



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](mailto:VIC2021-26@aer.gov.au)

Dear Kami,

**Response to 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 regions' goals of renewable energy and water sustainability leadership, as well as to maintain and enhance our position as Victoria's largest, and Australia's third largest food and fibre producer, we need infrastructure that supports innovation and business growth.

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is a statutory entity established to manage land and water resources in south west Victoria. Our aim is to inspire partnerships with the people and groups that use the land and water in the region, driving action to achieve improved catchment and land health.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA coordinates the south west Victoria - Sustainable Irrigation Program. This program supports developing and existing irrigation enterprises to implement best-practice irrigation to maximise productivity whilst minimising third party impacts and environmental impacts of using water on land. One of the program's core aims is to support existing irrigators to improve on-farm efficiency. Irrigation efficiency is currently limited by single phase power. Three phase power will enable for more efficient water use, driving down costs for farmers and reducing environmental risks. Three phase power is also required to modernise water infrastructure to better prepare farmers and the communities to the impacts of drought and climate change.

The south west of Victoria is one of Australia's most valuable and productive agricultural regions. It is currently the highest agricultural production region in Victoria, and the 3rd highest in Australia producing agricultural commodities with a gross value of \$2.7 billion. This is predominantly made up of sheep, lamb and wool products (\$1.25 B), cattle and calf production (\$520.8M), cropping commodities (\$450.8M) and dairy (\$437M).

In addition, the Great South Coast Economic Futures research has identified the creation of high-value agriculture (horticulture) is possible to augment these existing commodities. Due to the natural capital of this region in excellent soils, strong farming expertise and more temperate climate, climate change projections to 2070 indicate that the region will continue to be suitable for cultivation of lettuce, brassica and onions. A 2017 Deakin University study of land capability and suitability under changing climate, concluded that future climate conditions would favour production of stone fruit (apricots, nectarines, plums, peaches), pome fruit (apples and pears), citrus (oranges, limes and lemons) and berries (raspberries).

These commodity results and growth projections demonstrates the strength of our region, however it is contingent on the infrastructure being in place to enable investment, diversification and innovation.

We urge you to empower Victoria's Great South Coast businesses, residents and wider community to invest, enable growth, build resilience and support sustainable use of our water resources.

Yours sincerely,



Adam Bester  
CEO