

VNI West

Ecology Surveys

FACT SHEET

VNI West is a proposed new 500kV double-circuit transmission line connecting the energy grids of NSW and Victoria. The new line will run from Transgrid’s Dinawan substation being built north of Jerilderie to new substations near Kerang and Bulgana in Victoria.

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide information about ecology surveys and investigations Transgrid will be conducting to help identify and protect existing animal and plant species and their habitats, within the local area.



Ecology surveys

Conducting ecology surveys will enable us to understand the local environment and identify issues that need to be considered during route development and project planning. Surveys will be conducted on a combination of public and private lands.

If access to private land is required, we will first seek consent from the landowner.

What can I expect?

Before undertaking an ecological survey on private land, Transgrid representatives will discuss what is involved and work with landholders to ensure understanding of the survey process and any expectations or requirements.

Discussions will cover requirements to access the property and the types of activities proposed, including the duration and timing.

After all necessary permits and approvals are in place, the VNI West team will schedule work in the survey area as agreed with the landowner.



On-site discussions with landowner, NSW.



What types of activities are proposed?

The assessment methods can vary greatly depending on the focus of the survey. The surveys can focus on flora (plant), fauna (animal) and/or aquatic (water-based).

Some surveys may be required at specific times of the year when certain species can be more easily identified (e.g., when flowering occurs or during breeding season).

Flora

Flora surveys are usually conducted during daylight hours by teams of 2–4 ecologists walking through identified areas, cataloguing the plant species found.

In some instances, samples may be required to accurately catalogue the plant, however photographs are usually sufficient.



Plains Grass grassland in Riverina Bioregion.

Fauna

Fauna surveys are usually conducted by teams of 2–4 ecologists during the day and occasionally at night.

The survey method will depend on the species being investigated but it can involve observations and sample gathering. In some instances, the humane use of nets and traps may be necessary.

To prevent harm to any fauna, traps are checked and any captured animals are photographed and released.



Plains Wanderer.

Aquatic

Aquatic surveys are usually conducted by teams of 2–4 ecologists, within and along streams, creeks and rivers to identify aquatic life.

The field team will use a variety of methods to identify and document the existing species.



Murray River, NSW.

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities through the construction of VNI West. **Please connect with us if you need any information.**

