

How to write to your MP

This guide will give you the tips and tricks you need to write an effective letter to your MP. It will also let you know how to structure a letter to your MP, telling them you support our campaign to stop the towers through Darley, Coimadai and Merrimu.

On the following page is a template you can use for inspiration and to guide you. You don’t have to follow it exactly—in fact, it’s better if you personalise it and make it your own!—but it’s a good place to start.

Why write to your MP?

1. It’s the job of your local MP to represent you and the views of people in your electorate. But, if we don’t tell them what we care about, they won't act on these things or make changes. It’s important that they know what your reasons for caring about the environment are, so they can represent them in Parliament.
2. If we want the effect change, we need our MPs to champion this be the voice of the community— we need to let them know that everyday Australian’s care about.

Tips and tricks

* Be polite and open in your tone, and never use aggressive or threatening language—you are trying to build an ongoing relationship with your MP.
* Let them know **why** you care. The more personal the statement, the better.
* Express appreciation about something positive they've done.
* Use assumptive language based on what you know about your Federal MP, e.g. "as a parent/Victorian/lawyer/doctor (whatever applies to them), I'm sure you care about xyz.”
* Ask to hear back from them about what they will do to address your concerns.

[Day Month Year]

[Your name]

[Your street address]

[Suburb, State, Postcode]

[Name of your MP]

[Title of MP]

[Electorate Address]

*[Check* [*here*](https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/about/people-in-parliament/members-search/list-all-members) *for the name, electorate address and correct title of your MP.]*

Dear [Mr/Ms/Mrs/Minister] , *[No need for Sir or Madam.]*

Subject: The Western Victoria Transmission Network Project (WVTNP)

**My name is** *[your name]*, **I’ve lived in** *[name of town]* **for the past** *[number]*years and I’m a constituent in the electorate of Ballarat.

*[Tell them a bit about you—like what you do for work, how you’re connected to your local community or if you’re part of any local group/s that care about the environment.]*

**I’m writing to you today because I am deeply concerned about** *[the issue]*. *[Insert the reason you care about the local region: it can be the lifestyle, views, rural setting, or a more general love for nature and getting out and about in it—like bush walking. Tell a personal story of why you care about this issue. Try to keep it brief and to the point]*

**I’m concerned that the proposed alignment of the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project (WVTNP) doesn’t serve to protect the beautiful region I love.**

*[Tell your story of how the alignment impacts you and why you want the alignment scrapped from the Project plan or cables buried underground. If you need inspiration or examples of this, check out* [*The Impacts*](https://www.darleypowerfight.com.au/impacts/)*.]* **Our current Renewable Energy Zone planning regulations are failing us at the state and federal level.**

We know from project plans like the Renewable Energy Zone Development Plan Directions Paper that the region I live in has the highest potential for renewable energy development. That is why I am writing to let you know that I want the Government, to take a greater role in making sure we support the environment that supports us.

We need a state and national approach to Renewable Energy Zones to ensure our environment has a future. I believe the State and Federal Government should lead us in a national vision for how we conserve and enhance our environment, not create visual pollution through overhead transmission of renewable energy. Distribution should be ‘green and unseen’ using underground high voltage direct current (HVDC).

It’s great the Victorian Government are working towards Renewable Energy Targets and are moving away from coal, but in doing so, they should make sure the infrastructure they are building is in sync with our reasons for moving to renewable energy in the first place. Conserving and enhancing our environment for the future.

Like so many others in our community, I care deeply about this issue and will be active in promoting my views, with the aim of ensuring a healthy, functioning, and resilient environment for generations to come.

As my local member, I’m asking you to take action on this vital campaign against overhead transmission lines.

Will you champion this issue by advocating that renewable energy distribution should be modern, sophisticated and sensitive to communities and the environment?

**I look forward to hearing your response by** *[insert date two weeks from when you send the letter]***.**

**I can be contacted at**.

*[Insert your email address or phone number.]*

Yours sincerely, [Your name]