

Bayview Heights to White Rock Project

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

Project update

This project newsletter provides the following updates and information:

- community feedback on the proposed amenities
- indicative locations for new amenities along the walking path and easement
- update on the easement restoration planting works
- upcoming works schedule for 2025.

We will continue to keep residents and the local community updated on timings and activities.

Project overview

Powerlink owns and operates the 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 involve:

- 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.



powerlink.com.au/bayviewheightswhiterock



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Community feedback on amenities

As part of planning for the easement restoration, we have sought feedback from residents and the local community on proposed amenities along the Crowleys Creek walking path and easement.

New amenities have been proposed to enhance the walking path for all users and to address shade loss and community feedback, where possible.

We have received feedback regarding the proposed amenities and their locations via:

- emails
- resident surveys
- targeted door-knocking of neighbouring residents
- community information drop-in sessions.

We thank residents and the local community for their time and for sharing their feedback and insights. The key areas of feedback included:

- opposition to the proposed shelters near Alpinia Terrace and Matisia Close due to their proximity to homes
- ongoing concerns that new amenities will contribute to undesirable behaviours in the area
- mixed feedback about the use of existing seats along the walking path
- support for additional shade trees being planted, where possible
- support for bench seats and water bubblers with dog bowls at intervals along the walking path to provide respite for all users.

Overall, the feedback received indicates that new amenities along the walking path and easement will be used and supported by residents and the local community.



Community information drop-in sessions at Mt Sheridan Plaza and on the easement



Signage on the easement

Indicative locations for amenities

Following community feedback, we have been working with Cairns Regional Council to finalise the easement restoration plan by:

- removing the proposed shelters near Alpinia Terrace and Matisia Close
- confirming the proposed shelter, bench seat and water bubbler with dog bowl near Blueberry Close will proceed
- identifying indicative locations for new shade trees, bench seats and water bubblers with dog bowls
- confirming existing seating to be upgraded or removed.

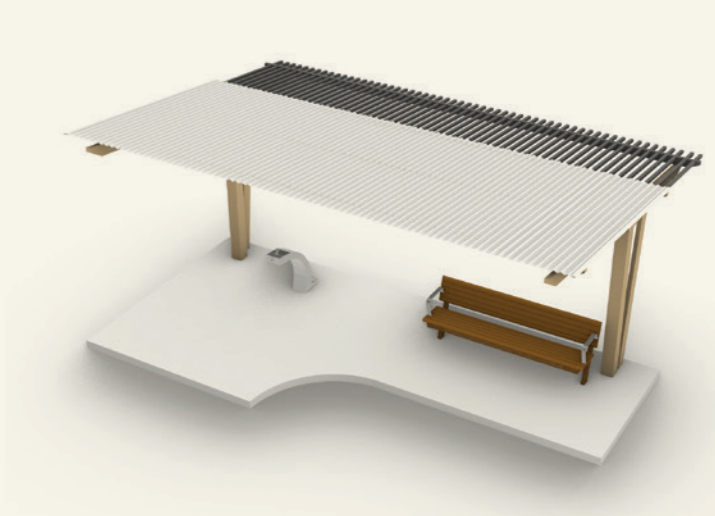
We are also investigating options for additional bench seats and shade trees along the easement between:

- Blueberry Close and Scarlet Close
- Foxtail Street and Matisia Close.

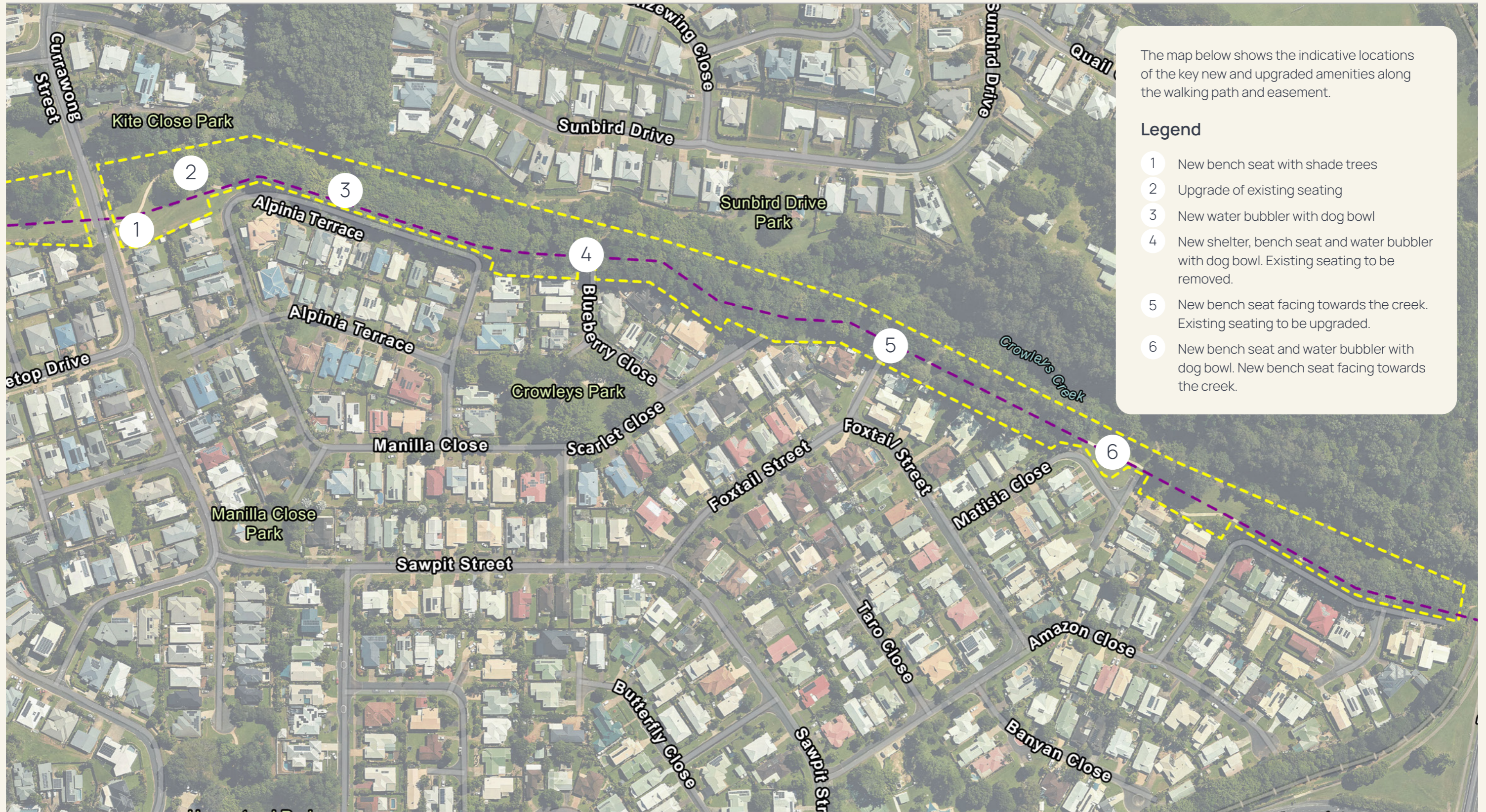
The new amenities will be installed progressively from 2025 starting in locations that do not require access for the cable joint bay refurbishment works or further tree removal. More information will be provided to residents and the local community before these works start.



Existing bench seat



Proposed amenity near Blueberry Close



The map below shows the indicative locations of the key new and upgraded amenities along the walking path and easement.

Legend

- 1 New bench seat with shade trees
- 2 Upgrade of existing seating
- 3 New water bubbler with dog bowl
- 4 New shelter, bench seat and water bubbler with dog bowl. Existing seating to be removed.
- 5 New bench seat facing towards the creek. Existing seating to be upgraded.
- 6 New bench seat and water bubbler with dog bowl. New bench seat facing towards the creek.

Legend

- 275kV Transmission Lines (Underground)
- Easement



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Planting works at Alpinia Terrace – November 2024

Easement restoration planting works

The planting of compatible vegetation is underway along the easement and will continue into early 2025.

The planting works are being delivered progressively, starting in the cleared cluster areas.

Some areas need to remain clear to provide access for further tree removal and the cable joint bay refurbishment works scheduled for the 2025 dry season. Plantings in these areas will be undertaken at the start of the 2025 wet season.

Cairns Conservation Services has been engaged to deliver the easement restoration planting works in partnership with Powerlink. The works involve planting approximately 24,000 grasses and plants of local provenance seed and cuttings and approximately 50 shade trees.



Upcoming works in 2025

Maintenance requirements

Essential cable joint refurbishment works are needed at two existing joint bay sites located within Powerlink's easement, adjacent to Alpinia Terrace and Amazon Close in the Forest Gardens Estate.

The refurbishment works on the joint bays will be undertaken during planned network outages in 2025 and will not result in any impacts to electricity supply.

As the joint bays are located underground, the area above (approximately 20m x 12m) will be established as a construction site. This will involve installing temporary fencing, vegetation clearing, installing temporary alternate pedestrian walking paths, excavation of the joint bays and setting up equipment in preparation for the refurbishment works.

The refurbishment works are scheduled for the 2025 dry season and further information will be provided to residents and the local community before these works start.

Vegetation management

The vegetation removal and easement restoration works are being staged over a three-year period between 2024 and 2026.

In mid-2024, trees posing a high risk to the underground cables and located within four key clusters were removed. This approach has removed the need to disturb some areas more than once and has enabled progressive restoration works to start in the cleared areas.

Further tree removal will occur in 2025 to remove the remaining trees posing a future risk to the underground cables and around the cable joint bay locations. Further information about the trees to be removed in 2025 are available on the project website.

These works will be undertaken by local contractors (ETS Infrastructure Management) and an arborist and fauna spotter will again be on-site during the vegetation removal process to minimise any disturbance to the local environment.

In 2026, works will focus on the maintenance of the new compatible vegetation planted along the easement.





Resident survey

Residents were encouraged to provide feedback on our engagement activities to date and the vegetation management works delivered in mid-2024 via a survey.

The feedback received will be used to help inform planning for the easement restoration works and delivery of future vegetation management activities and joint bay refurbishment works scheduled for 2025.

Through the survey, residents have also shared a preference for us to continue to engage with them through letterbox drops, project newsletters and signage on the easement.

The resident survey closed on Friday 6 December 2024 and we thank the residents who completed a survey and provided their feedback.

Keeping the community informed

Local residents, the wider community and other stakeholders will continue to be kept updated about the easement vegetation management and refurbishment works through:

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

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 241,000 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