



Cr. David Edwards – Mayor

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To all Victorian State MPs

25 August, 2020

Via Email

Ref: 13/03/010

Good Morning,

Re: Underground High Voltage Transmission Lines

Thank you for the opportunity to bring to your attention a matter of significant concern to the citizens of Moorabool Shire (located 45 mins from Melbourne's CBD and including the townships of Bacchus Marsh and Ballan).

There is a proposal to build 85m high transmission lines through the hills and landscapes of Moorabool Shire. The scale of this project is enormous with the transmission lines spanning the entire length of our Shire.

Moorabool is proud to produce renewable energy from our windfarms to power more than 300,000 homes, but putting the powerlines overhead is not green and could be dangerous to Moorabool residents.

There is extreme fire risk to many areas along the proposed transmission line route. If a fire was to break out the transmission lines could inhibit fire-fighting efforts. If a tower was to fall, as they have in the past, people in our towns could be trapped.

The only sustainable and long-term solution - one that Council and our community are advocating for - is to bury these powerlines underground. Other countries have been able to do this with high voltage transmission lines. Past governments here have been prepared to invest in undergrounding such lines, as happened with the Victorian Desalination Project.

Moorabool Shire Council is seeking your support in asking AusNet Services to rethink their decision to build these transmission line towers, and in doing so, set a good precedent for the rest of the State and the nation. With the need for affordable green energy ever increasing, there will be other projects like this one that will impact on other parts of Australia.

I look forward to your support as we work to deliver green energy to Melbourne without putting regional communities at risk. I have included a short video to highlight Council's key concerns - www.facebook.com/mooraboolshirecouncil/videos/352575952417918/

Truly green would mean unseen.

Yours sincerely,

Cr David Edwards
Mayor

