

[REDACTED]

Date 6 June 2021

Ms Kami Kaur
General Manager, A/g
Australian Energy Regulator
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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 to sustain and build opportunities for employment.

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.

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. Regional Victoria has been acknowledged as critical in maintaining Victoria's economic resilience and food supply chain integrity during the pandemic.

I urge you to drive this case forward to connect reliable three-phase power energy to the final corner of Victoria. This will ensure stability and confidence to grow farming enterprises and attract investment in other local businesses which in turn will stimulate job growth.

Regards,

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Sarah Campbell
Human Resource Manager
South West Dairy Farm