

Bayview Heights to White Rock Project

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

Project update

This project newsletter provides the following updates and information:

- Confirmed approach for the required vegetation management works along the easement (option one)
- Maps showing where vegetation will be removed in 2024 and 2025
- Key feedback received from residents and the community about the project
- Next steps for the easement restoration works.

Vegetation management works are scheduled to start from **Monday 29 July 2024** and we will keep residents updated on the timings of these works.

Project overview

Powerlink owns and operates 275kV underground high voltage transmission cables that run between the Bayview Heights and White Rock transition stations in Cairns. Installed in 1997, the 2.7km of underground cables are critical to maintaining a reliable and secure power supply for residents and businesses in Cairns and the Far North Queensland region.

Powerlink maintains an easement along the length of the underground cables so we can safely operate and maintain the transmission cables.

Essential works to ensure the continued secure supply of power are required along sections of the underground cables and easement located in Mount Sheridan's Forest Gardens Estate. These works include:

- vegetation management along the easement, including selected removal of approximately 385 trees identified as being a high or future risk to the underground cables
- easement restoration, including replanting with compatible vegetation
- refurbishment works at two cable joint bay sites located near Alpinia Terrace and Amazon Close.

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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Vegetation management

Powerlink sought community feedback on two proposed options for the vegetation removal and easement restoration works.

The feedback received confirmed a preference for **option one** which involves removing most of the vegetation in 2024 and undertaking progressive restoration works.

The vegetation management approach will start by removing high risk trees along the easement and selected trees in four key cluster areas.

Clusters have been identified to address issues with problematic tree removal (e.g. trees with interlocking branches and root systems).

This approach removes the need to disturb some areas more than once and enables progressive restoration works to start in the cleared cluster areas.

Delivery of works

Powerlink has engaged local contractors, ETS Infrastructure Management, to undertake the vegetation management works. An arborist and fauna spotter will also be on-site during the vegetation removal process.

On-site equipment will include wood-chippers, tipper trucks, chainsaws, pole saws, blowers an excavator and a specialist harvesting machine.

Work crews will be on-site on Mondays to Fridays, between 7.30am and 5.00pm.

To minimise impacts to local residents, tree removal, stump grinding and chipping activities will take place during restricted work hours between 9.00am and 5.00pm only.

Residents may notice an increase in vehicle movements on local roads and there will be temporary disruptions to sections of the walking path along Crowleys Creek while tree felling is underway.

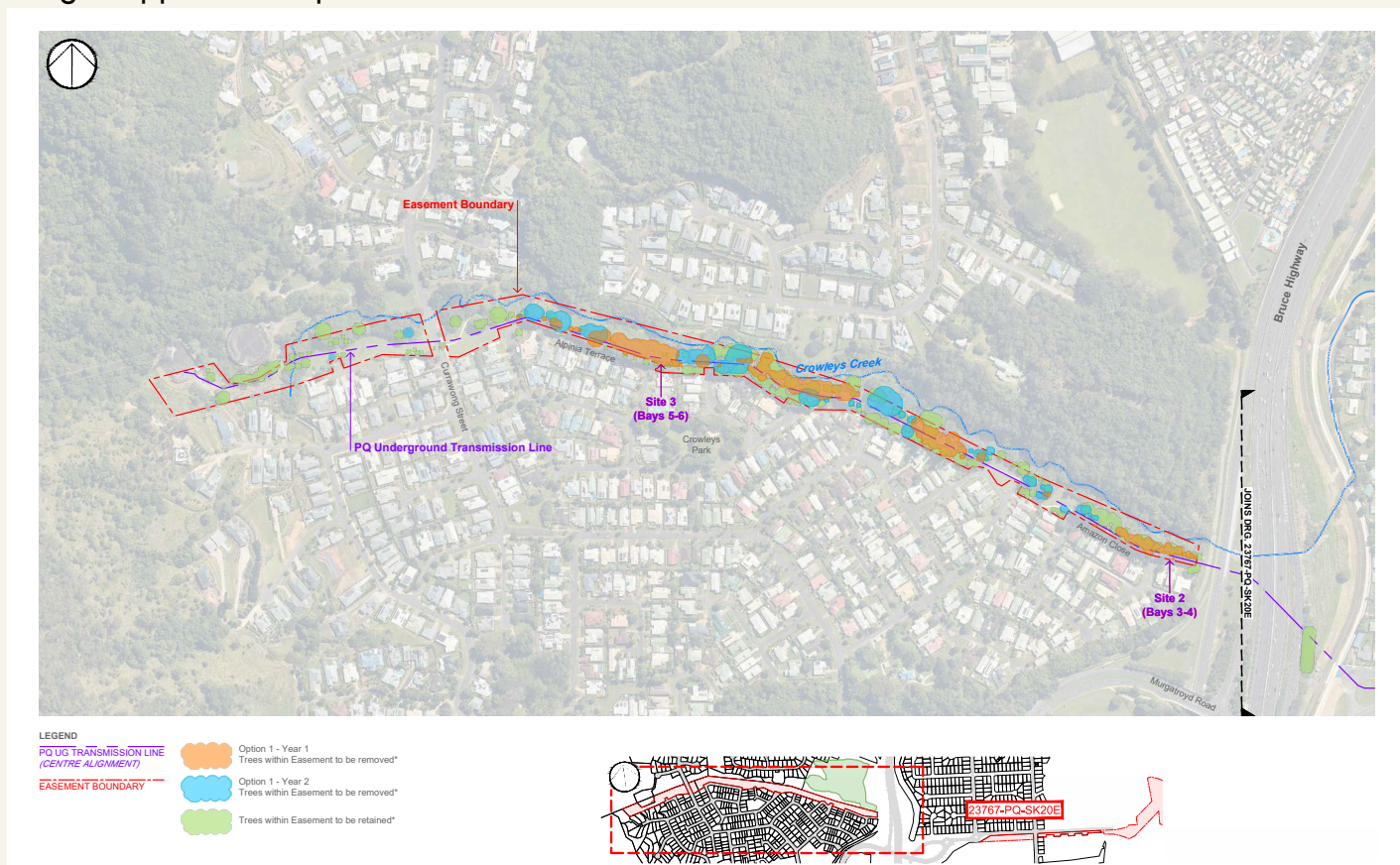
Local traffic and pedestrian management plans will be in place to maintain safety and access for residents and community members.

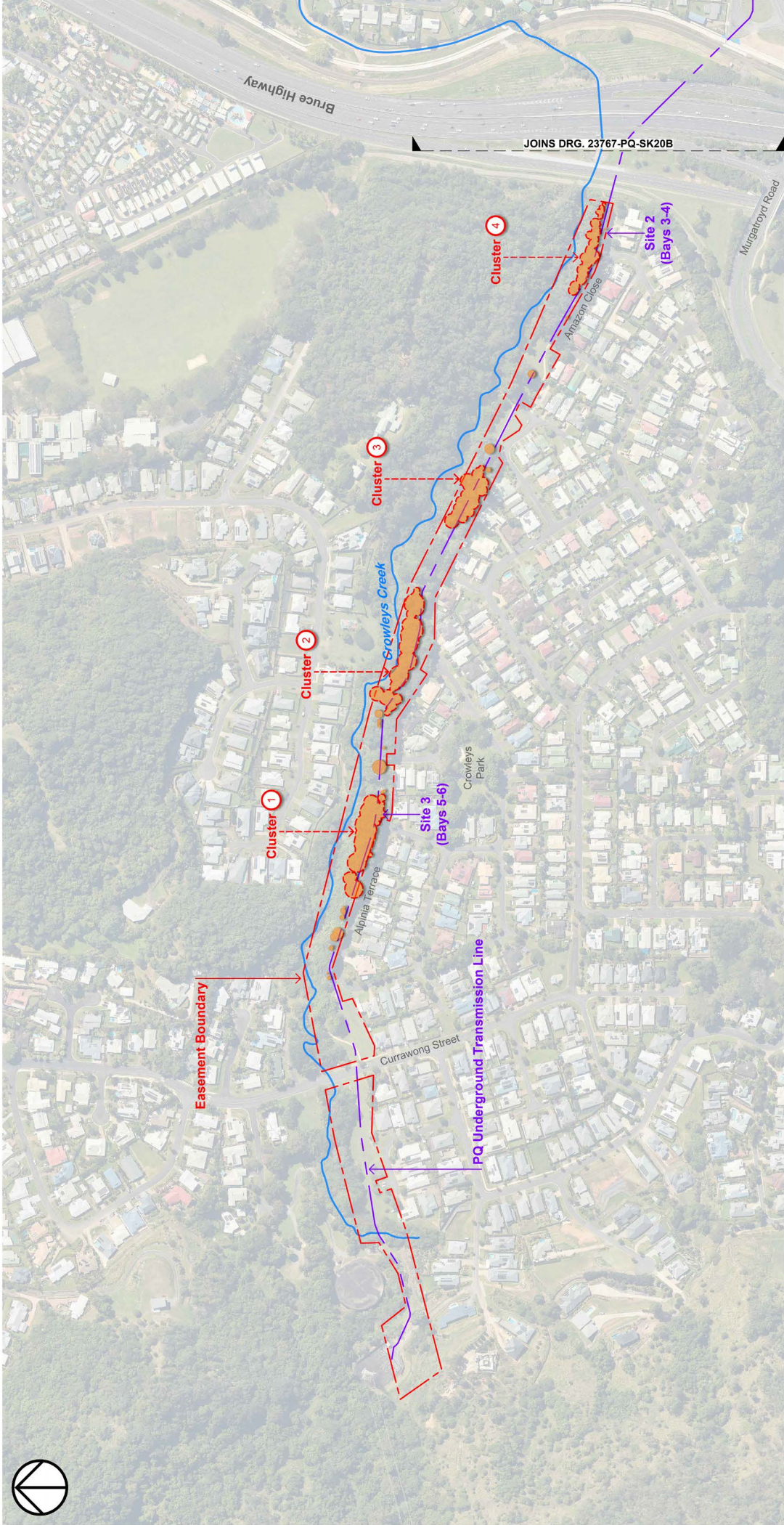
Staging of works

The vegetation removal and easement restoration works will occur over a three-year period between 2024 and 2026. Vegetation removal will start at the Alpinia Terrace end of the easement with works continuing down the easement towards Amazon Close.

Year	Required Works	Approximate number of trees to be removed
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove trees posing a high risk to the underground cables Remove all trees within four key clusters Some vegetation in a 20m x 20m area around the joint bay locations will remain until the refurbishment works in 2025 Mulch will be used where possible to cover areas where trees have been removed Restoration works will start at the cleared cluster areas 	285
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove remaining vegetation around joint bay locations Remove remaining trees posing a future risk to the underground cables Complete restoration works along the easement 	100
2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of plantings 	Nil

Staged approach map





LEGEND

PQ US TRANSMISSION LINE
(CENTRE ALIGNMENT)



Option 1 - Year 1
Trees within Easement to be removed*



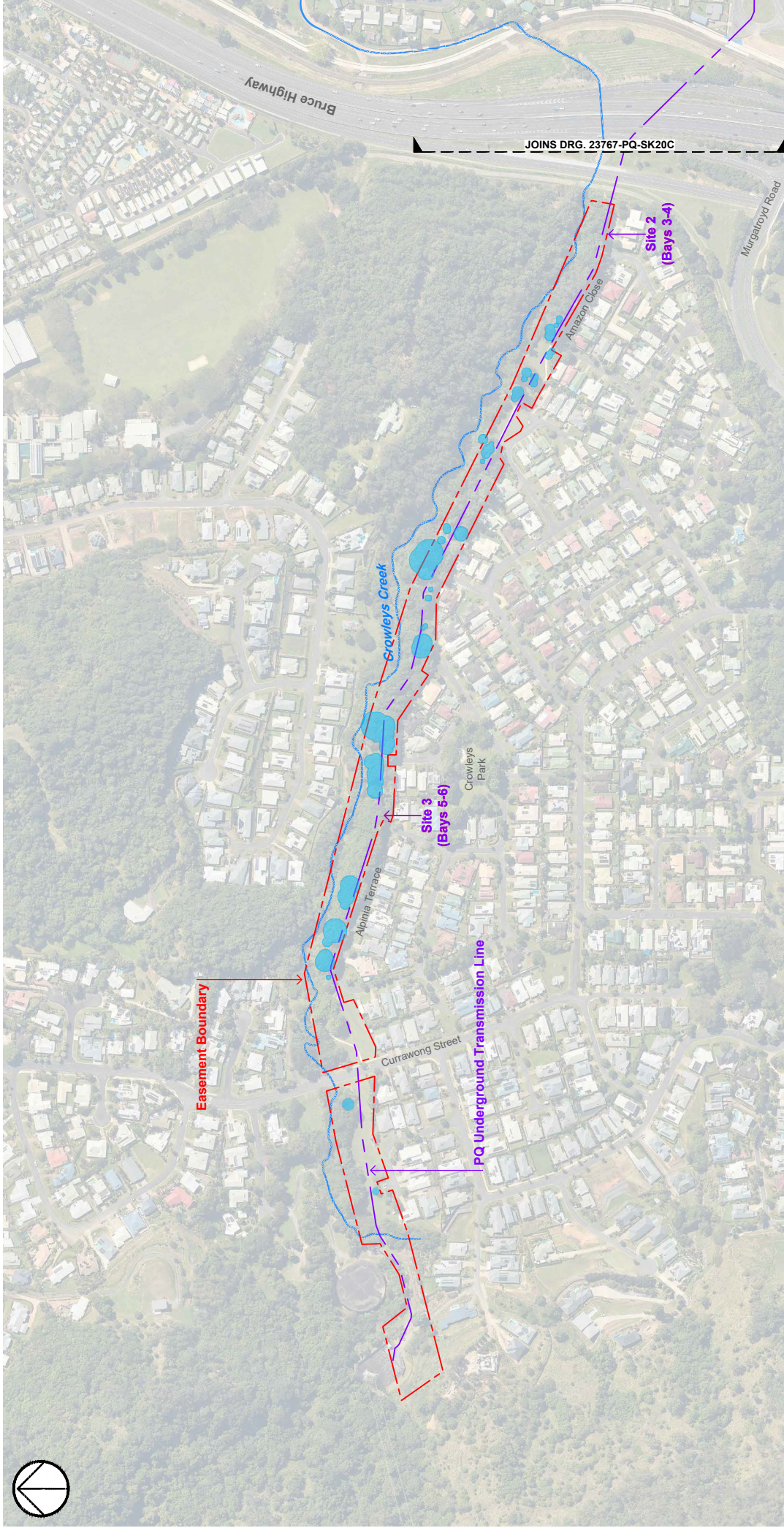
Option 1 - Year 1 Clusters
(Cat. 2-6 trees identified for removal
with Cat. 1 trees in Year 1)

EASEMENT BOUNDARY



23767-PQ-SK20B

JOINS DRG. 23767-PQ-SK20B

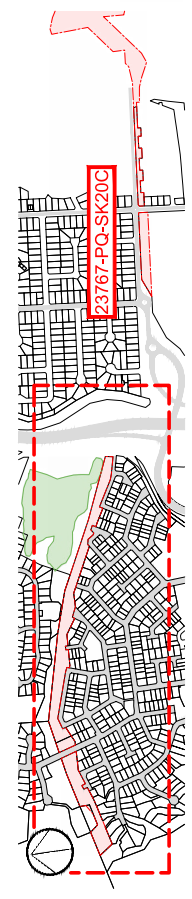


Option 1 - Year 2
Trees within Easement to be removed*



PQ UG TRANSMISSION LINE
(CENTRE ALIGNMENT)

EASEMENT BOUNDARY





Community feedback

We have received feedback from residents and the local community on the vegetation removal and easement restoration works via:

- easement vegetation management surveys
- door-knocking residents
- community information drop-in sessions at Mount Sheridan Plaza
- enquiries to the project email and phone.

Residents and the local community have shared the importance of trees and shade for the Forest Gardens Estate and confirmed the walking path along Crowleys Creek is a valued and well-used community asset.

The key feedback areas included:

- loss of shade
- disappointment about trees being removed
- impacts to the walking path along Crowleys Creek
- importance of a reliable and secure electricity supply in the Cairns region
- concerns with some of the compatible species types proposed for the easement
- preference for option one vegetation management approach
- mixed support for new amenities (e.g. shade structures and seating) due to concerns with undesirable behaviours
- support for water bubblers, with dog bowls.

Thank you to all residents and community members who provided their insights, valued feedback and time to help inform our project planning and decision making.

We are continuing to work with Cairns Regional Council to plan for the easement restoration works and identify opportunities to address community feedback.

Over the coming months, there will be further opportunities for residents and the community to review and provide feedback on the restoration plans. The restoration planting works at the cleared cluster areas will commence at the start of the 2024 wet season.





Community information drop-in session

We will be hosting a community information drop-in session to provide residents and the community with an opportunity to meet with our project team, ask questions and provide feedback.

The community information drop-in session is being held at the Mount Sheridan Plaza (near Coles) 106 Barnard Drive, Mount Sheridan on **Thursday 25 July from 5pm to 8pm.**

Keeping the community informed

Local residents, the wider community and other stakeholders will be kept updated about our works through:

- letterbox drops to properties in the project area
- door-knocking residents directly neighbouring the easement
- project newsletters
- website updates
- social media posts
- signage along the easement
- community information drop-in sessions.

About Powerlink Queensland

Powerlink is a leading provider of high voltage electricity transmission network services, combining innovation with insight to deliver safe, cost effective and reliable solutions. We own, develop, operate and maintain the high voltage electricity transmission network in Queensland. Our network extends 1,700km from north of Cairns to the New South Wales border. We aim to connect Queenslanders to a world class-energy future, providing electricity to more than five million Queenslanders and 253,000 businesses.

Further information

For more information on the Bayview Heights to White Rock Underground Cable Project, please contact our project team on **07 4034 7600** or **fnqprojects@powerlink.com.au**



Use the QR code to access our project website or visit powerlink.com.au/bayviewheightswhiterock