



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria  
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

## MEDIA RELEASE



### Grimley Asks for Answers on Western Victoria Transmission Network Project

22 June 2021

Member for the Western Victorian region, Stuart Grimley MP has asked the State Government to take leadership on the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project (WVTNP) currently being planned and eventually built by AusNet.

As part of his question, Mr Grimley asked Energy, Environment and Climate Change Minister Lily D'Ambrosio what Victoria's long-term plans were for the Grid and how the WVTNP fit into this plan.

This comes as many issues have been aired with the current route planned by AusNet for the WVTNP. These include;

- An approved housing estate along the corridor which has been reportedly not factored in by AusNet when considering appropriate routes
- impact it may have in gaining UNESCO Heritage over the Goldfields
- the hilly terrain which will reportedly make building transmission towers and power lines near impossible.

The WVTNP has been a contentious issue throughout the Central Highlands in the Western Victorian Region. The local community has been extremely vocal about the project from the outset, as too have many local councils.

The community along the WVTNP are in desperate need for answers from the government and want leadership from their elected government representatives. It is unfathomable to think that Victorians are being left to fend for themselves without government assistance.

In his contribution, Mr Grimley said "It's no secret that the community want the Government to cost underground powerlines and use existing road easements. Why hasn't this been done?"

Mr Grimley also raised the issue of the extremely disappointing public consultation run by AusNet and this fuelling the anxiety of the community feeling as though their views are not being heard.

#### **Mr Grimley's questions to the government:**

*Minister, how does this Transmission Network Project fit into the long-term plan for Victoria's Grid and will the State Government take leadership on this project?*

#### **Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:**

"The Minister must tell us the long-term energy plan for Victoria and how the WVTNP fits into this. What problem are these towers fixing and what is the impact of this on future energy projects?"

I am imploring the Minister to make a stand and take leadership of this project. Locals need a voice standing up and listening to their concerns.

The locals have had enough of the run-around they are getting from the government; they need to know how their properties are going to be affected, how this will impact primary production and if other technologies, such as underground power lines, being considered."

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