

To Whom It May Concern,

**Re: Powercor Upgrading Regional Supply Proposal**

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) welcomes the opportunity to support Powercor in upgrading regional supply to numerous areas across the South West of Victoria.

The VFF is the collective voice of Victorian agriculture, representing our members to governments and industry at state and local levels. The VFF is made up of seven commodity groups, dairy, livestock, horticulture (including flowers Victoria), grains, chicken meat, eggs and pigs. The VFF is dedicated to representing the interests of farmers and making a positive difference to their businesses and communities.

Many agricultural sectors including dairy, chicken meat, eggs and horticulture are highly energy intensive. The housed animal industries, such as chicken, eggs and pig farms have extensive climate control requirements using exhaust fans, heating and lighting resulting in high energy usage and cost. Similarly for horticulture refrigeration and irrigation needs result in high energy usage and cost. Therefore the VFF is supportive of any efforts to improve energy access and reliability through infrastructure upgrades

The potential of this proposal is significant for all Victorian farmers. Lack of access to safe and reliable energy is a major concern for farmers, limiting their ability to grow and develop their business.

The VFF views this proposal as an opportunity to form a template project for upgrades to regional infrastructure across Victoria enabling farmers to work more efficiently and remove unnecessary costs and barriers. This will benefit Victorian agriculture, the communities that rely on agriculture and ultimately the consumer who purchases the product.

Agriculture is an important industry for Victoria and is continually growing and developing. However the lack of reliable power supply across parts of Victoria is an ever growing concern for our members and the future of Victorian agriculture.

Yours Sincerely,



David Jochinke  
President, Victorian Farmers Federation