

Stephanie McGregor  
Executive Project Director  
Western Victoria Transmission Network Project  
Level 26, 2 Southbank Boulevard  
Southbank, VIC 3006

4 April 2022

Dear Stephanie,

**Re: Formal request for retraction of AusNet Underground Summary Report findings**

Moorabool Shire Council (Council) write to respectfully request a retraction by AusNet of the unverified observations and outcomes on underground options for the WVTNP, contained in the Underground Summary Report (Summary Report) and corresponding media release, published on 26 November 2021.

The Summary Report was publicly released without technical or peer review, nor input from the Technical Reference Group (TRG) for the project. Whilst we appreciate the importance of sharing information with the community and stakeholders openly and in a timely manner, we feel this report was premature and portrayed as conclusive, when it had not been developed or reviewed by appropriately qualified technical specialists.

We recently commissioned such a technical review of the Summary Report by HVDC experts, which has raised significant concerns about its accuracy. It has been concluded that the summary report ruled out the HVDC underground option based on flawed assumptions about the technology available, which has in turn resulted in discussions of underground design concepts and construction costs that are unjustifiably unfavourable.

It is essential that these assumptions be reviewed, and the conclusions revised as soon as possible, so that the community and stakeholders are provided with the most accurate information available as the project moves towards the Environment Effects Statement (EES) public exhibition.

It is understood that AusNet's full investigation into underground construction options is currently under review by the TRG and remains confidential until finalised. We reiterate the importance of the publicly available information on undergrounding contained in the Summary Report being retracted as soon as possible, to provide greater transparency for our community and stakeholders.

We look forward to continuing productive discussions with AusNet to resolve the differences in our respective technical analyses and findings outlined above.

Yours sincerely,



**Derek Madden**  
Chief Executive Officer