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JML/MS

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AEMO Western Victorian Renewable Energy Integration  
Email: [WestVicRITT@aemo.com.au](mailto:WestVicRITT@aemo.com.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

PROJECT ASSESSMENT DRAFT REPORT (PADR)

Swan Hill Rural City Council (Council) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the PADR recently issued and, having been the beneficiary of several medium and large Solar farms in the region, is taking a keen interest in the work of AEMO.

For the North West of Victoria to become a centre of Solar Power generation for the State and attract international investors, robust infrastructure needs to be in place.

Council supports the proposed upgrades to the network but is concerned that the preferred option flagged by the PADR provides only minor system augmentation for our region. A more significant network infrastructure will provide game-changing benefits to our region, Victoria and to South Eastern Australia.

Council also draws to AEMO's attention the importance to take into account the social factors and the land use planning issues early in the decision making process to allocate upgrades. While it is obvious that wind farm projects attract heated community opposition, solar developments, such as the ones happening in the Murray Region are well received by the community and could deliver early gains through quick infrastructure installation. The cost benefits analysis provided by the RIT-T need to take these factors into consideration.

In conclusion, Council hopes that AEMO will respond to the identified insufficient thermal capacity within existing transmission infrastructure by providing sufficient augmentation to enable renewable generation in Western Victoria to reach its present and future goals. Please also note that Council endorses the submission made by the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to participate in the review process. I will be happy to discuss the above points in greater details if wished.

Yours sincerely

John McLinden  
Chief Executive Officer