



BEVERLEY McARTHUR MP

Western Victoria Region

Ms Kami Kaur, General Manager,
Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 520
Melbourne VIC 3001
via email: VIC2021-26@aer.gov.au

7 January, 2021

Dear Ms Kaur,

Re: Upgrade Investment in Tyrendarra, Strathdownie, Cape Bridgewater, and Gorae West – Response to Powercor Revised Proposal 2021-2026.

As a member of the Legislative Council in the Victorian Parliament, my electorate – Western Victoria Region – covers a considerable portion of rural Victoria. I have lived my whole life there, on farming properties, and understand the limitations the power supply situation can cause. I am writing, therefore, to strongly support investment which would bring three-phase power to more than a thousand properties in Tyrendarra, Strathdownie, Cape Bridgewater and Gorae West.

Farmers and other businesses across my electorate, including in the area concerned here, frequently tell me how big a difference an upgrade like this would make. There is huge potential to be unlocked – the investment will not simply support existing business, but will enable them to expand, unleashing a wave of new enterprise. I am firmly of the belief that providing essential enabling infrastructure is the best thing we can do for business, and this proposal is an excellent example of what should be done.

This investment has been called for by members of the community for many years, and in my view should be a high priority. The upgrade of less than 100km of single phase line, which I am told will cost less than \$10m, would transform the area's economic potential enabling significant investment in renewables, irrigation, high tech applications and machinery, and would unlock growth in the area's key industries of food and fibre and tourism.

The level of pent-up demand is clear to me, and the existing limited population and business density is a consequence of the existing infrastructure. It would be perverse, therefore, to rule out any future investment on these same grounds, and would create a circular argument from which the area could never escape.

I urge you therefore to look beyond this, and proceed with this transformational upgrade, which would build much needed capacity and resilience for households and businesses whose electricity provision lacks both currently.



Bev McArthur MP
Member for Western Victoria Region

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