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

Australian Dairy Farmers Limited
Level 2, Swann House
22 William Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Phone +61 3 8621 4200
Fax +61 3 8621 4280

www.australiandairyfarmers.com.au

ABN 76 060 549 653

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

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

I'm writing on behalf of Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF), the national advocacy body representing dairy farmers across Australia's six dairying states, to express our support for upgrading single-phase power to three-phase infrastructure in the Tyrendarra area of South West Victoria. We believe that this infrastructure will support innovation and business growth, and will prove essential if we are to achieve our regions' goals of delivering leadership on renewable energy and water sustainability.

The Australian dairy industry, through our internationally recognised sustainability framework, has made a firm commitment to improving sustainability outcomes, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent across the whole sector by 2030, and enabling water use efficiency. Sustainability, particularly around the impacts of climate change and water security, also forms a key component of the Australian Dairy Plan, a new strategy that aims to deliver increased profitability, confidence and unity across the dairy industry.

The Great South Coast is a leader in renewable energy, with some of Victoria's first wind farms located in the region and a purposeful intent to embrace renewable technology adoption further. This involves utilising clean energy as a pathway for energy cost-savings and long-term environmental sustainability, while enhancing the region's ability to innovate and compete as a high-tech food and fibre sector with global reach. We understand that as a result, several high-value renewables projects are in various stages of planning and development across the region.

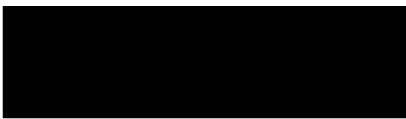
It is worth noting that Infrastructure Victoria recommended investment in three-phase power in its draft 30-year Infrastructure Strategy. Upgrading less than 100 kilometres of single-phase line supplying 1,130 Tyrendarra, Strathdownie, Cape Bridgewater and Gorae West customers directly will capitalise on the Great South Coast's competitive advantages for economic growth and to unlock downstream economic and social value.

There are also flow-on benefits beyond the businesses that will be directly impacted by this upgrade. If delivered, the upgrade will allow businesses and individuals to unlock new industry growth opportunities and improve macro-economic outcomes by increasing access to jobs and upskilling and provide infrastructure that enables investment to reduce the cost of energy long-term. In the same vein, the community, sporting and education users of this network will have an enhanced capacity to deliver positive social outcomes.

This infrastructure is vital to further improve our natural resource stewardship as food, forestry and aquaculture producers, as well as to drive whole-of-region prosperity through the benefits accrued to affiliated industries such as tourism, where food plays a key role, and the preservation of our natural environment. It will also help grow the Victoria's output beyond the record \$14.5 billion in exports recorded in the 2019-2020 Victorian Food and Fibre Export Performance Report.

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,



Terry Richardson
President,
Australian Dairy Farmers