



29 August 2025

Re: Submission for Exhibition for State Significant Infrastructure

PROJECT: Victoria to NSW Interconnector West (VNI West) SSI – 72887208)

Please find below Edward Rivers Councils comments in relation to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting information for the VNI West Project (SSI-72887208). Council understands the Project seeks approval for the construction, operation and ongoing maintenance of a high voltage, 500 kilovolt (kV) double circuit overhead transmission line that would connect to the high voltage electricity grid in NSW and Victoria.

Employment and Accommodation

It is noted within the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) that the surrounding renewable projects within proximity will attract around 7,426 construction workers and 253 operational workers to the region. The SIA in support of the development should detail the accommodation and workforce pressures for accommodation shortages in the region and Deniliquin specifically, and further consideration should be provided, having regard for the intended workforce as part of the Accommodation and Employment Strategy and the cumulative impact for the wider region and other SSD/SSI projects bidding to utilize existing and available accommodation in our towns. Please note, no plans/layout of the proposed accommodation camps within Edward River LGA are provided in the information package for Council's review.

It is noted within the EIS and SIA that two (2) accommodation camps are proposed to be established at Wanganella (north and south) and would accommodate approximately 340 and 500 workers respectively. These accommodation facilities should be appropriately located outside of hazardous areas (bushfire, flood, technological/electrical hazards etc) and should provide appropriate services, including relevant health facilities (nurses, GPs), and have access to adequate utilities (sewerage disposal, electricity, potable water etc) at no impact to the existing and surrounding community.

Any accommodation camp or infrastructure should be situated above the 1% flood planning level to minimise risk to property, life and at no impact on surrounding properties.

Impact on Road Infrastructure

The Project will rely on state and local roads to facilitate the construction of the development, resulting in increased traffic and vehicle movements with the LGA. Council would anticipate any road upgrades, specifically local and rural (unsealed) roads are upgraded prior to the construction commencing within the area to ensure the community, local road users and the like are not impacted during construction (at no cost to council). Further, all roads should be continually monitored to ensure dilapidation does not occur and/or impact on surrounding agricultural operations and road network movements (i.e during harvest, OSSM, livestock and grain/commodity trucks, etc) and maintain all-weather access.

Preparation of a full TIA to assess traffic impacts (including safety), mitigation measures/controls and upgrades required, including civil designs, and adequate turn warrants to ensure uninterrupted flow of traffic at intersections (ie. BAR, AUR, CHR, BAL, CHL treatments would be anticipated).

Any Stock Grids are privately owned and would require consultation with the landowners and upgrades of grids would need to meet load requirements during construction (25t min. and two-lane wide).

Waste Management

Chapter 22 addresses waste management arrangements over the life of the project and it is noted will be further addresses within the Construction Environmental Management Plan upon determination. Consultation with Council should be carried out with regard to waste disposal and management during the preparation of the CEMP, with regard to any proposed disposal with Edward River LGA.

Water availability

Edward River council cannot facilitate the supply of potable water from Deniliquin for construction purposes (i.e concrete batching) as it has been detailed in Section 3.5.8.1 of the EIS. Availability of adequate water supply for construction requirements will need further consideration, however potable water supplies for accommodation camps and workers may be able to be supported by Council. Early and ongoing consultation with Council should be carried out with regard to access of potable water supply.

Bushfire and Hazard Management

Bushfire risks associated with the construction and operation of the development have been considered within Chapter 18 of the EIS. Adequate resources would be required to protect these areas in the event of fire outbreak as there are extended response times and access to adequate resources for fire defence are limited. It is noted the accommodation camps will have fire suppression equipment and resources in the event of a fire and/or emergency, which should be readily available for the duration of the Project.

Air quality

Air quality impacts are addressed within Chapter 19 of the EIS, noting the proximity of sensitive receptors near the Project footprint. Council supports the mitigation measures listed during construction, including minimising dust generation on unsealed road networks and during physical works, and would anticipate the appropriate conditions are imposed to minimise any impacts on nearby rural dwellings and agricultural business operations.

Community amenity, economic benefits and Employment opportunities

The influx of temporary workers into small communities may result in many community benefits if the community, local businesses and local trades and other workers are included in discussions early so that they can prepare for any additional supply and employment opportunities in line with the projected demands.

Cumulative Impacts

There are a number of large scale energy projects in the surrounding area. Consideration has been given to the impacts on road networks, servicing, waste disposal, surrounding communities and



landholders. Council would anticipate the appropriate conditions are imposed for each likely impact be mitigated to ensure our community is not adversely affected by this development.

Yours sincerely

Maddison Gunter

Maddison Gunter
Town Planner