



**MEDIA RELEASE – 16 November 2022**

## **Stop AusNet's Towers is taking it's fight to Daylesford**

Communities along a 190km proposed high-voltage transmission line are taking their fight to the Daylesford and delivering a simple message: **Stop AusNet's Towers – save our communities, our farms, our jobs and the environment.**

Stop AusNet Tower's is rallying again against the ill-conceived and dangerous Western Victoria Transmission Network Project (WVTNP), also inaccurately known as the Western Renewable Link and wants to ensure the people of Daylesford and the surrounding areas are aware of the significant negative impacts of this project on their community.

We also want to put State politicians and candidates on notice.

Our rally made up of a convoy of vehicles, including farm machinery, tractors, trailers, fire engines, trucks and cars will commence at Hepburn Recreation Reserve from 10:00am and will convoy around Daylesford concluding at the Recreation Reserve at approximately 12:00pm on Saturday 19th November, 2022.

Farmers, business owners, residents and landowners will rally in Daylesford demanding the State Government refuse to approve AusNet's proposal for overhead high-voltage transmission lines and associated terminal station linking Ararat to Melbourne's West. Stop AusNet's Towers is an alliance of landowners, residents, farmers and communities concerned about the environmental, social and economic impact of the proposed Western Victorian Transmission Network Project.

Stop AusNet's Towers spokeswoman Emma Muir said AusNet was proposing to build 380 high-voltage transmission towers carving a destructive 100-meter-wide easement through farms in Victoria's food bowl, bushfire-prone landscape and protected state parks and native habitat as well as tourist areas.

"If AusNet gets its way, this project will devastate our communities. Bushfire risk will skyrocket, high-value agricultural land that feeds Victoria will be destroyed and land values will plummet. This project will cause immeasurable economic damage to local farmers and irreparable harm to the environment and landscape – to say nothing of the amenity and liveability of our region and the wellbeing of residents."

"We represents communities that support real action on climate change and support renewable energy and understand the importance of an energy grid that delivers renewable energy but demand this transmission be undertaken without the significant cost of food security, cause catastrophic damage to the environment nor put lives at risk from an increased bushfire risk.

There is a better way to deliver the – one that delivers the same benefits, the same action on climate change, without destroying our environment and communities.

**WHAT:** Stop AusNet's Towers Daylesford Rally

**WHEN:** 10.00 am Vehicle Convoy departs Hepburn Recreation Reserve, 256 Main St, Hepburn Springs

**WHERE:** Approx 12pm Speeches at the Hepburn Recreation Reserve.

**CONTACT:** Emma Muir, MCHPA Chair, 0412 685 404