

Welcome to the Western Renewables Link project update. In this update you can learn more about what we've heard from the community via our recent online survey, our new online resources, and information about identifying and protecting fauna.



## Community Survey

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the community for their participation in our recent Community Survey which ran from 2 September to 28 October. We heard from over 100 community members about what key planning and environmental matters are most important to them.

The survey told us that project planning and route selection (including design and advocacy for undergrounding), landscape and visual amenity (including impacts on local landscapes and key viewpoints), and land impacts (including compensation, easement, access and land use) are the key areas of concern and interest.

We also heard what the community is interested in finding out more about. The survey respondents told us that construction impacts, and the planning and approvals process for the project are key areas of interest.

As the project moves toward the public exhibition of the Environment Effects Statement in 2025, we wanted to better understand your preferred ways of receiving information about the Western Renewables Link. The survey results have informed us that email, information sessions in your local area and letters via post are the community's preferred method of receiving information.

The survey has given the project team invaluable insight and information to better understand the community's values and key areas of interest about the potential impacts of the project. We're finalising a summary of what we heard from participants in the Community Survey and are looking forward to sharing this with you soon.



## New online resources

### Constructing overhead transmission lines

We recently published a new video which explains the process involved in constructing 500kV overhead transmission lines, from access tracks and foundations to testing, commissioning and site rehabilitation. You can view the video on our website's [resources](#) page.

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# Identifying and protecting important fauna

We've been conducting field surveys since 2021 to help us identify and protect important fauna during the planning and design of the proposed Western Renewables Link.

The findings of field surveys have helped us to identify the proposed route with the least overall impact, and to identify indicative tower sites and access track locations in consultations with landholders.

## Western Victoria's fauna: What have we found?

Western Victoria's fauna includes a variety of threatened species that rely on a range of natural features in the region as a habitat. The project's study area for fauna includes 10 kilometres around the land identified for use during construction and operation of the proposed project, covering an area of about 500,000 hectares.

Through field surveys and investigations, we have identified 720 fauna species and 32 federally listed threatened fauna species within 10 kilometres of the route, according to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas.

### The Growling Grass Frog

Among these fauna species is the Growling Grass Frog. This frog species is a large predatory amphibian that is listed as vulnerable under federal legislation. The species was once common in waterways across central Victoria but has had a dramatic decline in numbers due to modifications to waterways



(loss of streamside and in stream vegetation), water quality decline and the introduction of exotic, predatory fish species. The highly mobile species is reliant on slow-moving water, with dense aquatic vegetation in and around the area. The species also hunts in areas of adjoining grassland, feeding on a range of invertebrate species. The Growling Grass Frog also use adjoining areas with fallen timber and rocks for temporary hibernation in winter.

While the species has not been recorded in the study area during targeted surveys for the Western Renewables Link Environment Effects Statement, it is known to rely on some of the waterways in the vicinity. As a result, we have assumed that the Growling Grass Frog is present in mapped or expected habitat areas.



### More information

More information about our findings is available in our **Field surveys and investigations: Fauna fact sheet**, available on our website's **resources** page.



## Want to speak with a member of our team?

We're committed to continuing to engage with the community and will continue to consider all feedback. We encourage anyone interested or affected to contact the project on our dedicated number 1800 975 975 or email us at [info@westernrenewableslink.com.au](mailto:info@westernrenewableslink.com.au).

In the new year there will be opportunities to meet with members of our team who are regularly out and about in the community at events and shopping centres providing important project information and **updates**.



### About the project

The Western Renewables Link is a proposed new 190km overhead high-voltage electricity transmission line that will carry renewable energy near Bulgana in western Victoria to Sydenham in Melbourne's north-west.

The project is critical infrastructure required to unlock the renewable energy potential of western Victoria as a key Renewable Energy Zone and will help deliver clean and affordable energy to all Victorians.

### More information

Visit the project website [westernrenewableslink.com.au](http://westernrenewableslink.com.au) for the latest project information.

### Contact us

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