



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: 6 April 2022

Name: Steven Clark

Stakeholder/interest group: Affected landowner in the path of the proposed WVTNP

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

Inclusion of Traditional Owners and Ecologists.

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

The intrusion is simply unwanted. The proposed route of the WVTNP was poorly devised and has lost the support of the communities that are expected to host it. The WVTNP represents a massive failure by the Australian Energy Market Operator who selected this option based primarily on 'the timely return of investment', while excluding the wider environmental, social and economic considerations for the state. It highlights the inadequacy of the RIT-T process and lack of big-picture government oversight in the early stages. If you want co-operative landowners, they don't have to like it, but they have to at least believe that a project like this, which has enormous consequences, is the best option and in the best interests of the wider community.

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

Direction from the Minister who's portfolio is directly responsible for the Act that is being invoked. In my case, section 93 of the Electricity Industry Act 2000 (Vic). Any request for access to private land where there is no prior access agreement with the proponent, should come through Lily D'Ambrosio, the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. Elected governments are answerable to the public. Private foreign owned companies are not. Land access direction via the

Minister would at least provide some confidence that the government has performed due diligence, assessed the merit of the project and has deemed the involuntary access absolutely necessary.

Q8. Do you think the principles of the draft Statement of Expectations on land access address issues of concern to you?

Partially.

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

Where an access agreement is not in place; every access, the reason for the access, and the names of the accessing personnel and proof of qualification in their respective fields should be recorded.

Q10. Is there anything else you want us to consider when finalising this Statement of Expectations?

For greenfield projects where infrastructure or an access agreement is not already in place, the third party dispute resolution process must be facilitated by an impartial body which is empowered to judge in favor of the land owner to deny access.

Submission documentation provided

Yes – emails between submitter and AusNet

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

Yes

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

No

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

No