

Submission against TCV's electricity transmission licence

5th November 2024

To whom it may concern,

My family owns, lives and farms on a section of the proposed VNI West route.

It is of my opinion that the Transmission Company Victoria Pty Ltd (TCV) are not fit or proper to hold an electricity transmission licence, and that their application be refused.

In the 18 months since the VNI West project came to public light, these persons have given evidence for this conclusion. Their behaviour toward landowners and other stakeholders has been atrocious. With acts including bullying, lying, coercion, attacking the vulnerable, cancellation of important consultation meetings, false police reports and heavy handed security.

Further from this, their incompetence for the project has been increasingly apparent. Interactions with TCV representatives have proven they have not dedicated the time to get to know the area, including major highways and landmarks. They have been unable to answer important questions about the project surrounding insurance, fire, farming impacts and environmental issues. TCV should be able to communicate and answer these theoretical questions about their project before they require access to land.

There are alleged reasons to believe that if this project is successful, there is likely to be a high level of commercial corruption, with the successful tendered of the project apparently to acquire TCV. Given that government subsidiaries should remain separate from private commercial operations, the trust in TCV to deliver this project in a respectable manner is non-existent.

The Essential Services Commission is no stranger to TCV's antics, with prior warnings to fix misleading information in the TCV's Landholder Guide released in June 2023. TCV was using this guide to threaten landholders with statements including 'if you do not let us on your land we will use our Section 93 to access it' and 'if you don't come to an agreement with us, we will use our compulsory acquisition powers to take your land'. Using these dishonest threats so early in the consultation process, while there was an imbalance in information, is a blatant abuse of power. This should be a warning enough of the inappropriate tactics that TCV are comfortable with using. Granting a transmission licence would, no doubt, amplify their abuse of power.

The above points clearly show TCV to be unfit to hold a transmission licence. Your consideration of these statements is greatly appreciated, and in this process we trust with our safety against these bullies.

Sincerely,

