

Thank you for sending this through on behalf of Mayor Hood.

Please see my public comments on this issue below:

Many people have rightly been asking for my position on the Western Renewables Link project.

The truth is I have been consulting widely. I have spoken to representatives at all three levels of government, as well as Ausnet and local community groups.

As the granddaughter of a spud farmer and someone who calls Creswick home, this one is particularly close to my heart.

It's time to call a spade a spade. The project is a disgrace.

To say that Ausnet and AEMO have dealt with the consultation around this project terribly is a massive understatement.

The result is an important piece of infrastructure is up in the air because they forgot to ask the locals what their view on the matter was.

I'm not in the business of making promises I can't keep.

If elected I will be a fierce, loud, and constructive voice in parliament and inside the government to advocate that this project is fixed.

That consultation actually takes place.

That all options are on the table, including underground.

That power lines are not built within metres of peoples' homes.

That farms, properties, and livelihoods are genuinely considered in this process.

I can't promise an end to this fight today, but I can promise that I will be in the trenches fighting with my community side by side.

My opponent has called to send the project south to another farming community out of this political electorate. I cannot support that.

I grew up in the country, and I know that when city people try to turn country communities against each other, we all lose.

We need to stick together, not hospital pass dud projects to one another.

Many impacted by the Western Renewable Link just want this project out of their lives and I respect and understand that.

If elected as your Member of Parliament, I will need to address the processes that got us here, to make sure that we fix this project and ensure disruptions like this never happen again.

That's what I can promise, and I actually keep my promises.

Happy for you to give my campaign team a buzz if you'd like to chat further.

Kind regards,
Martha



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I acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country across the Ripon electorate and pay my respects to them, their culture and their Elders past, present and future.

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