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CopperString 2032 Supplier Information Guide



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Acknowledgement

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.

Introduction

The CopperString 2032 Supplier Information Guide has been developed to provide general information on:

- Powerlink Queensland
- CopperString 2032
- how industry participation is defined
- project compliance requirements
- how to get involved in the CopperString 2032 supply chain
- the project's prequalification and procurement process, and the role of Felix as the procurement system being used by the project's principal construction contractor, the UGL CPB Contractors Joint Venture (JV).

Please note:

Interested suppliers should undertake a thorough analysis of the cost, effort and risks associated with tendering for a major project such as CopperString 2032 and seek professional and qualified advice.

This guide includes information on supplying to CopperString 2032 only. For information on other tendering opportunities with Powerlink, please visit www.powerlink.com.au/tenders.

About Powerlink

Powerlink is a leading Australian provider of electricity transmission network services, combining innovation with insight to deliver safe, cost effective and reliable solutions. We are a Government Owned Corporation that owns, develops, operates and maintains the electricity transmission network in Queensland.

The Powerlink network extends 1,700 kilometres from Cairns to the New South Wales border and comprises 15,358 circuit km of transmission lines and 147 substations.

Powerlink is delivering CopperString 2032 on behalf of the Queensland Government.

About CopperString 2032

CopperString 2032 is the largest ever economic development project in North and North West Queensland. The project initially involves building 840 kilometres (km) of transmission line from Mount Isa to near Townsville including:

- 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Townsville to Hughenden
- 300kV transmission line from Hughenden to Cloncurry
- 200kV transmission line from Cloncurry to Mount Isa
- up to six new substation sites
- workforce accommodation and facilities in strategic locations along the corridor.

Approximately 200km of additional transmission line will be required to connect new renewable generators to CopperString 2032.

We are working with CIMIC Group Companies, UGL and CPB Contractors, to deliver the project in stages due to its size and scope. The project commenced construction in July 2024 in Hughenden and is expected to be completed by 2029.

Figure 1: Project map and staging



Industry participation

Powerlink is committed to providing genuine opportunities for industry participation and maximising the benefits that can be delivered through ethically, environmentally and socially responsible procurement.

We are working closely with the UGL CPB Contractors JV to progress opportunities for local and Indigenous businesses to be involved in the CopperString 2032 supply chain.

How is participation defined?

Participation is a measurement of industry and worker participation in project delivery. Opportunities for CopperString 2032 participation include:

- subcontracting, supply and services provision
- employment and training.

Powerlink has developed a tiered approach to participation in CopperString 2032.

Table 1: Levels of project participation – CopperString 2032

Tier	Definition	Groups and localities
Local*	Local Government Areas (LGAs) within a 125km radius of the project alignment, as well as Traditional Owner Land Council areas and Traditional Owner language group areas intersected by the project alignment	LGAs: Burdekin Shire, Charters Towers Region, Cloncurry Shire, Flinders Shire, Hinchinbrook Shire, McKinlay Shire, Mount Isa City, Richmond Shire, Townsville City Traditional Owners: Yulluna People, Birriah People, Mitakoodi and Mayi Peoples, Kalkadoon People, Wanamara People, Yirendali People, Jangga People and Gudjala People
Regional	Localities within listed Regional Development Australia (RDA) areas, plus all LGAs not in South East Queensland (SEQ)	RDA areas: Townsville and North West Queensland, Tropical North, Greater Whitsundays, Central and Western Queensland LGAs: See map for LGAs not in SEQ
Rest of Queensland	All LGAs in SEQ	See map for LGAs within SEQ
Rest of Australia and New Zealand	All other Australian states and territories not listed above and New Zealand	Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia, New Zealand
Rest of world	All other countries globally	All other countries that operate as recognised United Nations member states and are not currently under any global sanction

* To verify local status, **suppliers** must provide evidence of ownership, lease or rental of an applicable LGA Council-zoned facility linked to the contracted ABN.

Compliance

Compliance with relevant government legislation is required to ensure full, fair and reasonable opportunities for participation are made available on CopperString 2032.

Australian Industry Participation Plan

CopperString 2032 is classified as a 'major project' (>\$500 million) and as such Powerlink must maintain an Australian Industry Participation (AIP) Plan under the *Australian Jobs Act 2013*.

Powerlink requires all suppliers to operate consistently with the requirements of the AIP Plan and cascade these obligations to their supply chain.

A copy of the CopperString 2032 AIP Plan can be found here: <https://www.industry.gov.au/regulations-and-standards/australian-industry-participation/major-project-australian-industry-participation-plan-summaries-table> (search for 'CopperString').

Suppliers should also note the importance of commitments made under the Australian Government **Indigenous Procurement Policy** which aims to stimulate Indigenous entrepreneurship, business and economic development, providing Indigenous Australians with more opportunities to participate in the economy.

A copy of this policy can be found here:

<https://www.finance.gov.au/government/procurement/clausebank/indigenous-procurement-policy-ipp>.

Suppliers should also ensure all products and services comply with the **Modern Slavery Act 2018**.

A copy of this document can be found here: <https://www.ag.gov.au/crime/people-smuggling-and-human-trafficking/modern-slavery>.

For more information about the project's AIP Plan please contact Susannah Greenleaf, Manager Community & Stakeholders via susannah.greenleaf@powerlink.com.au or call 07 4796 5453.

CopperString 2032 Local Economic Participation Plan

The project's Local Economic Participation Plan (LEPP) provides a framework for involving local businesses in the supply chain, including building business capability and capacity to support project delivery.

The project has committed to the following local participation targets:

- 30% of accessible spend with small businesses
- 3% of accessible spend with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.

The LEPP adopts the standards and policies of the AIP Plan in addition to the following documents:

- [Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan](#)
- [Queensland Procurement Policy 2023](#)
- [Queensland Renewable Energy Procurement Policy](#)
- [Queensland Indigenous Procurement Policy](#)
- [Queensland Procurement Strategy 2023](#)
- [Queensland Industry Participation Act 2011](#)

- [Queensland Charter for Local Content](#)
- [Queensland Government Best Practice Principles](#)
- [Queensland Local Benefits Test](#)
- [Queensland Government Supplier Code of Conduct 2023](#)
- [Queensland Government Ethical Supplier Mandate](#)
- [Queensland Government Building and Construction Training Policy](#)
- [Queensland Social Enterprise Strategy](#).

All project suppliers are expected to comply with the LEPP.

Powerlink and the UGL CPB Contractors JV each have dedicated resources who will facilitate opportunities for local businesses during project delivery.

CopperString 2032 Indigenous Participation Plan

The project's Indigenous Participation Plan (IPP) seeks to drive positive outcomes to ensure meaningful opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are maximised.

Suppliers may be required to complete their own IPP that aligns with the CopperString 2032 IPP and adopts the standards and policies of both the [Australian Indigenous Procurement Policy](#) and the [Queensland Indigenous Procurement Policy](#).

The project has committed to the following minimum Indigenous participation targets:

- 3% of accessible spend with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses
- 5% employment (total workforce).

All awarded suppliers are expected to support the delivery of these targets.

Powerlink and the UGL CPB Contractors JV each have dedicated Indigenous participation and engagement resources who will support and facilitate opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Traditional Owners throughout project delivery.

Supplier Code of Conduct

Powerlink requires all of its suppliers to comply with its [Supplier Code of Conduct](#). This code applies to all procurement activities regardless of their value.

Reporting

Powerlink expects the entire supply chain delivering CopperString 2032 to provide regular and accurate reporting on local and Indigenous supplier engagement, development, and procurement outcomes.

Reporting is an important part of the project's supplier requirements. All suppliers contracted to the project need to contribute to AIP Plan reporting and keep records consistent with the [Queensland Charter for Local Content](#).

How to get involved

Project procurement is being undertaken by Powerlink and the UGL CPB Contractors JV.

Powerlink is responsible for the procurement of specialised transmission line componentry and electrical plant.

The UGL CPB Contractors JV, as Powerlink's principal construction contractor for CopperString 2032, is responsible for procuring suppliers and subcontractors for the project's work packages and ensuring these packages are accessible to local industry. The UGL CPB Contractors JV will also procure smaller items and services directly while still following procurement procedures.

Please note, all businesses involved in the supply chain are required to have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and undergo a prequalification process to be considered for procurement. For information on how to register for an ABN please visit <https://business.gov.au/registrations/register-for-an-australian-business-number-abn>.

Engaging with local and Indigenous businesses

The UGL CPB Contractors JV recognise the importance of engaging with local and Indigenous businesses. To support opportunities for participation in the project's supply chain, they will continue to:

- proactively identify and meet with businesses in towns along the project alignment to build relationships and discuss upcoming/future work packages
- establish future-facing purchase arrangements with key suppliers
- assist businesses to register their interest in the project and to become registered in the UGL CPB Contractors JV's procurement platform, Felix
- regularly contact potential businesses to explore opportunities according to their capability and capacity
- attend local industry events
- in conjunction with Powerlink meet with relevant Chambers of Commerce in local towns
- hold 'meet the buyer' information sessions in partnership with Powerlink
- attend Powerlink's Supplier Capability Development Program workshops
- implement a 'buy-local' approach through workforce presence in local towns.

Register your interest

You can register your interest in supplying goods and services to CopperString 2032 by:

- filling out our online form <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PowerlinkCopperString2032> to provide details of your business and be added to the CopperString 2032 supplier register (**preferred method**)
- contacting the UGL CPB Contractors JV via info@uglcpbcus.com.au or 1800 161 200
- contacting Powerlink via copperstring2032@powerlink.com.au or 1800 635 369
- registering and creating a business profile on the Industry Capability Network (ICN) Gateway at <https://gateway.icn.org.au/projects/8452>
- registering and accessing opportunities through Q-Tender by visiting <https://qtenders.epw.qld.gov.au/qtenders/>.

Note, having an up-to-date [capability statement](#) (a document that shows us what your business is able to do and deliver) is an important part of registering your interest in providing goods and/or services to CopperString 2032.

If you need assistance, please refer to the below section on 'how to access support'.

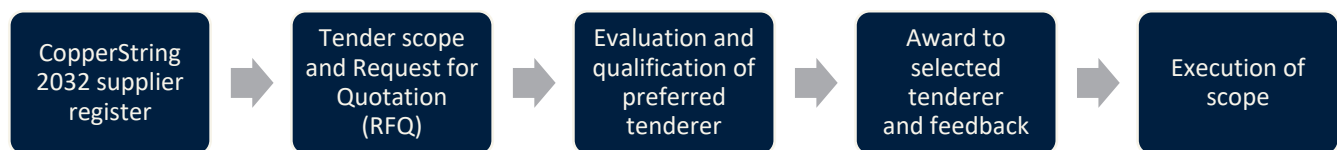
What happens next

The UGL CPB Contractors JV recognise the time and effort it takes, especially for smaller local businesses, to undertake the prequalification process. As a result, they have changed their process so only the preferred tenderer will be asked to complete all qualification documentation. Any business responding to a tender scope should be confident they can meet all qualification requirements if they are selected as the preferred tenderer.

Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference. outlines the overarching tender process. The timing for each tender award will vary depending on the package.

Please note, participation in the tender process is not a guarantee of work.

Figure 2: The tender process



CopperString 2032 supplier register

The CopperString 2032 supplier register is used to identify the capability and capacity of local and Indigenous businesses.

As packages become available, relevant businesses on the CopperString 2032 supplier register will be contacted to find out if they are interested in receiving a specific tender scope and submitting a quotation.

Please ensure your business details are up to date to be considered for applicable work packages.

Request for Quotation

When a work package is released that matches your location, capability and capacity, you will be notified and asked to respond to a Request for Quotation (RFQ).

Evaluation and qualification

The UGL CPB Contractors JV will review all RFQ proposals received, shortlist the preferred tenderer/s and seek additional information as required.

Following the evaluation process, the UGL CPB Contractors JV will select a preferred supplier and ensure they are fully qualified via the centralised digital vendor management system, Felix before progressing the approval process.

Award

Awarded contracts will be published on www.powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032.

During the tender process, short-listed suppliers are provided with the details of local and Indigenous suppliers who have registered their interest in providing goods or services to the project and have provided permission to share their details.

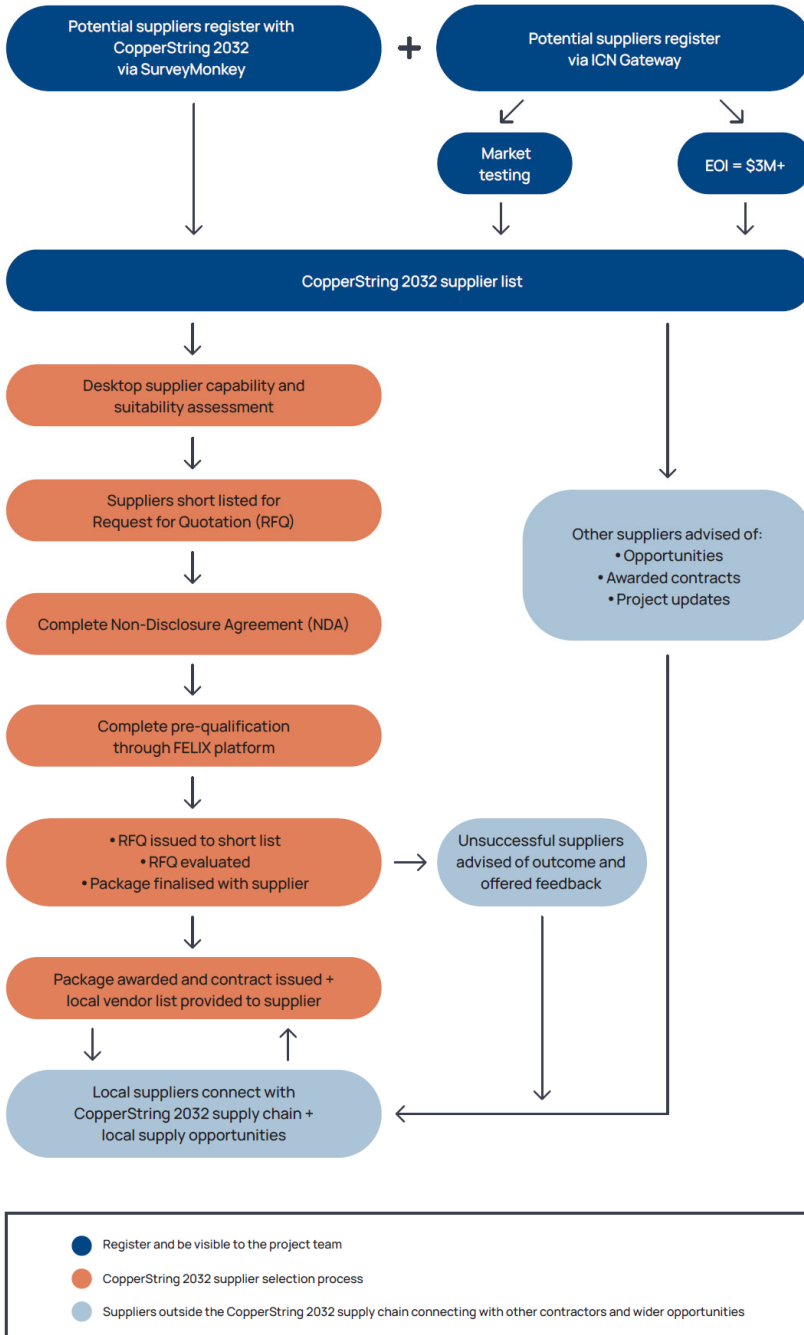
Successful suppliers are encouraged to engage local and Indigenous suppliers as secondary subcontractors to support the local downstream supply chain.

Feedback

Unsuccessful suppliers have the opportunity to seek feedback at the end of the procurement process. Feedback may include recommendations for support to build capability and capacity to better position businesses for future opportunities.

Figure 3 outlines the CopperString 2032 supplier pathway.

Figure 3: CopperString 2032 supplier pathway



How to access support

Powerlink strongly encourages local businesses, Indigenous enterprises and social ventures to register their interest in supplying to CopperString 2032. Support is readily available.

Indigenous suppliers and social ventures

Businesses that are majority owned by Indigenous people, as well as social ventures, are strongly encouraged to register their interest in supplying goods and/or services to the project.

For more information contact:

- UGL CPB Contractors JV Indigenous Engagement Manager via info@uglcpbcus.com.au or call 1800 161 200
- Business Queensland via their [website](#) for resources that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in business
- your nearest regional service centre for the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts:
 - Townsville – call 07 4862 7001
 - Mount Isa – call 07 4744 9789.

Powerlink Supplier Capability Development Program

Powerlink has partnered with Deborah Wilson Consulting Services to deliver a 'Pathways to Opportunities' business capability building program.

This program includes five workshops and one-on-one assistance and is free of charge in line with Powerlink's commitment to helping build business capability in communities along the CopperString 2032 corridor.

The program helps local and Indigenous suppliers along the corridor to:

- understand what major project buyers want from suppliers
- be more visible to buyers through quality capability statements and better information on supplier platforms (ICN Gateway and others)
- be compliant with major project requirements
- understand prequalification requirements for major projects and supply chains
- be prepared for tendering and contract management
- build confidence to bid on major project and supply chain work, and network and collaborate with other local suppliers.

For more information on the program, please visit www.powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032, call 1800 635 369 or email copperstring2032@powerlink.com.au.

Other local support services

The Department of State Development and Infrastructure provides training and advice including a series of workshops to help develop local business capability.

For more information contact your nearest regional office:

- North Queensland – email townsville.ngro@dasilgp.qld.gov.au or call 07 4758 3400
- North West Queensland – email nwq@dasilgp.qld.gov.au or call 07 4747 3900.

Contact us

Powerlink and the UGL CPB Contractors JV are committed to involving the people of North and North West Queensland in employment and business opportunities during the delivery of CopperString 2032.

For more information on supplying to the project, please contact the UGL CPB Contractors JV directly via info@uglcpbcus.com.au or call 1800 161 200.

Alternatively, visit www.powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032 for more information about the project.

Contact us

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