

I am writing to express my strong opposition to granting transmission company, Victoria bracket, TVC bracket, a transmission, license, TVC, conduct, and lack of accountability indicating there they are neither fit nor proper to hold such a license below a key points, illustrating why TVCs application should be denied.

1. Unprofessional and aggressive tactics:

TVC had its parent organisation AEMO, have demonstrated a pattern of disturbing behaviour, including bullying, cohesion, and intimidation. Their approach has involved using threats of land acquisition, reporting false incidents to the police, employing excessive security measures, and failing to respect the landholders rights. These tactics show a disregard for transparency and fairness, raising ethical concerns about granting them license powers that could further embody this disconnect.

2. Basic. incompetence and lack of accountability:

TVC, consistently failed to answer straight forward questions, regarding insurance, fire risks, impact on farming, and environmental issues, despite 18 months of engagement with the community. Lack of understanding even extends to fundamental geographical details, such as the location of the Wimmera highway. This display, the level of incompetence and the disregard for due diligence, undermining confidence in their ability to responsibly manage a project of this magnitude.

3. Misleading Communication and abusive power:

The ESC has already ordered TVC to correct inaccurate information in their June 2023 landholder guide, which contains less misleading claims about land access rights. TVC has used this misinformation in meetings and public forums, threatening landholders to be forced access under section 93 powers or compulsory acquisition. Such dishonest tactics are not only unethical, but also highlight TVC disregard for power in balances and transparency.

4. Questionable, business structure and intentions:

TVC, a subsidiary of AEMO, does not hold any transmission assets and has stated that they will be acquired by successful tenders for VNI West construction. This raises the question of why TVC, an intermediary with no independent commercial stake, is applying for a license, the successful tender, which will ultimately build and operate the project, should hold the license directly. Granting it to TVC, creates unnecessary, bureaucratic layers, inflating costs that are ultimately passed onto the consumer.

In summary, TVC, pattern of unprofessional behaviour, lack of transparency, and absence of genuine commercial purpose, underscores the unfitness to hold a transmission license. The ESC should protect public interest ensuring the license is awarded directly to a responsible company that will build, own and manage the infrastructure, therefore avoiding unnecessary complications, and the potential for further unethical conduct.