



Borumba Pumped Hydro Transmission Connections Project

Project planning and environmental approvals

When Powerlink releases the final corridor for a transmission line project, our Landholder Relations Team works with landholders to coordinate access to properties around the corridor so we can undertake on-ground environmental, cultural heritage, technical and ecological surveys and assessments. The results of these studies help refine the 1km-wide corridor down to an easement alignment approximately 70m in width.

The information gathered from these studies also forms the basis of a report which examines and assesses the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the project. This comprehensive report, called the Environmental Assessment Report (or EAR) will be used in the planning and environmental approval pathways for the project.

Transmission connection works

Powerlink is responsible for planning and constructing the transmission lines to connect Queensland Hydro's Borumba Pumped Hydro Project to the existing electricity transmission network. This includes meeting regulatory approvals assessment criteria for the transmission lines, which will have different processing timelines than the pumped hydro project. Powerlink is working collaboratively with Queensland Hydro to progress our project planning activities, and we will ensure that community members are kept informed of our progress. For further information on the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project, visit qldhydro.com.au/borumba.

Powerlink acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands and waters of Queensland and in particular, the lands on which we operate. We pay our respect to their Ancestors, Elders and knowledge holders and recognise their deep history and ongoing connection to Country.



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Approvals and pathways for the project

To ensure our project is environmentally responsible and socially beneficial, the project will require rigorous assessment under State and Commonwealth legislation as outlined below. Dates included are subject to Government assessment timelines.

COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATION

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999

Australia's main national environmental legislation. It protects Australia's natural and cultural heritage from any significant impacts caused by development projects.

STATE LEGISLATION

Planning Act 2016

Sets out the regulations and processes for planning and development in Queensland.

COMMONWEALTH APPROVAL PATHWAY

Step 1 - Submission of EPBC referral application Late 2024

Powerlink prepares and submits an EPBC referral application and supporting documentation to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) for assessment.

The supporting documentation includes a detailed project description and an assessment of the project impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance and proposed mitigation measures.

Step 2 - Opportunity for formal public feedback Late 2024

EPBC referral documents will be formally available for public comment and feedback, to assist with assessments, through the EPBC Act Public Portal.

Step 3 - Commonwealth consultation Early 2025 to late 2025

Powerlink will work collaboratively with DCCEEW as they decide which approvals pathway the project will be assessed under. Opportunities for public comment will be regulated according to the chosen appropriate approval pathway.

Step 4 - Outcome of EPBC referral Early 2026

DCCEEW will advise Powerlink of outcome and any associated conditions if approved.

STATE APPROVAL PATHWAY

Step 1 - Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Early 2025

Powerlink requires designation from the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure (DSDI) to allow use of the land for our project.

To support the process Powerlink prepares and publishes a comprehensive Environmental Assessment Report (EAR). The EAR demonstrates that we have taken all necessary steps to identify impacts and mitigation measures for the project.

Step 2 - Opportunity for formal public feedback Early 2025

The EAR will be formally available to gather public feedback and assist with assessments. DSDI and Powerlink will invite submissions on the EAR.

Step 3 - State consultation Early 2025 to late 2025

Powerlink will work collaboratively with DSDI to review and respond to EAR submissions received and progress the approval process.

Step 4 - Outcome of Ministerial Infrastructure Designation 2026

DSDI will advise Powerlink on the outcome and any associated conditions if approved.

Further information

Through the duration of the project approval process Powerlink will ensure the community is kept informed. Scan the QR code and visit our project webpage to keep up to date with project updates and approval processes.

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