

Submission to electricity transmission company land access Statement of Expectations

Submission received through Engage Victoria

From 24 March to 19 April 2022, the commission accepted submissions on our draft Statement of Expectations for electricity transmission company land access via Engage Victoria. On the 4 April 2022 we hosted a public webinar on the project, followed by a meeting with industry representatives on 5 April 2022. We have used these submissions to inform our final decision.

Date submitted: 26 March 2022

Name:

Stakeholder/interest group: landowner

Q5. What has worked well in relation to prior instances of land access?

Water board inspecting existing infrastructure on existing easements, polite and low impact

Q6. What key challenges have you faced under current land access arrangements?

Ausnet staff demanding access to neighbouring land which has no existing infrastructure or easements. They were specifically denied permission to enter this property yet still arrived with hired security issuing threats and making intimidating statements. Highly stressful and disruptive to business operations.

Q7. What information do you consider you need prior to land access to feel comfortable with an exercise of a right to access land?

The "right to access" needs to be supported by a specific court order for that land title and specific details of permitted area and activities. Without a court order there is no guarantee that there is any right to enter the property, only a demand from a vested interest. Farm trespass laws apply.

Q.8 Do you think the principles of the draft Statement of Expectations on land access address issues of concern to you?

Not specific and not enforceable in current form.

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Q9. What information do you think we should collect about a transmission companies' performance in relation to land access and frequency?

Complaints regarding conduct and instances of trespass when they have not provided correct documentation. Poor track record = poor process.

Q.10 Is there anything else you want us to consider when finalising this Statement of Expectations?

Woolly statements of principle will be disregarded by land owners. Without an appropriate and specific instruction from a court, access is denied and those seeking to access without permission will be considered to be in violation of farm trespass legislation.

Q11. Upload submission(s)

Q12. I agree to the collection notice on this page.

Yes

Q13. I'd like my name or other identifying information withheld when published.

Yes

Q14. I'd like my submission to be treated as confidential.

No