

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Vic2021-26](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Power Upgrades for South West Regions  
**Date:** Wednesday, 3 June 2020 11:43:07 PM

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**I support the proposed upgrades support future economic growth.**

○ The dairy industry in 2016-17 was valued at an estimated \$3.6 billion and this figure does not account for the flow through effect into the wider communities. Victoria accounting for 64 per cent of milk production in Australia

○ The upgrade is expected to deliver millions of dollars in benefits to communities.

As an illustration of Dairy community flow through effect based on Dairy Australia figures is, one farm earning an 13 cents per litre drives an extra \$520,000 spend in our community as \$1 earned on farm has been shown to extrapolate out to \$5 in the regional and rural communities. The multiplication impact of the many number of farms in each of South West Victoria is powerful. If the most up to date figures used as produced by Dairy Australia over the last 12 months the Western Victorian region has produced more than 2 billion litres of milk, see PDF attached

If we multiple the 2 billion litres by 13 cents that equates to \$260 million which if you take 80% of that being spent by farmers and extrapolate by 5 would mean just over **Aus \$1 billion available** to be spent in Western Victoria each year.

**(Aus \$2,000,000,000 X 0.13 = Aus \$260,000,000 x 80% = Aus \$208,000,000 x 5 = Aus \$1,040,000,000)**

○ Farmers like myself have told Powercor the upgrades would support farmers to increase milk production, reduce their cost of production, increase confidence in the farming sector and assist farming operations stay in business.

○ Over two years, Powercor engaged United Dairy farmers of Victoria, Great South Coast Food and Fibre Council and Dairy Australia and more than 4,500 customers

○ I have been part of this consultation process, voicing my support for three phase power because I know as a farmer myself, that increased electricity capacity and reliability is vital to meeting the needs of the dairy industry. I also know how much farmers contribute to society more broadly, so this isn't just a matter of simply increasing milk production in the region – it would have massive positive flow on effects as illustrated above

○ Dairy farmers, and other small business owners told Powercor that while the current single-phase network provides a low-cost option to supply small loads spread over large areas, they need infrastructure that can support greater demand and their future growth.

**Regards**

**Oonagh Kilpatrick**