

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 the existing transport network during construction and operation. The EIS outlines how these impacts are proposed to be managed and mitigated. For more information refer to **Chapter 14: Traffic and Access** and **Technical Paper 8: Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment**.



Findings from the EIS assessment

Construction impacts

Increased traffic during construction

Heavy vehicles and construction traffic will increase on local and regional roads, particularly near construction compounds and combined temporary worker accommodation facilities. Despite the increase, all roads are predicted to operate in reasonably free-flow conditions and the road network is expected to perform similar to existing conditions.

Nominated haulage routes

Three preliminary haulage routes have been identified from the Ports of Newcastle, Adelaide and Melbourne to transport large and heavy equipment to the Dinawan substation.

Road crossings and safety management

The project will cross approximately 20 public roads. Transmission line stringing will use safe crossing methods such as traffic control or overhead 'hurdles', with the 'hurdle' method preferred on state and regional roads.

Stringing of transmission lines over local roads may require short-term lane closures, stop-go arrangements or detours, depending on road type and traffic volumes.

Road condition and maintenance

Condition surveys will be completed for all sealed local and regional roads used during construction. Inspection and maintenance schedules will also be implemented for unsealed roads. Any damage caused by the project will be rectified or compensated for, during or after construction in consultation with the relevant roads authority.

Access improvements and new connections

Road improvement work and several new connections to access tracks would be required to provide safe access during construction. Any new connections to the road network would be designed in accordance with relevant Austroads guides and in consultation with the relevant road authority.

Operational impacts

Property and emergency access maintained

Access for residents, landholders and emergency services will be maintained at all times. Temporary access arrangements may be discussed with affected landholders where needed (such as for access during maintenance activities).

Minimal traffic impact during operation

Traffic during operation will be minimal and limited to occasional maintenance activities. These movements are expected to have negligible impact on the road network.



Mitigation measures

- Heavy vehicles and oversized movements will be carefully planned, with permits obtained and routes selected to prioritise public safety and minimise disruption near towns and properties.
- All construction drivers will follow strict safety protocols, including a Driver Code of Conduct, fatigue management plans, and vehicle monitoring to reduce risks on local roads.
- Traffic control plans will be prepared and implemented in consultation with road authorities to manage vehicle movements safely, particularly where new site access points are required.
- Road conditions will be monitored throughout construction, with surveys before, during and after works. Any damage from construction traffic will be repaired or compensated in consultation with roads authorities.
- Safe access to properties will be maintained at all times, with temporary arrangements provided where needed and clear communication with landholders in advance of any changes.
- Speed limits may be temporarily reduced at selected intersections to improve sight distance and ensure safe turning and entry during construction.
- Construction access points and tracks will be kept in safe working condition, including signage, road surface improvements and safety measures at intersections with public roads.
- Pedestrian and cyclist routes will remain open and safe, or alternative access will be provided where needed following consultation with affected communities and authorities.



How the assessment was carried out

The Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment was carried out in accordance with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), which set out what must be addressed in the EIS, and with applicable guidelines and standards.

The assessment involved, targeted traffic surveys and analysis of proposed construction activities to understand how traffic conditions may change throughout the project lifecycle. It also included consideration of road safety, road capacity and predicted increases in traffic volume.

The approach to the traffic and transport assessment for the project included:

- identification of transport routes within the traffic and transport study area that would be used during pre-construction, construction and operation
- analysis to identify, describe and assess the existing conditions of the roads within the traffic and transport study area;
- completion of intersection and mid-block count surveys at selected locations to understand existing traffic conditions, traffic demands and patterns
- identification of traffic demands and travel patterns based on proposed pre-construction and construction activities
- assessment of the potential impacts associated with the pre-construction and construction phases of the project
- assessment of the potential impact associated with operational activities (i.e. maintenance of transmission lines and substations).

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.

The EIS outlines:

- haulage routes for oversize and overmass deliveries
- proposed construction traffic routes within the region
- the expected increase in heavy and light vehicle movements during construction
- the likely impacts on local and regional roads, including unsealed access road
- potential impacts to road condition, capacity, and safety
- temporary traffic impacts on public roads during stringing
- measures to minimise impacts and maintain safe road conditions
- long-term traffic impacts during operation.



Image 1: Example of existing road infrastructure within the project area.



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

Connect with us

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

Please connect with us for more information.



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