

The Hon Sussan Ley MP
Federal Minister for the Environment
Via email: minister.ley@environment.gov.au

4 September, 2020

File: 13/03/010

Dear Minister,

Re: Western Victoria Transmission Network Project – Moorabool Shire Council Communications

Moorabool Shire Council (Council) would like to take this opportunity to raise some concerns and share with you our communications in response to the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project (WVTNP). This project will have a significant impact with over 70km of new 500kV transmission lines proposed to run through the length of the Shire.

It is important to note that Council does not dispute the importance of this significant renewable energy infrastructure project and we are supportive of the transition to renewable energy. However, Council is mindful of achieving long-term sustainable outcomes where the impact to our community and the natural environment is not unreasonably compromised by the project.

With these concerns at front of mind, Council is unclear on who has the ultimate responsibility for the project and the transmission network as a whole. Considering the significance of this matter at a Federal, State and local level, we would like to request a meeting to discuss this information in more detail. In preparation for the meeting, please find attached the following correspondence:

- **26 June 2019:** Submission to AEMO RiT-T – Community concerns
- **22 October 2019:** Submission to AEMO RiT-T – Fire concerns
- **18 December 2019:** Letter to Mondo on contract award requesting Area of Interest
- **28 April 2020:** Moorabool, Hepburn and Melton letter raising concerns
- **26 June 2020:** Second letter from three Councils – social licence
- **27 July 2020:** Four Councils write to Planning Minister calling for EES
- **13 August 2020:** Moorabool writes to AEMO re underground comparison data
- **14 August 2020:** Moorabool submission to EPBC Referral
- **18 August 2020:** Four Councils write to AusNet about acceptable benefit sharing

A timeline of the key correspondence can be found on our website, as well as our Green & Unseen video that highlights some of our key concerns:

<https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/western-victoria-transmission-network-project>

We are calling on the Federal Government to request the project not only review alternative alignments, but most importantly alternative technologies and construction techniques that would allow these lines to go underground.

We encourage the Federal Government to consider the long-term impacts of the multiple transmission upgrades that are forecast across the country and how to ensure a best practice approach is deployed in all cases. It is vital to minimise and plan for common issues that may delay, and in some cases prevent, the much-needed transmission infrastructure.

We thank you for taking the time to consider the issues we have raised and strongly urge the Federal Government to be world leaders in the transmission sector, set the path for future projects, and make the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project a legacy of which we can all be proud.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Vanessa Osborn, Major Developments Co-ordinator, Moorabool Shire Council on 5366 7100 or vosborn@moorabool.vic.gov.au.

We welcome further discussion in regard to our submission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derek Madden', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Derek Madden
Chief Executive Officer