

22 January 2020

Tim Rourke
CEO
Powercor
Locked Bag 14090
Melbourne Vic 8001

Dear Mr Rourke,

Re: Powercor Network Upgrades to Support Dairy Farmers

I write to you regarding the announcement last year, of Powercor's intentions to upgrade the current single phase electricity network to 3 phase power in Tyrendarra, Strathdownie, Cape Bridgewater and Gorae West.

This proposal acts as a framework for similar upgrades to support other regional towns and industries in Western Victoria and it goes beyond improving infrastructure for dairy farms in four towns. If approved, it will act as a blueprint for similar projects that can help to build energy resilience in rural communities.

These upgrades will facilitate business and development expansion within the local dairy industry and deliver millions of dollars of benefits to these communities. Farmers indicate the upgrades would support increased milk production, reduce their cost of production, increase confidence in the farming sector and assist farming operations stay in business.

Moyne's Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029 recognises that infrastructure upgrades for power, water and wastewater treatment are vital to foster the continued growth of agriculture across the Shire. The Action Plan specifically provides that in 2020, Council should support the dairy sector and its value chain to improve competitiveness. It advocates for sector wide improvements and specifically states Council should pursue upgrades from Single Wire Earth Return (SWER) power lines to 3-phase power.

On behalf of Moyne Shire Council, I wish to thank Powercor Australia for their commitment to the region and urge Powercor Australia to proceed with the upgrades as soon as possible.

Please contact me on 1300 65 65 64 if Moyne Shire can be any assistance in facilitating the upgrade process.

Yours sincerely



Bill Millard
Chief Executive Officer