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**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 a world class tourism destination and Victoria's largest food and fibre producer, we need infrastructure that supports innovation and business growth.

Our company, Southern Ocean Mariculture is a land-based abalone farm based in Port Fairy and is a large power user. We have long recognised the need for other farming projects to have access to 3 phase power to enable businesses to reach their full potential and drive the economy of the region forward.

The Great South Coast is a leader in renewable energy. Our region includes renewable energy projects worth multiple billions and we are building on our early adoption of renewable energy (with some of Victoria's first wind farms located in the region) with a purposeful intent to embrace renewable technology adoption further. We recognise clean energy is a pathway for energy cost-savings and long-term environmental sustainability, whilst enhancing our ability to innovate and compete as a high-tech food and fibre sector with global reach. As a result, numerous high-value renewables projects are in various stages of planning and development across the region.

We recognise 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.

We note that our goal to strengthen agricultural water security by modernising irrigation to better prepare the region for the impacts of climate change is intrinsically linked to modernised power infrastructure.

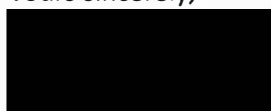
The 2019-2020 Victorian Food and Fibre Export Performance Report showed that Victoria delivered a record \$14.5 billion in exports and is well on target to reach its target of \$20 billion food and fibre

exports by 2030. A positive milestone for farmers and Victoria that produces over a quarter of Australia's food and fibre exports, with most of this production generated within the Great South Coast. This result and growth projection demonstrates the strength of our region, however it is contingent on the infrastructure being in place to enable investment, diversification and innovation.

We consider it is important to re-evaluate the role of population density as a deciding factor in determining the value of investments in power infrastructure upgrades. This model appears to place 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,



Mark Gervis,  
General Manager