

Landscape and visual impact

We recognise that the proposed Western Renewables Link will be unavoidably visible from many locations and will affect landscapes, views and amenity for residents and visitors. We are conducting landscape and visual impact assessments and field visits to properties on and around the proposed route to help us understand and minimise the overall visual impact through planning and design of the project.

Why are we conducting landscape and visual fieldwork?

We are conducting assessments from public viewpoints and private dwellings to assess and confirm the type and range of potential impacts of the proposed project on landscape and visual amenity. This information is being used to plan and design the proposed Western Renewables Link to avoid, mitigate or manage potential impacts on landscapes and views. Fieldwork will also inform the detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, one of 20 technical reports which will be included in the project's Environment Effects Statement.



Mackenzies Flat, Lerderderg National Park

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Pykes Creek Reserve

What area has been assessed?

The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment considers locations within 9.2 kilometres of the tallest component of the proposed transmission line. This is the distance at which an 80 metre high double circuit tower will be less than 5% of the “normal” vertical field of view. At this distance, an 80 metre tower may still be visible, but it would be a small element in the background.

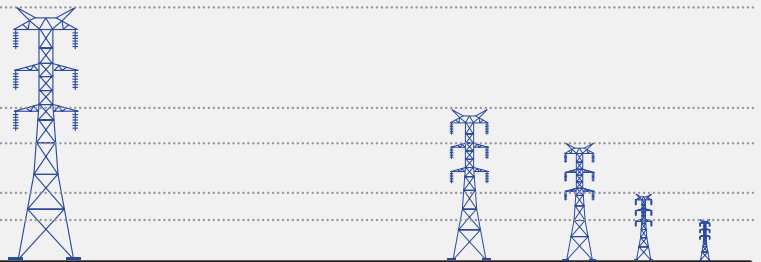
The assessment of views from residential dwellings considers residences within 2 kilometres of the proposed transmission line. This is the distance at which the transmission line will be highly visible in the landscape.

What is a landscape and visual impact assessment?

Landscape and visual amenity includes the visible features of an area of land and the views and surroundings that create the backdrop to an area. This can include vegetation, topography, and other significant landscape values. Landscape and visual impact assessments consider the change to a landscape or area, and consequential impacts to views, brought about by the project’s development.

Reducing prominence over distance

Distance	View angle	Prominence
>1.0km	>5.0	Visually dominant
1.0–2.0km	5.0–2.5	Highly visible in the landscape
2.0–4.6km	2.0–1.0	Noticeable in the landscape
4.6–9.2km	1.0–0.5	Discernible but not dominant
9.2km	0.5	Visually insignificant



How is the information being used?

Field surveys and investigations are required to confirm the existing conditions and environmental sensitivities of the land and assess the potential impacts of the project. The findings of field surveys are helping us to identify the proposed route with the least overall impact and to identify indicative tower sites and access track locations in consultation with landholders.



What assessments have been undertaken?

The technical specialists have conducted extensive assessments including desktop reviews and mapping, field work, community and stakeholder consultation and meetings, site inspections and landholder and neighbour property visits. Photomontages have also been used to demonstrate the visual impact of the proposed transmission line from different viewpoints.

Community members also provided more than 200 pieces of feedback (social pinpoint data) about landscape and visual impact. Technical specialists have investigated this feedback and used it to help them identify landscape character and local values and to select specific locations for assessing visual impact.

Key public viewing locations across the study area include:

-  Major roads: Western Freeway, Midland Highway, Sunraysia Highway and connecting roads between townships and settlements.
-  Public areas within townships, particularly areas within the road network, local parks, and other points of interest.
-  Public parks and recreation areas, including state-managed parks and reserves, reservoirs, waterways, forests, trails, and other landscapes that are publicly accessible.
-  Identified significant landscapes and significant views, as identified by the South West Landscape Assessment Study and overlays recognising scenic amenity.
-  Residential areas.



Visual impact assessments from public viewpoints

70 locations and more than 100 individual viewpoints



39

Visual impact assessments from private viewpoints



14

Key township studies conducted across; Amphitheatre, Elmhurst, Lexton, Waubra, Creswick, Smeaton, Kingston, Newlyn, Myrning, Darley, Melton, Toolern Vale, Diggers Rest and Hillside

Ongoing residential visual impact assessments

We are continuing to conduct residential visual impact assessments at properties near the proposed route, including neighbours and impacted landholders. A residential visual impact assessment involves a technical specialist visiting residences to assess the potential visibility of the proposed transmission infrastructure.





Through planning and design, as well as the Environment Effects Statement process, we are exploring options to reduce the visual impact including adjusting tower locations, considering use of existing landscape and vegetation to screen the infrastructure, and options for tree planting.



More information

You can find the latest information about the project and landscape and visual impacts on the website's **Resources** page, and the latest project information on the website's **News & Events** page.


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Information straight to your inbox




Sign up for information straight to your inbox at the Project website westernrenewableslink.com.au.

Need an interpreter?

 If English is not your first language or you need an interpreter, please call 13 14 50.

Complaints

If you have a query, a compliment or a complaint, you can let us know by using the online enquiry form on westernrenewableslink.com.au. Or you can let us know by:

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