

To Whom It May Concern,

**Re: Powercor Upgrading Regional Supply Proposal**

The United Dairyfarmers of Victoria (UDV) welcomes the opportunity to support Powercor in upgrading regional supply to numerous areas across the South West of Victoria. As outlined in the proposal upgrading regional supply will have far reaching benefits to the local communities and the local dairy industry. Therefore UDV supports Powercor's recommendation to upgrade regional supply.

The UDV is the collective voice of Victorian dairy farmers, representing its members to governments and industry at state and local levels. As a commodity group of the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF), the UDV also provides representation on a broad range of issues affecting all farmers, not just those specific to dairy.

Many agricultural sectors including dairy, chicken meat, eggs and horticulture are highly energy intensive. Dairy farmers in particular have high power needs for milking machinery, irrigation and refrigerated milk storage. However it has become clear to many dairy farmers that the energy infrastructure in rural Victoria is not sufficiently modern or robust to meet the needs of their business into the future.

As an essential service, a reliable supply of energy should be provided to all Australians. The current single phase and Single Wire Earth Return line technology has restricted the expansion of business for dairy farmers in South West Victoria and limited the ability for farmers to grow their business to a more efficient and profitable position. Alleviating these roadblocks will reduce capacity constraints, attract new investment, improve utilisation of land and support regional communities. Therefore UDV provides support to Powercor's proposal and any future proposals that will improve the reliability of energy supply for Victorian dairy farmers.

Dairy is Victoria's largest agricultural industry and a majority of the energy is used at similar times state-wide, morning and night. The Victorian dairy industry is continually growing; however the lack of reliable power supply to dairy intensive areas is a growing concern for the future of the industry.

Yours Sincerely,



Paul Mumford  
President, United Dairyfarmers of Victoria