



COMMUNITY UPDATE | AUGUST 2024

Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project



PROJECT UPDATE

In June 2024, Powerlink published a Draft Corridor Selection Report (Draft CSR) for the proposed transmission line between the Calvale Substation (near Callide Power Station) and the Calliope River Substation (near Gladstone).

At 87km long, the new double circuit 275kV transmission line will mostly be constructed within spare existing easement, co-located beside the existing 132kV and 275kV transmission lines. However, there is approximately 16km between Bracewell and East End, where easement widening is required (known as 'Section C').

Landholders, the community and other stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on the Draft CSR over a four-week consultation period. We have now reviewed and considered feedback, and prepared the Final Corridor Selection Report (Final CSR). The report confirms the recommended corridor in the Draft CSR, including the widening in Section C to the north of the existing easement.

The Final CSR is now available on the project web page. Please contact us if you would like to request a copy in another format.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

The table below summarises the key feedback themes from the Draft CSR consultation period, and our response.

THEME	RESPONSE
<p>Compensation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment amount, criteria, and eligibility to receive payments. • Potential impacts to lifestyle, amenity, and property values and future saleability. 	<p>All landholders who have easements acquired or widened over their property for a new transmission line are entitled to compensation under the <i>Acquisition of Land Act 1967</i> (ALA). Compensation under the ALA is not applicable where an existing spare transmission easement is utilised.</p> <p>We will work with landholders across the project to determine the application of Powerlink’s SuperGrid Landholder Payment Framework, noting that the portion of any payment under this framework linked to compensation under the ALA is not applicable where an existing spare transmission easement is used. Powerlink will seek to understand any potential impacts on landholders’ properties due to the new infrastructure and Powerlink’s ongoing operations, and discuss next steps with landholders.</p>

What is an easement?

We generally do not own the land that most of our transmission lines are located on. Our lines are usually built on easements over the land. An easement is a type of land tenure that enables us to access that land to build, operate and maintain the transmission network, allowing us to provide a safe and secure power supply.

THEME	RESPONSE
<p>Biosecurity matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential spread of weeds from using access tracks and activity within the easement. • Current weed management approach. 	<p>We understand biosecurity is a priority for landholders. We take biosecurity seriously and have processes in place to avoid spreading weeds between properties or introducing new weeds from outside the local area. For example, we take preventative measures to minimise exposure to weeds, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conducting regular vehicle wash downs • avoiding travel through areas heavily affected by biosecurity matter • visiting clean areas first, before travelling to affected areas • staying on roads and designated access tracks in work areas • obtaining weed and seed declarations on any fill material brought onto a property. <p>Powerlink will work with landholders to identify biosecurity risks on each property and develop appropriate management measures, including those referred to in existing biosecurity management plans. We value our long-term, working relationships with landholders, and intend to work with landholders regarding biosecurity from the planning phase through to construction, operation and maintenance.</p> <p>For more information on Powerlink’s approach to biosecurity, please visit our project web page and access the Biosecurity Frequently Asked Questions from the Resources menu.</p>
<p>Commercial impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts on business operations and planned developments. 	<p>We recognise residents, business operators and developers may have concerns about how the new transmission line and construction works could impact their lifestyle, operations or planned development.</p> <p>We are committed to working with landholders, business operators and developers to manage and mitigate impacts where possible. This means understanding land use in detail and looking together at ways to minimise impact and maximise co-existence opportunities.</p> <p>While some activities cannot occur on, or near, an easement, many can continue as normal. For example, grazing or growing crops (less than 3.5m high) can generally occur on an easement, providing electrical safety clearance requirements are maintained. For further detail about activities that can occur an easement, please refer to powerlink.com.au/easements.</p>
<p>Visual amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional visual amenity impacts due to the taller height of the new transmission towers, compared to the existing towers. 	<p>Visual amenity is a key consideration in the design phase of a Powerlink project. Powerlink is committed to working with landholders and the surrounding community to understand the most appropriate location for transmission towers. Powerlink will seek to minimise and mitigate any potential impacts to landholders and community by strategically designing the line where possible, noting other social, environmental and economic factors.</p>

THEME	RESPONSE
<p>Broader social concerns about renewable energy (not project specific)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living in an area with significant renewable development activity. • Differing community sentiment regarding renewable energy. • Distribution of benefits and impacts within a community. 	<p>The Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project is required to secure the future supply of electricity to the Gladstone area, in preparation for the expected decarbonisation of major industrial loads in the Gladstone region. Powerlink will seek to keep landholders, Traditional Owner groups, key stakeholders and the community informed throughout the project process including planning, construction and operational phases as relevant.</p> <p>Support services available</p> <p>We acknowledge there are many renewable energy projects planned for the region and landholders may be facing a time of uncertainty due to the rapidly changing landscape in the renewable energy market.</p> <p>For landholders and community members needing support, Powerlink has a professional counselling service available (Rural Health Connect). This is an independent provider and is completely confidential with several sessions provided free of charge. If you need support, please contact Rural Health Connect on 0427 692 377. For more information, please visit powerlink.com.au/support.</p> <p>Powerlink Community Grants</p> <p>As part of the energy transformation, we are helping deliver benefits to communities across Queensland. Our community investment program provides small grants aligning with Powerlink’s values of supporting sustainable communities and economic development.</p> <p>Our goal is to support projects and activities aligning with resilience, safety, wellbeing and economic outcomes, ultimately leading to positive impacts for groups and communities.</p> <p>The Powerlink Community Grants round opened on 22 August and will close at 1pm on 3 October 2024.</p> <p>Community groups, community clubs and not-for-profit organisations in Banana Shire, Gladstone Region and selected other Local Government Areas are invited to apply.</p> <p>Powerlink Community Grants support initiatives and activities valued at up to \$5,000 located in regional Queensland. Grants are available annually, for projects commencing from January 2025.</p> <p>For further information, please visit powerlink.com.au/communitygrants.</p>



WORKING TOGETHER

Engaging with landholders and local communities is an important part of providing our electricity transmission services safely, reliably and cost effectively. This is front and centre as we look at the challenges and opportunities of the new energy future here in Queensland. Meeting the needs and expectations of landholders and communities is more important than ever.

We are also working with government and industry to deliver better outcomes for communities. For example, we are committed to The Energy Charter and are actively involved in multiple initiatives aimed at working "better together" to centre customers and communities during this period of significant change.

Powerlink is also supporting a new Energy Engagement and Education Advisor (EEEA) role within the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF). The EEEA will drive meaningful engagement between the energy sector and QFF's 20 peak body members and the 13,000 primary producers they represent throughout regional Queensland. They will support peak member bodies to identify opportunities relating to agriculture and the renewable energy transition.



NEXT STEPS

Now that the Final Corridor Selection Report is complete, detailed technical studies and ongoing engagement will help to determine the final transmission line design. Further desktop and field studies are required to identify potential impacts during construction and operation. The project will continue to seek to avoid and minimise impacts to landholders and the community, as well as environment, cultural values, agriculture and cropping land values through tower siting and structural design.

Powerlink intends to lodge applications for planning and environmental approvals on the project in late 2024 to early 2025. Subject to approval, construction of the transmission line is expected to start in mid-2026 and be complete in 2028.



FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project please contact us by:

- Completing the online feedback form at the project web page. Scan the QR code, or go to: powerlink.com.au/calvale-calliope
- Emailing: cqprojects@powerlink.com.au
- Phoning 1800 635 369 (Monday to Friday, 7.30am – 5pm).



Landholders along the recommended corridor are also welcome to contact their Landholder Relations Advisor.

About Powerlink Queensland

Powerlink Queensland is a Government Owned Corporation that owns, develops, operates and maintains the transmission network in Queensland. We connect Queenslanders to a world-class energy future, providing electricity to more than five million Queenslanders and 253,000 businesses.

We are also responsible for connecting large-scale renewable energy developments, including wind and solar, and providing electricity to large industrial customers in the rail, mining and LNG sectors. Find out more about Powerlink, visit powerlink.com.au or scan the QR code.