



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Climate Action  
Minister for Energy and Resources  
Minister for the State Electricity Commission

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Robert McDonald  
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Dear Robert McDonald

Thank you for your letter of 30 July 2024, notifying me of the petition tabled in the Legislative Council by Joe McCracken, Member for the Western Victoria Region regarding the planned building of the electrical substation by Powercor in Ballarat East.

I note that the petition includes 2,004 signatures and I can appreciate that the construction of the proposed electrical substation may be disruptive and unsettling for some residents. This matter has been raised with me previously, and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action has responded to that correspondence on my behalf.

The department has been liaising closely with Powercor, who advise that the purpose of the new substation is to increase the capacity of Ballarat's electricity distribution network, which is nearing its existing capacity. Powercor notes that the substation is required to meet the demand of the growing population in and around Ballarat, and that it would enable more rooftop solar to be connected. It would also reduce the risk of powerline-related bushfires and increase the resilience of the network during extreme weather events.

While I acknowledge that there are residents who would prefer the substation to be built at an alternative site, the matter of site location is a decision for Powercor as the electricity distributor responsible for the area. Powercor has advised the department that their stakeholder team is happy to continue talking to residents regarding their concerns.

Yours sincerely

**Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP**  
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