

Pyrenees Shire Council Submission to the PADR

To the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)

The Pyrenees Shire Council welcomes the opportunity to provide the following submission to the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project – Project Assessment Draft Report.

Council appreciates the briefing provided on the project by the AEMO project team in January, and again to the Grampians Regional stakeholder group in February.

It is acknowledged that considerable work has been undertaken to assess the range of options across the state and in particular across Western Victoria for investment into transmission line upgrade.

Of the options considered, Council notes that the Option C2 involving the construction of a new 500kV line from **Sydenham to Ballarat** and a new 220kV line from **Ballarat to Bulgana** was assessed as having the highest net market benefit of all the options considered. **Pyrenees Shire Council is very keen to see this line prioritised**, as a result of the economic assessment in the draft report.

Across the Grampians Pyrenees Region there has been considerable investment in renewable energy projects. The Neoen windfarm at Bulgana and the planned horticultural project by Nectar Farms is a wonderful example of renewable energy being the catalyst for job creation in a transformative scale. In addition, the wind farms at Waubra, Ararat, Crowlands and Challicum Hills are a result of large-scale investment, and evidence of the ability of this region support such investment.

Investment in a new transmission line from Sydenham to Ballarat, and Ballarat to Bulgana will not only support the current and planned renewable projects, but unlock other potential projects in this region, creating jobs and economic growth to benefit all Victorians.

Council would welcome the opportunity to cooperate with AEMO on future stages of the project.

Yours sincerely,

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