

Ms Kami Kaur
General Manager, A/g
Australian Energy Regulator
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28/12/20

**RE: Powercor Revised Proposal 2021-2026.
Request to upgrade Tyrendarra, Strathdownie, Cape Bridgewater and
Gorae West to three-phase power**

Ms Kaur,

We are contacting you to lend our support to the proposal to upgrade the SWER line infrastructure in Tyrendarra, Strathdownie, Cape Bridgewater and Gorae West in South West Victoria. We are proud custodians of land in our district and are well aware of our responsibility to protect and utilise this valuable resource whilst contributing as part of Victoria's most productive food region. The potential of the Tyrendarra region is currently hampered by a lack of infrastructure that is restricting potential business opportunities and growth.

While we are not directly involved in this area, we own and operate a 600 cow dairy farm east of Warrnambool. Originally, our dairy enterprise was serviced by a SWER line but we were fortunate to be stakeholder in a landholder / government / Powercor partnership to upgrade our SWER line a number of years ago.

Prior to the upgrade to three phase power, we ran a single operator dairy farm milking 120 cows on 64Ha using diesel motors for our irrigation system. Despite the trepidation we faced regarding the cost of the upgrade to our business, it has been a springboard for further development and investment in our future.

Since the upgrade we have converted adjoining outpaddocks and grazing land to become a part of our dairy platform increasing it to 298Ha. We were able to gradually increase our output from 65,000kg milk solids to the present 335,000kg milk solids. Our irrigation development has lifted from 14Ha under irrigation to the present 135Ha. Our original installation of a 100KVA transformer for the dairy has increased to 400KVA total transformer capacity. We now employ 6 fulltime staff who have a number of children who attend local schools.

The upgrade to three phase in our coastal area is a testament to the economic and community benefits of infrastructure upgrades and better utilization of the natural resources in South West Victoria.

South West Victoria is Victoria's foodbowl and it also provides opportunities for regional sheep and beef producers. But the potential to build even more paddock to plate pathways and value add to businesses is immense. Secondary manufacturing in our region needs decentralized processing facilities that cannot operate without reliable power infrastructure. Growth opportunities across the

South West benefit us all by increasing job prospects and allows individuals and businesses to upskill and take advantage of a myriad of growth opportunities

We encourage you to work with local stakeholders to review the infrastructure upgrade process.

We urge you to empower Victoria's Great South Coast businesses, residents and the wider community to invest, build sustainability, and take advantage of opportunities to strengthen supply chains and local manufacturing.

Yours sincerely,