

The Hon John Brumby AO
Co-Patron Central Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid

13 January, 2021

Via email: office@johnbrumby.com.au

Dear Mr Brumby,

Re: Impact of the proposed Transmission Lines on the Central Goldfields UNESCO World Heritage Bid

I am writing to you to express concerns regarding the proposal by AusNet Services to construct high voltage transmission lines and the impact that this will have on the application for UNESCO World Heritage Listing of the Victorian Central Goldfields.

As a co-patron of the Central Victorian Goldfields UNESCO World Heritage bid, Moorabool Shire Council (Council) notes your lengthy involvement, desire and determination to see this region recognised for its unique historical, economic, social, cultural and technological significance.

As you are aware, the bid seeks to identify a serial listing of multiple sites and attributes throughout the Central Victorian Goldfields Region that represent the outstanding values associated with the Central Victorian Goldfield goldrush, and to seek UNESCO World Heritage Listing. The bid aims to activate the full potential of the Central Victorian Goldfields region, bring economic diversification, jobs, investment and tourism, and raise the socio-economic outlook and liveability for cities, towns and communities across the region.

An extract from the proposed draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value that will form part of the bid states:

Central Victorian Goldfields is a cultural landscape that reflects the entire functional assemblage of one of the world's most significant goldrushes and historic gold-producing provinces. The landscape, as a whole, binds exceptional technological ensembles and distinctive goldrush architecture in an evolved series of interrelated systems. It represents the most extensive, coherent and best-surviving landscape, anywhere, that illustrates the global goldrush phenomenon of the second half of the nineteenth century"

Council is concerned that the proposed Western Victoria Transmission Network Project will impact the bid by damaging the conditions of authenticity. The sites of significance currently being investigated for the UNESCO bid are directly interspersed across the area of interest for the transmission line and proposed terminal station area. In assessing the bid, UNESCO will use two measurement pillars of Authenticity and Intactness of the sites. This creates the need to avoid certain highly valuable landscapes and cultural sites as well as the view shed impact, in order not to disrupt those areas and impact the bid process.



While the exact alignment of the proposal is yet to be determined, the area of investigation runs through the Moorabool, Ballarat, Hepburn and Pyrenees municipal areas, all of which are home to significant cultural heritage and landscapes associated with the Central Victorian Goldfields heritage bid.

The Moorabool Shire Heritage Advisory Committee have also raised concerns with proposal and the impact that it will have on both this heritage landscape, but also the bid itself.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Vanessa Osborn, Co-ordinator Major Developments via email vosborn@moorabool.vic.gov.au or via phone 03 5366 7100.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derek Madden', written in a cursive style.

Derek Madden
Chief Executive Officer