

CopperString 2032

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

Message from our Project Director

Welcome to the copper shovel edition of our Project Update.

After more than a decade of advocacy, CopperString 2032 has officially broken ground in Hughenden with the construction of the workforce accommodation and facilities.

Hughenden is not only the centre of the alignment, but it is the beating heart of CopperString 2032. The workforce accommodation in Hughenden is the largest that will be built along the corridor and will remain throughout the entire construction schedule.

Since we broke ground in July, I have visited all Mayors along the corridor and presented each council with their own copper shovel to mark the beginning of this once in a generation project. We look forward to heading to Richmond later this month to break ground on our next workforce accommodation site.

Our Supplier Capability Development Program is in full swing, and we have

received positive feedback from attendees and key stakeholders along the corridor. This program is aimed at building capability, not only for our project but for future major projects in the North West. There's more information about this program within this update or you can visit our website.

Our CopperString 2032 Experience Centre officially opened its doors to the community on Monday 2 September. To mark the official launch, we joined the North Queensland Cowboys to showcase a pop-up centre for fans to explore at the Cowboys vs Storm game on 29 August. The CopperString 2032 Experience Centre is the first of its kind for a Powerlink project and is an experience like no other. I encourage you to visit the centre and learn about the history of energy in Queensland and what CopperString 2032 will do for this region's future.

Thank you again for your continued support and please enjoy the latest on CopperString 2032.

Tom Dockray
**CopperString 2032
Project Director**



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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First contractor announced for CopperString 2032

Powerlink has awarded the first contract for the CopperString 2032 project to ATCO Structures.

ATCO Structures will deliver the workforce accommodation at Hughenden and Richmond, valued at \$90 million, after a competitive assessment process.

Hughenden is the heart of CopperString 2032 with construction of the first – and largest – workforce accommodation site beginning in July this year. This site is expected to house around 450 construction workers and up to 550 at the peak of construction.

ATCO Structures is a Queensland-based company that will manufacturer the accommodation modules at their facility in Luscombe.

As we construct the Flinders Substation and the transmission line, the Hughenden workforce accommodation site will allow workers to become active within the local community ensuring economic and social legacy beyond the project.

The announcement of ATCO Structures is a major milestone for CopperString 2032.



Hughenden sod turn ceremony

CopperString 2032 has officially commenced construction with the sod turn ceremony in Hughenden marking the beginning of this once in a generation project.

More than 80 industry and government representatives flocked to the town of Hughenden to celebrate this important milestone a decade in the making.

Thank you to Flinders Shire Council, Holdens Bakery, the Royal and Greater Western hotels for your hospitality.





📍 School of the Year announcement - St Anthony's Catholic College

School of the year announced

Powerlink and the CopperString 2032 Experience Centre partnered with Star 106.3FM in Townsville for School of the Year. This competition saw schools from the region enter to win \$10,000 to go towards a program or initiative for their students.

St Anthony's Catholic College in Deeragun, Townsville was awarded the top honour. Their recycling program was very impressive, and we look forward to watching them grow this initiative.

Congratulations to all finalists and schools that entered the competition.



Powerlink signs agreement with Siemens Energy for critical CopperString equipment

Powerlink signed a \$130 million agreement with Siemens Energy to deliver critical equipment for CopperString 2032. Seventeen shunt reactors to control voltage levels will be purchased for at substations along the transmission line.

This commitment from Siemens Energy to supply critical equipment to Powerlink while global demand is high shows the significance of CopperString 2032 on the world stage.

Ordinarily, Powerlink would purchase up to two shunt reactors at one time. This agreement shows our commitment to unlocking the economic and renewable energy potential in North and North West Queensland.



Townsville Industry Breakfast

Our CopperString 2032 Project Director, Tom Dockray, was a panellist at the August Townsville Industry Breakfast, hosted by the Department of State Development and Infrastructure. It was a room full of opportunity as project proponents from the critical minerals and renewables sectors presented on their projects.

CopperString 2032 is the enabling infrastructure that North and North West Queensland has needed for decades and we are proud to be delivering it.

Thank you to James, Amy and Rosie for coordinating another valuable event for the region.



Building supplier capability in regional Queensland

In July 2024, we launched our Supplier Capability Development Program. This program supports supplier capability development for not only CopperString 2032 but for future major projects in the North and North West.

The program is currently open to the Flinders Shire, Richmond Shire, Cloncurry Shire, McKinlay Shire and Mount Isa City Local Government Areas.

We look forward to releasing information about more workshops along the Eastern Link of the CopperString 2032 alignment.

The program is tailored to local and regional Queensland suppliers who are targeting a wide range of supply chain opportunities including supplying to:

- Regional councils
- CopperString 2032
- Renewable energy projects
- New road construction and road maintenance upgrades
- Agriculture projects
- Regional growth and economic development opportunities





 MITEZ Infrastructure Forum
Charters Towers

Courier Mail Bush Summit

Our CopperString 2032 Project Director, Tom Dockray was invited to speak on the panel at the Townsville Bush Summit on energy.

The panel, which was moderated by Townsville Bulletin Editor, Cas Garvey, explored energy in Queensland and what projects like CopperString 2032 mean for the region's future.

Tom talked about the project's benefits and its connection to community.

Thank you to the Townsville Bulletin for inviting us to be part of this important event for the region.



Delivering for community and industry

Where we've been recently...

- Department of State Development Townsville Industry Breakfast – Townsville
- Mount Isa Rodeo – Mount Isa
- Townsville Chamber of Commerce Business Awards – Townsville
- Richmond Field Days – Richmond
- Critical Minerals Queensland Briefings – Julia Creek
- Hughenden Breaking Ground Ceremony – Hughenden
- James Cook University Engineering and Innovation Space Opening – Townsville
- Clean Energy Expo – Townsville
- Explore Your Future in the Isa Jobs Expo – Mount Isa
- Townsville Enterprise Critical Minerals and Mining Forum – Townsville
- Hughenden Chamber of Commerce Meeting – Hughenden
- Bush Summit – Townsville
- MITEZ Infrastructure Forum – Charters Towers
- Department of State Development Industry Briefing and Meet the Buyer – Cloncurry
- Charters Towers Show – Charters Towers
- Mayoral and council briefings along the corridor

CopperString 2032 Experience Centre officially opens!

On 2 September we officially opened the doors of the CopperString 2032 Experience Centre to the community.

With eight different exploration zones, the centre features an immersive helicopter simulator experience, genuine mineral core samples from the North West Minerals Province, 3D printed scale models of CopperString 2032 transmission towers and selfie opportunities with a trolley used to inspect transmission lines.

To mark this milestone, we joined forces with the North Queensland Cowboys to showcase the pop up Experience Centre at the Storm vs Cowboys game on 29 August. As the last home game for the year, Queensland Country Bank Stadium was packed with fans.

For more information visit www.copperstringexperience.com.au or follow CopperString Experience on Facebook and Instagram.



Mount Isa Rodeo

Powerlink Queensland and CopperString 2032 was proud to support the Mount Isa Rodeo's volunteering program. Volunteers are the key to success for major events, generously giving their time to make the experience better for visitors.

CopperString 2032 Project Director, Tom Dockray, presented a giant cheque to Chris Kuhney, President of the Rotary Club Mount Isa South West at the Isa Rodeo in August. We look forward to supporting the event next year.





 CopperString 2032 Experience Centre

Regional Reference Group

The CopperString 2032 Regional Reference Group (RRG) meeting coincided with the CopperString Experience Centre opening activities. The group received an update from Project Director, Tom Dockray.

The RRG meets at least four times a year and has been established by Powerlink to share information and seek guidance on key aspects of the CopperString 2032 project, including community and stakeholder engagement, environmental impacts, economic opportunities, social benefits, and cultural considerations. This engagement mechanism complements other project engagement forums and activities.

The group will meet again in November.



Community Grants Program

Powerlink community grants support initiatives and activities valued at up to \$5,000 in regional Queensland. Grants are available annually for projects commencing from January 2025.

Our goal is to support projects and activities aligning with resilience, safety, well-being, and economic outcomes, ultimately leading to positive impacts for groups and communities.

The current round of community grants opened on 22 August 2024 and will close 3 October 2024. This grants round is open to community groups, community clubs and not-for-profit organisations in the following Local Government Areas:

- Banana
- Cairns
- Charters Towers
- Etheridge
- Flinders
- Gladstone
- Gympie
- Hinchinbrook
- Somerset
- South Burnett
- Southern Downs
- Richmond
- Toowoomba
- Western Downs

Eastern Alignment Review

Since Powerlink took ownership of the CopperString 2032 project in March 2023, detailed design has been undertaken to confirm the most suitable location for the transmission line and supporting infrastructure.

Through this review, significant environmental and constructability impacts associated with the existing corridor have been identified east of Hughenden, between the Burdekin River and the proposed Mulgrave Substation.

Due to these significant constructability issues, Powerlink is investigating an alternative corridor between the Burdekin River and Reid River.

Powerlink has now released a Recommended Corridor and Substation Site Selection Report for public consultation. This consultation period opened on 26 August and will close 4 October 2024.

A fact sheet and FAQ document has also been prepared to assist with understanding the report and providing feedback.

For more information, to view the report or to provide feedback, visit our website or drop into our upcoming information sessions.

Upcoming information sessions for the Eastern Alignment Review:

Woodstock Community Hall, Glenn Road, Woodstock

Thursday 12 September 2024, 2:00pm-7:00pm

Mingela Rural Fire Brigade Hall, 17 Towers Street, Mingela

Saturday 14 September 2024, 9:00am-3:00pm

Further information

Powerlink is committed to ongoing genuine and timely engagement to ensure we deliver positive outcomes for landholders, stakeholders, the environment and local communities where our transmission infrastructure is located.

To learn more about CopperString 2032, contact the project team on 1800 635 369 or email copperstring2032@powerlink.com.au.



Use the QR code to access our project webpage or visit powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032

 Hughenden Festival of the Outback Skies

