Date 07/01/2021

Ms Kami Kaur General Manager, A/g Australian Energy Regulator GPO Box 520 Melbourne VIC 3001

via email: VIC2021-26@aer.gov.au

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.

R & M Menzel Pty Ltd is predominately a family company and was established in 1966 in Portland Victoria with over 50 years of experience in the Electrical Industry.

We are specialists in Wind Turbine Electrical Completion and since 2008 have completed over 1350 wind turbines throughout Australia and Overseas.

R & M Menzel is the first company in Australia to receive certification and compliance from Energy Safe Victoria for wind turbines. We are registered Electrical Contractors in Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania

We also perform and assist in a large variety of other works throughout the life of the wind farms including Installation of all turbine components, Mechanical Completion, Quality Walkdowns, Commissioning, Installation of Substation, Underground & earthing systems. Major Component change outs, repairs and service works.

Assisting Turbine Manufacturers achieving Compliance with relevant Australian and state Electrical regulations.

R & M Menzel is a Gold accredited member of Master Electricians Australia and Safety Connect safety management system.

R & M Menzel is prequalified with CM3 system.

Due to lack of 3 Phase power, most agricultural industries (dairy farmers) rely on diesel generators up to 300kva with a 250kva Genset as a standby. There is an urgent need for 3 phase power to be made available.

Business beyond the 1000-plus directly benefiting from the upgrade will be more resilient to economic shocks such as the pandemic and climate change events. If delivered, the upgrade will allow businesses and individuals to unlock new industry growth opportunities and improve macroeconomic outcomes by increasing access to jobs and upskilling, and provide infrastructure that enables investment to reduce the cost of energy long-term. In the same vein, the community, sporting and education users of this network will have an enhanced capacity to deliver positive social outcomes.

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 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,

Robert Menzel Director