



STOP AUSNET'S TOWERS

MEDIA RELEASE

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Victorian's Urge Energy Minister to Stop AusNet's Towers

To urge the Victorian Energy Minister, Lily D'Ambrosio to take Victoria's renewable energy future seriously, community alliance *Stop AusNet's Towers* has written an *Open Letter* to the Minister on behalf of all Victorian's impacted and opposed to the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project. (See page 2).

In 2019, the Victorian Government announced the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project (WVTNP), which aims to deliver green energy by connecting large scale wind and solar farms in Western Victoria to homes across the state.

The proposed line will start in Bulgana and connect to Sydenham, via a new terminal station to the north of Ballarat.

The WVTNP will see 80 meter tall transmission lines run 190 kilometres through some of Victoria's most beautiful tourist destinations and pristine natural bushland, impacting culture and heritage, local tourism, regional businesses, and prime agriculture.

An enormous power substation the size of twelve MCG's will sit just ten minutes from Daylesford.

Community, Council and Political opposition to the WVTNP has been overwhelming, yet the Victorian Labor Government and Victorian Energy Minister, Lily D'Ambrosio have been extraordinarily quiet on the subject.

The National Electricity (Victoria) Act, gives the Victorian Energy Minister the power to override the ill-conceived project and send it back to the drawing board.

Stop AusNet's Towers spokesperson Emma Muir believes all Victorian's deserve better renewable energy solutions, now and for future generations, not cheap options that favour quick political wins and corporate profit.

"We will be running a social media campaign with the *Open Letter* across Melbourne and regional Victoria, to ensure all Victorian's are aware of the disastrous implications of this project."

"The ill-conceived WVTNP does not have any social licence and will not provide the safe, reliable and scalable renewable energy technology required for future generations", said Mrs Muir.

Open Letter To: Victoria's Energy Minister, Lily D'Ambrosio

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the people of Victoria, we urge you to send the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project (WVTNP) back to the drawing board.

We call on you to envision a renewable energy future that is founded on innovative, reliable and scalable technology, because we do not want to see our energy future disabled with outdated and dangerous technology like the WVTNP.

The proposed WVTNP will desecrate local tourism, wildlife habitats, our world class food bowl, local agriculture, culture and heritage and our regional businesses and communities.

This is a grossly inadequate project, lacking any social licence. It was given the green light despite a biased cost benefit analysis that favoured quick political wins and corporate profit over an extraordinarily high environmental and economic cost.

Underground energy transmission is best practice around the world and Australian scientific studies support this.

Underground energy transmission is more reliable, safe and efficient and will not be impacted by extreme weather, or increase the risk of catastrophic bushfire.

In the end, taxpayers always foot the bill for failed Government projects that favour politics over people, and this project is inevitably going to cost us more than it is worth.

Just last year, AusNet passed on a \$24 million dollar repair bill to Victorian energy consumers, to repair a transmission line in Cressy that crashed to the ground as a result of extreme weather conditions.

We want renewable energy solutions that benefit all Victorians, not foreign owned corporations like AusNet, who were responsible for the Black Saturday bushfires and continue to mismanage projects like the WVTNP.

We are extremely proud to live in a region that is supplying the renewable energy to power Victoria, but will not support a project that claims to “deliver on unlocking renewable energy across Victoria”, when it clearly cancels out any environmental, economic, or renewable energy benefit.

The National Electricity (Victoria) Act, gives you the power to override the project contract and send it back to the drawing board.

As Energy Minister, we urge you to ensure our renewable energy future is safe, reliable and sustainable, because all Victorians for generations to come, will be relying on the renewable energy systems you build today.

Yours Sincerely,

Stop AusNet's Towers, Moorabool and Central Highlands Power Alliance, Moorabool Environment Group, Bacchus Marsh Platypus Alliance, Pentland Hills Landcare Group, Wattle Flat Landcare Group, Kingston & District Power Alliance, South Moorabool Action Group, Clarkes Hill and District Power Alliance, Friends of Hopetoun Park & Parwan Gorge, Plumpton Community Alliance, Comaidai Community Group, Darley Power Fight, Melton Stop AusNet's Towers, Rowsley Community Group, WVTNP Waubra to Bulgana Powerline Action, Beckworth to Blowhard and Districts Power Alliance

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MORE INFORMATION: stopausnetstowers.com.au or facebook.com/stopausnetstowers