victoria. As part of the EIS for VNI West (NSW), a detailed assessment was undertaken to understand the potential impacts of the project on non-Aboriginal heritage values across the project footprint. For more information, refer to **Chapter 17: Non-Aboriginal heritage** and **Technical Paper 11: Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Report**.



Key findings from the EIS assessment

Construction impacts

Local heritage items and potential impacts

Four heritage items of local significance have been identified within the study area. Of these, three—Ivydale, Ivydale Woolshed, and the Stone Ruin—are located near the proposed Line 51 upgrade works at Wagga Wagga and may be indirectly affected during construction, particularly through visual impacts. Additionally, the properties hosting the Stone Ruin and Ivydale Woolshed lie within the transmission line corridor, which would result in long-term direct impacts to their listed curtilage. However, the heritage values of these items will remain intact, as the project footprint does not encroach upon the listed structures themselves.

The remaining item, Black Swamp, is located along the Cobb Highway, around 1.3 kilometres to the north of the project and is not expected to be impacted.

New heritage items identified

Six new heritage items that meet the threshold for local significance were recorded during field surveys, located within the vicinity of the NSW/Victorian border and future Dinawan substation component of the project. Four of these items are within the project footprint and are considered at risk of direct impact from project construction. The potentially impacted sites include the decommissioned Wetuppa station and siding, Larry's Creek railway bridge, a survey reference 'blaze tree', and the Merran Creek wooden railway bridge.

Operational impacts

Maintenance activities

Maintenance activities during operation of the project may have potential, temporary (non-direct) impact on heritage items that are located immediately adjacent to the transmission line easement.

Mitigation measures



Opportunities to avoid impacts will be explored during design, including through measures such as demarcating site boundaries and establishing exclusion zones.



Exclusion zones and buffers will be used to protect heritage items from construction activities.



A Heritage Management sub-plan will be prepared as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and will guide how heritage items are managed during construction.



Unexpected heritage finds will be managed under an approved Unexpected Finds Protocol.



Heritage items that remain within the project area will be mapped in detail to avoid accidental impacts during maintenance.



Ongoing consultation with Heritage NSW and other stakeholders will inform mitigation planning and design.



How the assessment was carried out

The non-Aboriginal heritage impact assessment was carried out in accordance with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), relevant heritage legislation, and recognised heritage assessment guidelines.

The approach to the assessment included:

- reviewing relevant legislation, policy, and heritage databases such as the State Heritage Register, National Heritage List, and Local Environmental Plan (LEP) schedules
- consulting historical maps, aerial photographs and published local histories to understand landscape and heritage context
- undertaking field surveys between May 2024 and March 2025 to physically inspect accessible areas of the project footprint
- identifying and assessing the significance of newly recorded heritage items and archaeological features
- evaluating potential direct and indirect impacts on known heritage places and the broader historic landscape
- recommending mitigation and management measures to avoid or minimise impacts on non-Aboriginal heritage.

Next steps

You have the opportunity to review and comment on the EIS via submission to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) during August 2025. Electronic copies of the EIS are available via:

- DPHI Major Projects website:
<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects>
- VNI West (NSW) project website:
www.transgrid.com.au/vniw

Following the EIS Exhibition period, Transgrid will produce a Submissions Report to formally respond to community and stakeholder feedback received during exhibition.



For more information on the VNI West EIS, please scan the QR code, or visit www.transgrid.com.au/vniw.

The EIS outlines:

- known and newly identified non-Aboriginal heritage sites across the project footprint
- a summary of the heritage of the region and areas of potential non-Aboriginal heritage value
- potential impacts to non-Aboriginal heritage during construction and operation
- next steps to minimise potential impacts to non-Aboriginal heritage.



Image: Stone Ruin, looking west from Gregadoo Road.



Image: Wooden railway bridge which crosses over Merran Creek and formed part of the Kerang to Stony Crossing rail line.

Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities through the delivery of VNI West.

Please connect with us for more information.



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