

VNI West is a proposed new 500 kV double-circuit transmission line connecting the energy grids of NSW and Victoria. In NSW, the new line will run from Transgrid's Dinawan substation being built north of Jerilderie, to the Victorian border north of Kerang.

This fact sheet provides information on the process Transgrid will use to develop a route for VNI West.

Project need

The first step in developing a new transmission line, is to confirm the technical solution which best meets the needs of electricity consumers.

This is typically done by completing a Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission, known as the RIT-T.



Determining the Study Area

Once the technical solution is confirmed, a Study Area is determined. This is a broad area of investigation between two known points, usually substations at the start and end points of the transmission line.

The Study Area will be up to around 50km in width, and allow for the development of a number of corridor and route options.

Regional constraints and opportunities

Within the study area, we first identify:

- constraints, such as social and environmental factors, that must or should be avoided, and
- opportunities to minimise the potential impact on **local communities and the environment.**

Constraints can include intensive agriculture, licensed airstrips, conservation areas and significant cultural heritage sites.

Opportunities can include aligning the new line with existing infrastructure, such as existing power lines or roads.



Identifying a corridor

The third step in route development is to develop optional corridors within the Study Area. Corridors are up to 10km wide and seek to avoid constraints in the landscape to provide the least impactful area in which to focus route development.

Identification of a preferred corridor is informed by engagement with local communities and industry representatives, along with high level environmental assessment.



Route development

Transgrid will then start detailed consultation with landholders within the corridor to understand property-specific considerations and constraints.

This engagement, together with specialist studies and surveys, will help us develop the proposed transmission route. Some of the specialist studies and local assessments will include:

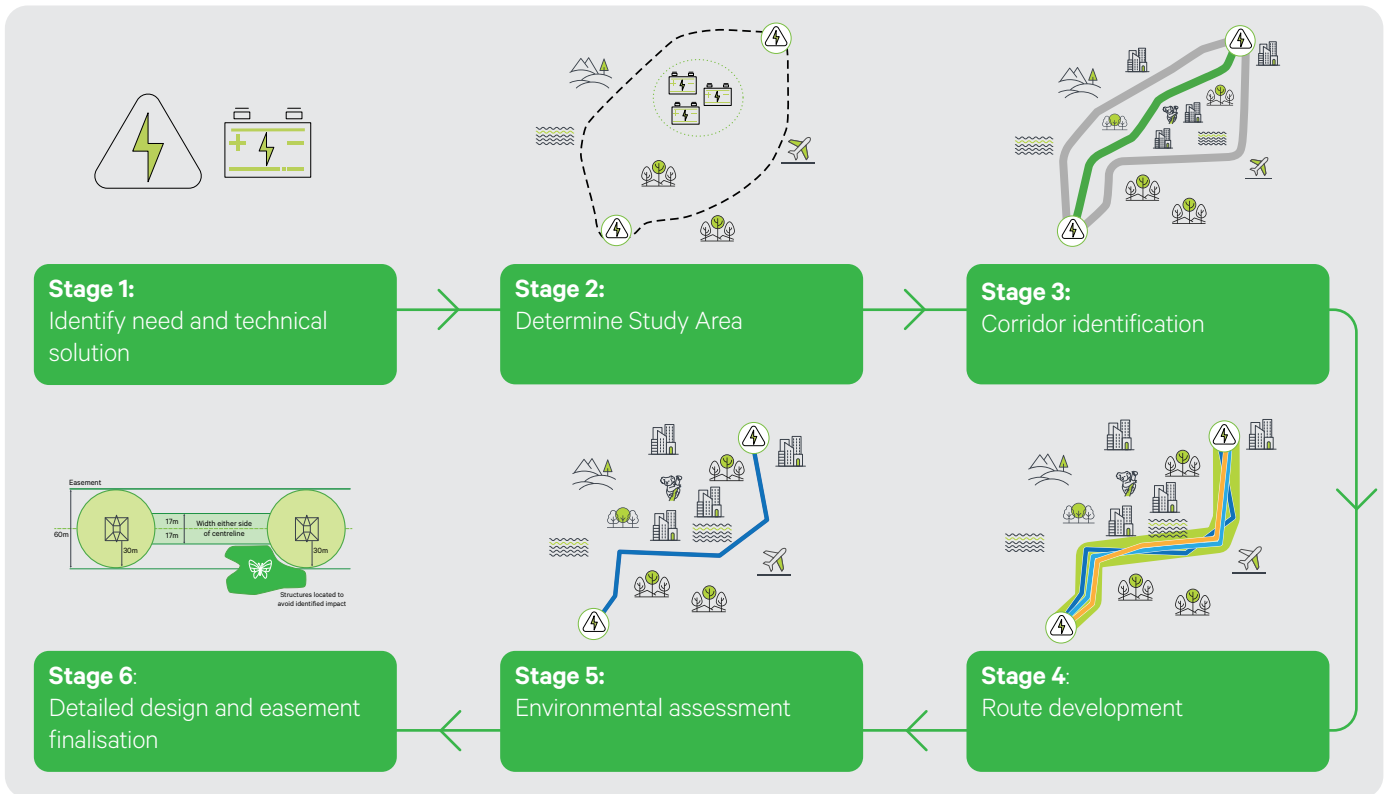
- cultural heritage surveys
- ecology surveys, including flora and fauna
- geotechnical studies
- hydrology surveys.



Image: Conducting a geotechnical study.



Route development process



Where we are in the route development process

Stage 5	Area	Purpose	Engagement activities
Environmental Assessment	Typically up to 200m wide	To further refine the route through specific landowner consultation and additional data gathered during the environmental impact assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Consultative Group Meetings Landholder meetings

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation Transgrid acknowledges Wiradjuri, Wamba Wamba, Perrepa Perrepa and Yorta Yorta peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the Country VNI West traverses.

We pay respects to the people, the Elders past, present and emerging to celebrate the diversity and successes of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing connections to the lands and waters where we work and live.

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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