

VicGrid Policy

Environmental Policy	
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Executive Sponsor	Executive General Manager, Delivery and Commercial
Policy Owner	Director Land, Planning and Environment
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Purpose

This policy establishes our commitment to preventing environmental harm arising from our activities, enhancing environmental values wherever practicable and ensuring our assets are planned, built and operated in a way that is environmentally responsible over the long term. This policy supports VicGrid's Strategic Plan 2026/27 to 2030/31 and the four goals therein:

- Goal 1 – Victorians share the journey and the benefits of the energy transition
- Goal 2 – Our people are focused and empowered in the vital work we do
- Goal 3 – We move fast to deliver the infrastructure that secures Victoria's energy future
- Goal 4 – We are a mature and resilient business that runs well

Scope

This policy applies to all employees and contractors engaged in activities managed and controlled by VicGrid. It aligns with our responsibilities under the environmental legislation, including but not limited to the *Environment Protection Act 2017* (Vic), *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Vic), *Environment Effects Act 1978* (Vic), *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic), *Wildlife Act 1975* (Vic), *Water Act 1989* (Vic), *Heritage Act 2017* (Vic), *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic), *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cwlth).

Policy Statement

As we transition Victoria's electricity network to support the integration of renewable energy, we recognise that our decisions can significantly impact the natural environment, including the landscapes, communities, ecosystems and habitats we work within and alongside.

VicGrid takes this responsibility seriously. Our commitment to environmental stewardship is grounded in our vision of an energy system that supports all Victorians to thrive. We embed environmental thinking into every decision we make, from asset planning, project inception through to delivery and beyond.

VicGrid is committed to protecting and where possible, enhancing the ecological, heritage and environmental values in areas our projects are planned and delivered, from agricultural land and waterways to native vegetation and sensitive habitats. We recognise that transmission infrastructure has the potential to create lasting change in the environments and communities we work within and we hold ourselves accountable for managing that impact with diligence and integrity.

We strive to ensure that environmental considerations are not treated as a compliance obligation alone. We seek to connect genuinely, explore meaningfully and deliver purposefully in how we engage with private landowners, farming communities, Traditional Owners and manage the natural systems that support them.

To uphold our commitment to the environment, VicGrid prioritises the following:

- **Establish a structured environmental management system** - to identify, assess, manage, monitor and continually improve our environmental performance across all our activities, projects and services.
- **Meet and where possible exceed our compliance obligations** - fulfilling all applicable environmental legislation, regulations, licence conditions and permit requirements and applying best practice where standards are absent or unclear.
- **Set targets and track our performance** - establishing measurable environmental objectives, monitoring outcomes and reporting transparently on progress to drive continual improvement.
- **Integrate the environment from the outset** - embedding environmental considerations into strategic planning, procurement, contractor management and project delivery ensuring approvals and delivery move at the pace Victoria's energy transition requires.
- **Communicate clearly and openly** - connecting genuinely with Traditional Owners, landholders, local communities, regulators and other stakeholders on environmental matters and responding to concerns transparently and in a timely manner.
- **Build capability across our people and supply chain** - ensuring everyone who works for or with VicGrid understands and fulfils their environmental and cultural heritage responsibilities.