

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

Neoen is a long-term owner and operator of renewable energy and battery storage assets. In Victoria, Neoen owns and operates the Bulgana Wind Farm to the south of Navarre, the Numurkah Solar Farm in northern Victoria and the Victorian Big Battery project outside Geelong.

Neoen is proposing to build and operate a wind farm and battery project near Navarre in north-western Victoria, known as the Navarre Green Power Hub.

The Navarre Green Power Hub will have a capacity of approximately 600 MW and up to 102 wind turbines, spread across two halves on hills to the west and the east of the Ararat-St Arnaud road. There will also be a 220 kV transmission line to link the western and eastern sides of the project and a 220 kV transmission line connecting the western side to the Bulgana Terminal Station, where it can feed electricity into the Victorian power system.

These transmission lines are for connecting this individual project and Neoen must negotiate access with private landholders. This is not the same as the two key power system upgrades known as:

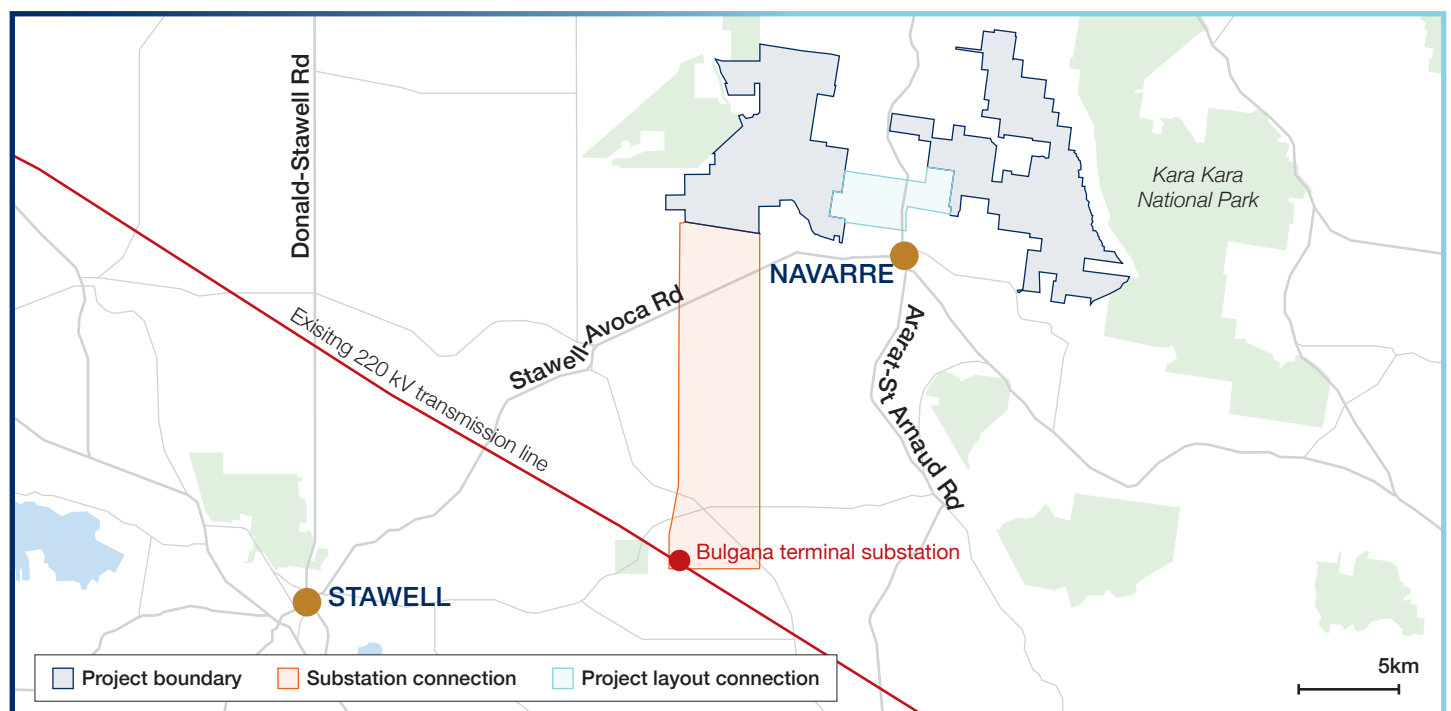
1. Western Renewables Link, from Bulgana to Melbourne, being managed by AusNet
2. VNI West, from Bulgana into the NSW power system, being managed by VicGrid and Transmission Company Victoria.

## What's next?

- 1 Referral**  
The Project is referred to the Victorian Minister for Planning and the Cth Minister for the Environment under the *EE Act and EPBC Act*.
- 2 Decision**  
Minister for Planning decides if an EES is required.
- 3 Requirements**  
Minister releases the EES Scoping Requirements.
- 4 Specialist studies**  
Neoen does specialist studies and prepares the EES and approval applications.
- 5 Submission**  
The EES is submitted to the Minister and placed on public exhibition. Community members can make written submissions for consideration by Neoen and the government.
- 6 Consideration**  
An independent inquiry considers the EES and public submissions.
- 7 Assessment**  
The Victorian Minister for Planning assesses the EES submission and decides whether the impacts are acceptable or not.
- 8 Construction**  
Project construction commences.

Community review & comment

  
We are here



# ABOUT TRANSMISSION LINES

## Location

There are several factors that are considered during the planning of transmission lines including proximity to houses, native vegetation, existing infrastructure, cultural heritage and waterways.

The key factor is availability of land, the existing land use and how it can be accessed during all phases of the project. Neoen does not and can not compulsorily acquire land for transmission lines. The only way Neoen can access land for a transmission line is through negotiations with landowners, and the signing of an Option for Easement.

## Option for Easement

An Option for Easement is a legally binding agreement, entered into voluntarily by a landowner and Neoen, granting Neoen the option to build a transmission line on the landowner's property in return for compensation.

These agreements can include details provided by the landowner to ensure that a farm can continue to operate with minimal impact from construction and maintenance of the transmission line. This may include construction timing modalities to protect seasonal farming activities, lead times for notification to access properties, biosecurity considerations and other matters.

## Technical details

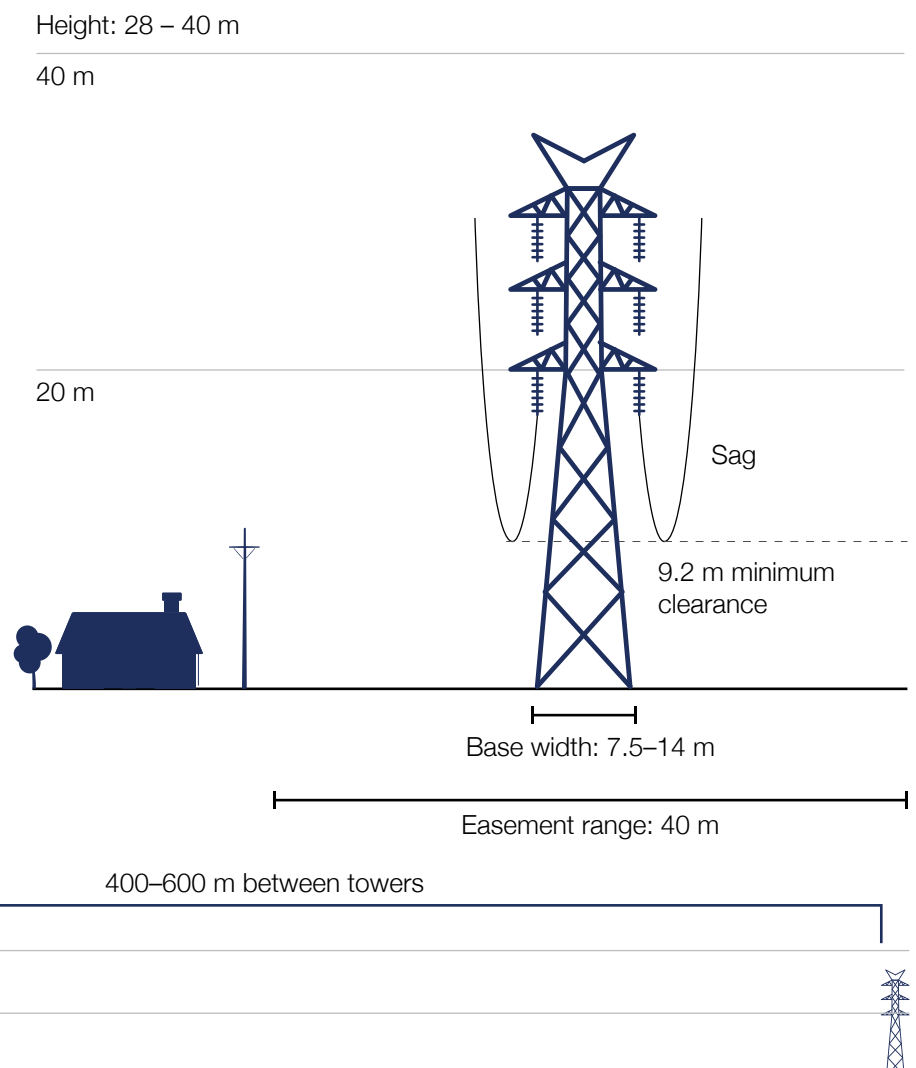
A lot of design details get finalised during the planning phase between the landowner and Neoen. These discussions are informed by any technical constraints identified by the project team.

The type of details that need to be finalised include:

- the exact line route
- the exact location of the towers along the route and the distance between them
- the design of the towers (e.g. a pole or lattice design)
- the height of the towers.

Usually, an overhead 220 kV transmission line, like the one that will connect the Navarre Green Power Hub to the Bulgana Terminal Station will have:

- a 40 m wide easement
- a tower height between 28 – 40 m
- a distance of 400 – 600 m between the towers.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## How will farming activities change or be affected?

Farming activities beneath overhead lines generally continue unchanged, although there may be restrictions on work that involves particularly tall machinery.

Farming activities that can continue as normal beneath overhead lines include:

- ✓ traversing with heavy machinery, equipment and vehicles up to approximately 5 m high (taller vehicles can be allowed subject to a safety assessment, depending on final transmission line design)
- ✓ working with heavy machinery within the easement
- ✓ grazing
- ✓ cropping, planting trees and shrubs with a mature growth height <3 m.
- ✓ installation of fences, low voltage power cables, stock water pipelines etc.
- ✓ water storage dams, subject to sufficient clearances from conductors and towers.

## Will the design consider vegetation and farming activities?

Vegetation density is generally restricted to scattered trees or limited area clumps and shelter belts to control the total quantity of burnable materials on the easement.

A tree clear area of 20 metres radius is generally required at tower sites for line maintenance purposes. Closer trees may be permitted in some locations where the interference caused to access and essential line maintenance is acceptable.

Towers can be designed to be taller to give a greater distance between ground and lowest sag point of the line, to cater for farming machinery. This can be included as a condition in the contract to be discussed and agreed to during detailed design stage.

## Why isn't the project considering an underground line?

An underground transmission line would result in more ground disturbance and a far more expensive connection to the grid.

## What happens during construction?

Before construction starts, Neoen will complete any required site investigations and discuss the activities with the landowner to minimise impacts on existing farming operations.

There are four key steps during construction:

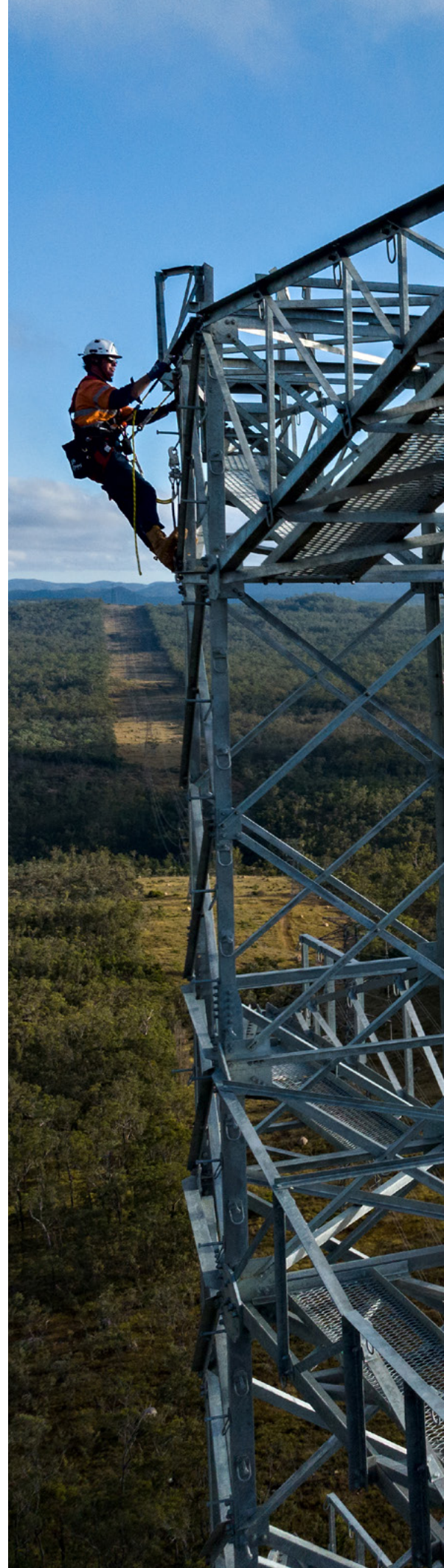
1. site preparation
2. tower foundation works
3. tower assembly and erection
4. transmission line stringing.

This typically requires about two months of works on a property, however, this may be spread over a longer period as construction crews work their way along the transmission line route.

Neoen will work closely with landowners over this period to ensure everything is executed appropriately.

## What happens if the project does not go ahead?

If landholders enter into voluntary agreements (an Option for Easement) and the project changes or does not achieve the required approvals, an easement may no longer be required. If this occurs, the agreement will either terminate in accordance with the deed or expire at the end of the specified time period. Landholders will retain any payments already made.





# WHAT TO EXPECT FOR HOST LANDOWNERS



## Phase 1: Development

1

### Sign Option Deeds with landowners

Varies

Landowner activity:  
High

2

### Install wind monitoring equipment

12–18 months

Landowner activity:  
Minimal



### Community:

Drop-in Session at a local venue.

3

### Environment and planning surveys

12+ months

Landowner activity:  
Some



### Community:

Meetings with neighbours, council and business groups.

4

### Traditional Owners engagement

1–3 years

Landowner activity:  
Some

5

### Government approval for development

6–12 months

Landowner activity:  
Minimal

6

### Sign grid connection agreement

18–36 months

Landowner activity:  
None

8

### Secure power purchase agreement (PPA)

6–36 months

Landowner activity:  
Minimal

7

### Select contractors for construction

6–9 months

Landowner activity:  
Minimal



### Community:

Local Employment & Networking session.

9

### Financial close

3 months

Landowner activity:  
Some

10

### Early works

Varies

Landowner activity:  
Minimal



## Phase 2: Construction

Please note: some of these events can overlap.