

Project Update



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AusNet supports the role of VicGrid in leading transmission project planning and development in Victoria. As VicGrid progresses this work, AusNet will be slowing down some of its activities in relation to the G-REZ project. For further updates on the G-REZ project's activities while VicGrid develops its business case for new transmission infrastructure in Gippsland see page three.



Supporting
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Heritage advisors and representatives of the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) continue to undertake cultural heritage assessments along the G-REZ™ transmission project's preferred route.

In the latest round of surveys, several examples of Aboriginal cultural heritage were identified along the project route.

The survey findings will help inform the Environment Effects Statement (EES) as well as the assessment of any potential impacts the project may have on Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The findings will also help progress the preparation of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) which is to be evaluated by the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP).

The project sits entirely within the GLaWAC RAP area.

The CHMP investigations have three main stages:

- A desktop-based assessment which could include an initial review of existing conditions, geology and geomorphology, ethnohistory, land use, previous work undertaken in the area and previously registered Aboriginal places.
- A survey by heritage advisors and representatives of the RAP of the entirety of the works area, recording the on-ground conditions and any surface Aboriginal cultural heritage identified.
- Small-scale hand excavation of 1m x

1m or 50cm x 50cm pits by heritage advisors and representatives of the RAP along parts of the alignment.

Walkover surveys along the route are undertaken only where we have gained the permission of landowners.

AusNet is committed to working with landowners and the RAP throughout the CHMP investigation process, including where cultural heritage is identified on properties.

For more information about the CHMP process, please visit firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/.

Pictured: Members of the cultural heritage survey team during the fieldwork.





Ecological studies update

Autumn and winter ecology surveys completed

Our ecologists have continued survey work within the G-REZ transmission project area during autumn and winter to support our EES.

The survey work took place at various locations in the Giffard, Stradbroke, Rosedale and Hazelwood North areas.

The autumn surveys were conducted from 15-26 May 2023, and involved targeted flora surveys during the day, diurnal bird surveys at dawn and dusk, and spotlighting and animal call sounds at night.

It also included 'camera trapping', in which cameras were set up in chosen locations and triggered by animal movements to take still photographic images.

The camera trapping captured some great photographs of Gippsland's abundant wildlife, some of which may be listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (the FFG Act) or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act).

Further analysis is being undertaken to determine whether more detailed surveys need to be carried out targeting those species.

The winter survey work was conducted during the day, and at dawn and dusk from 3-14 July 2023. The winter surveys included bird calls, targeted flora surveys and vegetation quality assessments.

The G-REZ team will inform landowners proposed to host infrastructure of the next round of surveys, which will likely be conducted in September for targeted spring flora and fauna assessments. ▶

Pictured: Our cameras caught these cute images of some of the local wildlife that live in the project area - a wombat (top), Swamp Wallaby (above right) and Brushtail Possum (below right).

Images courtesy of Eco Logical Australia



Supporting VicGrid's transmission agenda

AusNet supports the role of VicGrid in leading transmission project planning and development in Victoria.

VicGrid is currently working to develop a business case that will identify a connection point(s) and a preferred route(s) for new transmission infrastructure in Gippsland, with a view to running a competitive procurement process for a delivery partner in 2024.

As VicGrid progresses this work, AusNet will be slowing down some of its activities in relation to the G-REZ project. This includes deferring meetings of our Community Advisory Group until November, as well as some works related to our Environment Effects Statement. We'll also continue to limit our broader community engagement regarding the G-REZ project.

We look forward to supporting VicGrid in realising its transmission agenda for Victoria, particularly in Gippsland.

If you have been engaging with the G-REZ team and have any questions regarding what this means for you, please call your designated project contact or you can get in touch with the team on 1300 360 795.

We intend to issue our next G-REZ project update in January 2024. 

Transmission mission anything but impossible

Gippsland's talented future leaders are addressing the challenges associated with the local energy transition with the help of a couple of G-REZ team members.

Aaron and Brett from G-REZ have teamed up with a group of year 10 students from Marist Sion College (pictured right) in Warragul as part of the Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network's New Energy Technology (NET) Program.



AusNet is supporting the program, which provides an opportunity for local students from years 8, 9 and 10 to work on real-world challenges with industry mentors.

The group has adopted the team name Mission Transmission and is working together to define, refine and address their NET challenge.

The NET Program enables young people to learn more about emerging jobs of the future in renewable energy, technology and associated industries.

It provides them with an opportunity to work with and be mentored by professionals to design, research and develop an innovation with a real-world application.

The NET Program is held at the Gippsland Tech School in Morwell with two sessions each term. 

