

VNI West (NSW) EIS feedback SSI-72887298

Transgrid Property Identifier- 2/217123

Lot 2 DP 217123

Parish of Toolmah, County of Wakool

- Submissions are made direct to the [NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure](#).
- Submissions will close next week on **Friday 29 August, 2025**, and are made online or via post (quoting the VNI West project number SSI-72887298).

I write as the owner of the above property.

I wish to first state that despite my best endeavours I have not had the time to go through the whole of the EIS and the accompanying 3455 page EIS Biodiversity Development Assessment report Technical paper 1.

I would like the opportunity to further expand on my comments below in the coming weeks if that is possible

I did however discover additional information which had not been conveyed to me in my meetings with Transgrid staff.

i.e location of access tracks, actual positioning of pylons in relation to the existing vegetation and the Creek that winds its way through our property, as well as a greater understanding of the devastation this project will have on my family's very small 50 acre bush block and our plans for its future. The Pylon locations and corridor are not on our western boundary and away from the creek as anticipated but much closer to the creek and the existing treed area. The

construction corridor covers around two thirds of our property.

Initially, some, but not all, of my main concerns are

- **The possible destruction of the historic Merran Creek Railway Bridge.**

- I refer to the below excerpts and to the whole of chapter 17 of the EIS including Non-Aboriginal heritage 17.6.3. Mitigation measures

- Historic Site 15
- Merran Creek Railway Bridge (built) Within project footprint This bridge formed part of the Kerang to Stony Crossing rail line. It is in relatively good condition considering the length of time since abandonment. **The site meets the threshold for local significance.**
- Historic Site 15
- Significance Potential impacts
- Local Merran Creek Railway Bridge **Potential direct impact or disturbance (total).** It is located within but on the edge of the project footprint and on a proposed access track and would be directly impacted by construction activities. **The project would involve total direct impact to this historic site if it cannot be avoided during refinements to the project design.**

FROM Technical paper 11 – Non-Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment

- 7.2.2.5 Historic Site 15
- Merran Creek wooden railway bridge
- This heritage item is a timber railway bridge in relatively good condition. It crosses Merran Creek. It is located within but on the edge of the transmission line corridor and on a proposed access track and would be directly impacted by construction activities. It is unclear whether the intention is to restore the bridge for use as a crossing. It may also be possible to avoid impact through detailed design by building a creek crossing beside it. **The project will involve total direct impact to this historic site if the item can't be avoided during project footprint refinements as part of the detailed design. This heritage item was assessed as**

having archaeological potential on either side of the bridge based on observed historic debris.

I also note that the report mentions that detailed study of the bridge was not carried out because of lack of permission to enter that piece of land.

I urge that a detailed study of the bridge is carried out as soon as possible.

The significant steel members supporting the bridge are branded “ DORMAN LONG AND CO. MIDDLESBROUGH’
This is the same company that built the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The Bridge should be listed with Heritage NSW. It is a century old reminder of the expansion of the rail network linking Victoria with the large pastoral properties of NSW.

Removing the trees in the vicinity of the bridge will destroy the significance of the various sightlines to the bridge which place it in the historical context of a railway line built through original bushland.

The removal of the significant giant Redgum tree adjacent to the Railway Bridge.

This tree is located on our property and directly in the path of the transmission lines. I met with some

members of the Environmental firm employed by Transgrid to study the Flora and Fauna on site. They estimated the tree to be over 200 years old. It would have been there a 100 years ago when the railway line and bridge were built.

This is the most significant tree on our property. The 100 year old stumps of numerous other similar sized trees that were felled and milled for bridge timbers and railway sleepers are scattered through our property in the vicinity of the old railway line as evidence and part of the history of the construction of the line and bridge. These should remain intact.

The proposed location of the line means a significant destruction of the habitat of the numerous bird and animal/reptile/insect species that inhabit this woodland section of the Merran Creek. I have videos of large Goannas climbing the afore mentioned giant Redgum which is slated for destruction. My children and grand children have spent twenty years exploring the bush around the creek discovering new birds and animals every time they visit. Much of this bush, including numerous camping spots will now lose all of the large trees which are part of that environment so as to provide clearance to the proposed powerlines. We have spent enormous time and effort maintaining and enhancing the existing bush nature of the property.

A few years ago, in conjunction with the CMA we seeded the open area of the block with native trees and bushes and fenced the area off with new fencing to keep stock out. Due to a subsequent drought this particular effort was only partially successful but our intention was to persevere and try again.

I do have many other concerns but need more time to carefully study ALL of the documents before I can comment further.

I ask that I am given permission to add to the above comments.

This a shocking location for this section of the proposed transmission line

Regards

Jim and Leonie Gleeson and family

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