

Submission to the Land Access Code of Practice Consultation Paper

Submission received through Engage Victoria

From 2 February to 3 March 2023, the commission accepted submissions on our Land Access Code of Practice consultation paper via Engage Victoria. Stakeholders were also able to provide feedback through answering survey questions. We are using the responses to these questions to inform our thinking when developing the draft Land Access Code of Practice.

Only questions where a response was provided are included.

Date submitted: 1 March 2023

Name: Russel Coad

Stakeholder/interest group: Community

Q2. Compared to the principles set out in the Statement of Expectations, what should the Code of Practice have more prescriptive obligations for?

More consultation with the landholders and affected neighbours and the impacts on the environment.

Q3. What specifically should be required of electricity transmission companies? What are the benefits and costs of having more prescriptive requirements?

Better community awareness and the the potential disruptions to landholders affected by having easements on their properties.

Q4. Do you agree that the Statement of Expectations covers enough scope?

Disagree

Q5. If the scope needs to be widened, what other activities should be included in the Code of Practice?

Compensation for any disruptions caused by contractors entering properties.

Q6. What has your experience been with land access following the release of the Statement of Expectations?

I have had many issues with contractors entering my properties for maintenance for the past forty years .They have entered my properties without my knowledge . There has no formal communication of their intention to enter my properties .Gates have been left open.

Q7. What do you consider are the most important issues related to land access under section 93 of the Electricity Industry Act 2000? How should these be addressed in the Code of Practice?

Farm biosecurity is paramount for our farm business. The acknowledgement that people accessing easements on farm land can be disruptive to the daily operations of a farm. To many farming is their principle source of income and as such need to be able to maximise the income from the farm business.

Q10. What obligations do you think are needed to cater for the specific needs of private land such as biosecurity protections and processes?

Proper notification of intent to enter properties, proper protocols for farm biosecurity, correct washdown and designated locations for washdowns, which potentially can cause problems also , particularly on roadsides adjacent to properties [introduction of weeds etc]

Q11. What other options for complaint handling do you think when we're developing the Code of Practice?

I have dealt with the EWOV it is a slow process.