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Ms Kami Kaur
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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 my support for upgrading single phase power to three phase infrastructure in South West Victoria.

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is Victoria's peak farming group, representing over 10,000 farmers across Victoria. Our membership in the concerned region includes predominantly dairy farmers and some livestock farmers.

The VFF is supportive of investment to ensure a level of energy infrastructure that will allow the dairy industry in the region to grow and remain sustainable.

The VFF and UDV have actively lobbied for this investment for a period spanning six years. Upgrading less than 100kms of single phase line directly supplying 1,130 Tyrendarra, Strathdownie, Cape Bridgewater and Gorae West customers is essential to capitalise on the Great South Coast's competitive advantages for economic growth and to unlock downstream economic and social value.

Specifically, this investment will create:

- economic growth and scaling up of key industries such as food and fibre, which drives 60 percent of the regional economy,
- infrastructure to support significant investment in renewables, irrigation, high tech applications and machinery, the Internet of Things and smart farming,
- new jobs, upskilling, better servicing of customers through improved turnaround times, and enhanced function of social, education and community facilities, and
- a positive flow-on effect to affiliated industries such as tourism, retail, education, hospitality and other sectors in the region.

The VFF supports this upgrade to enable South West Victoria's businesses, residents and wider community to invest, build resilience and sustainability, and take advantage of opportunities to strengthen supply chains and local manufacturing. I urge you to support the future of agriculture in this region.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Germano
President
Victorian Farmers Federation