

24 September 2020

You've told us your top priorities online, let's explore them in person at our community drop-in sessions

Planning is underway as we work together to unlock Western Victoria's renewable energy to grow businesses and communities for the region.

AusNet Services is pleased to host a series of community drop-in sessions on the Western Victorian Transmission Project (WVTNP), starting Wednesday, 30 September. The informal drop-in sessions are open to everyone and provide an opportunity for individuals to discuss the project with the team, provide feedback, ask questions and raise concerns.

As AusNet Services works to narrow down the project corridor, local communities have told us online what's important to them. They've provided incredible local insights and raised their concerns, which goes a long way to helping AusNet Services develop the project corridor.

AusNet Services Project Director Mr Francisco Vizcaino says the online mapping tool has so far received 2,600 pins from participants, with biodiversity, agriculture, forestry and historical heritage emerging as top priorities for many local communities. This is in addition to recent online community forum sessions which raised important community concerns around bushfire risk, health impacts, route selection and overhead lines.

"We know there are a lot of questions, concerns and insights out in the community that we need to hear, explore and address as we continue this project planning phase. We genuinely want to work with landowners and residents to minimise impacts the project may have on families, properties, businesses and communities," said Mr Vizcaino.

"As we start to emerge from lockdown, we're finding more ways to safely meet with the community to further explore these insights and discuss community concerns.

"Some of our people live in the local area and have volunteered to host a series of informal drop-in sessions across the area of interest so they can provide local communities the opportunity to have a discussion with the team," Mr Vizcaino said.

The drop-in sessions will run from 2pm to 6.30pm. There are no formal presentations and residents are encouraged to drop in at their convenience.

All sessions will be facilitated with strict Covid-19 safety precautions in place. Wearing of masks and social distancing will apply, and all events will be held outside.

Join our WVTNP team at one of the following sessions:

- Stawell – Wednesday, 30 September - Stawell Bowling Club, 5-7 Napier St, Stawell
- Beaufort – Thursday, 1 October - Beaufort Football Club, 39 Park St, Beaufort
- Ballarat – Tuesday, 6 October - CE Brown Reserve, Dowling St, Wendouree
- Creswick – Thursday, 8 October - Mount Prospect Tennis Club, 35 Bridge St, Creswick

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- Gordon – Wednesday, 14 October - Gordon Recreation Reserve, 18 Willunga Ave, Gordon
- Ballan – Thursday, 15 October - Ballan Football Club, Atkinson/Cowie St, Ballan
- Darley – Wednesday, 21 October and Thursday 22 October - Darley Park Sports Club Cnr Grey and Fitzroy St, Darley
- Melton – Tuesday, 27 October and Thursday, 29 October - Melton South Football Club, Reserve Road, Melton

Developing this critical infrastructure will contribute to Victoria's economic recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic. Particularly, this project will boost jobs and economic activity for local communities along the identified corridor. Join the WVTNP team at an informal drop-in session near you to discuss this important project.

For further information, including a map of the area of interest and details for contacting the Western Victorian Transmission Network Project team, head to www.westvictnp.com.au

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About AusNet Services

AusNet Services is a diversified Australian energy infrastructure business with over \$10.8 billion of electricity and gas network and connection assets. These assets deliver energy safely and reliably to around 1.5 million customers across Victoria. Our network and connection assets are designed, built, maintained and operated by our 1,900 employees across our regulated networks and our commercial energy services business, Mondo. AusNet Services is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: AST).