



In reply please quote: D2020/067326

23 December 2020

Ms Kami Kaur
General Manager, A/g
Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 520
Melbourne VIC 3001

via email: VIC2021-26@aer.gov.au

Dear Ms Kaur

POWERCOR REVISED PROPOSAL 2021-2026: REQUEST TO UPGRADE TYRENDARRA, STRATHDOWNIE CAPE BRIDGEWATER AND GORAE WEST TO THREE-PHASE POWER

The purpose of this letter is to express support for upgrading single phase power to three phase infrastructure in the Tyrendarra area of South West Victoria. To achieve our region's goals of renewable energy and water sustainability leadership, as well as to maintain and enhance our position as a world class tourism destination and Victoria's largest food and fibre producer, we need infrastructure that supports innovation and business growth.

Wannon Water provides water and sewerage services to south west Victoria including major dairy and meat manufacturing businesses in the region. Wannon Water's vision is "Beyond water for strong communities". Consistent with our vision, we have contributed to and support both the Food & Fibre Great South Coast's goals as well as the goals of the Great South Coast Group, and in particular its Great South Coast Economic Futures project which has an aim to realise the potential of water related agriculture in the region.

The Great South Coast has significant potential for growth which is recognised as a high priority by leaders in the region. There is considerable efforts underway to realise this potential for the benefit of the region as well as all Victorians, including elimination of barriers that inhibit growth, such as energy supply.

We note and strongly support the Food & Fibre Great South Coast's goal to strengthen agricultural water security by modernising irrigation to better prepare the region for the impacts of climate change which is intrinsically linked to modernised power infrastructure.

The investment has been called for by communities over a period spanning six years, and note that the project is recommended in Infrastructure Victoria's Draft 30-year Infrastructure Strategy. Upgrading less than 100kms of single phase line supplying 1,130 Tyrendarra, Strathdownie, Cape Bridgewater and Gorae West customers directly is essential to capitalise on the Great South Coast's competitive advantages for economic growth and to unlock downstream economic and social value.

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We support the Food & Fibre Great South Coast's request to re-evaluate the role of population density as a deciding factor in determining the value of investments in power infrastructure upgrades. This model places regional Victoria at a considerable disadvantage, which is disappointing considering regional Victoria has been acknowledged as critical in maintaining Victoria's economic resilience and food supply chain integrity during the pandemic. We encourage you to work with local stakeholders to review this process to ensure fairness for all Victorians.

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

Yours sincerely



ANDREW JEFFERS
Managing Director

