

7 May 2021

## COUNCIL CONTINUES ADVOCACY ON TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Council continues to advocate on behalf of community groups on the construction of 190km of overhead transmission lines, proposed as part of the Western Victoria Transmission Network (WVTN) Project.

Mayor, Lesley Hewitt, said Council shares concerns with the community that transmission lines will have a negative impact on the region's landscape, heritage and farmland.

"We are of course very supportive of renewable energy, and the importance of transmitting it to the electricity grid. However, we are strongly advocating for the appropriate placement of powerlines (undergrounding being our preference) and of the terminal station location," said Cr Hewitt.

The WVTN project proposes to build 190km of overhead transmission lines between Bulgana, north of Arrarat, and Sydenham, in north-west Melbourne.

"Council continues to work alongside Hepburn Shire local community groups and neighbouring municipalities to advocate to the Federal and State Government," she said.

"We want clearer information on the project and for the community and local stakeholders to have greater input into the project."

Along with community group representatives, Council and staff have met with the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the National Energy Infrastructure Commissioner. Representatives from AusNet Services, the company contracted to build the transmission lines, have also briefed Councillors on the project.

"We are a member of the Technical Reference Group for the Environmental Effects Statement, and collaborative working groups across Councils, including a working group of CEOs," said Cr Hewitt.

"Council will keep on advocating for the best outcome for our community. This is a major project for our region and it is critical that local concerns are taken into account," she said.

Our community can stay updated with actions undertaken by Council via our website

<https://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/western-transmission-lines-project/>

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