

CopperString 2032

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

Message from our Project Director

As I reflect on the past 12 months, I am proud of the progress that has been made on the North's largest ever economic development project.

The groundbreaking event in Hughenden in July represented the advancement of CopperString 2032. The design and construction teams have uplifted and enhanced the project's design maturity which has enabled detailed construction planning to get underway.

We mobilised a strong team with the necessary capability to deliver a project of this scale. And as we moved towards the delivery phase, we solved constructability issues related to difficult physical terrain and respected cultural heritage finds by settling on corridor realignments at each end.

The expanded 500 kilovolt (kV) line on the eastern link saw us needing to seek further environmental approvals and our construction schedule reflects these changes.

We have placed orders for long-lead critical equipment, some of which are the largest ever orders in Powerlink's history.

And there are 100 workers out on site right now building our workforce accommodation facilities in Hughenden and Richmond. I look forward to both being operational in the first half of next year.

But CopperString 2032 is more than a construction project. Which is why we opened the CopperString 2032 Experience Centre in Townsville in August. This centre

tells the story of Powerlink and CopperString and the enormous potential this catalytic project will have for generations unlocking critical minerals and renewable energy.

Our James Cook University partnership has gone from strength to strength with the final working group for the year held this month.

We are progressing with some exciting initiatives and look forward to sharing these in the new year.

Our iconic copper shovel event in Hughenden was more than a decade in the making and one that we shared with leaders who have backed this project from inception. When we commenced construction in Richmond in September, we invited local school students to help turn the first sod, as this project will shape their future.

We are building supplier capability along the entire corridor with our Supplier Capability Development Program that we launched in July. We recognise that CopperString will bring more major projects to this region, and it is important that these local businesses are ready for what is coming. To date almost 100 individuals from more than 70 businesses have participated in our complimentary program.

I look forward to celebrating more milestones with you next year as we commence construction on the transmission line.

Have a happy and safe Festive Season and enjoy this edition of the CopperString 2032 Project Update.

Tom Dockray



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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powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032



Meet our Deputy Project Director

CopperString 2032 Deputy Project Director, Vikram Dhiman has spent the past two decades at Powerlink delivering key projects across Queensland. After completing the transmission connection for one of the largest wind farms in the southern hemisphere, the MacIntyre project, Vikram jumped at the chance to be involved in CopperString 2032.

“CopperString is one of the largest development projects in the country, with a lot of challenges. This region is very close to me and the opportunity to work on the state’s first 500kV high voltage transmission project, whilst creating so much opportunity for the North was very compelling,” Vikram said.

Vikram’s strength is knowing how Powerlink delivers projects. He brings passion, energy and firmly established relationships to the team.

“I have a strong focus on value for money and long-term impact to ensure we are reflecting Powerlink’s commitment to driving value for Queenslanders and the energy transformation.”

Looking ahead, Vikram hopes to continue contributing to Powerlink and CopperString, leaving a legacy of strong relationships and world-class project delivery.

“We’re involved with every community along the alignment. We’re unlocking significant development and economic opportunities for the North, from minerals extraction to renewable energy development. And we’re committed to engaging with local contractors and partnering with educational institutions like James Cook University and TAFE Queensland.”

As Powerlink embarks on this journey to deliver CopperString, Vikram’s insights, leadership and experience will play a pivotal role in the project’s success.



Construction commences in Richmond

This year has been full of milestones. In September, we broke ground in Richmond on the second workforce accommodation site along the corridor.

This facility will take approximately eight months to complete and once operational will house around 250 workers who will build the transmission line.

As part of the ceremony, we welcomed local school students to turn the first sod and honour the next generation who will benefit from this project.





📍 SJ and SC Reddie Earthmoving on site in Hughenden

Local supply opportunities

Are you interested in supplying goods or services to CopperString 2032?

Please register your interest via our online registration form at powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032 where you can also find information about upcoming and awarded work packages.

We have also released an information guide outlining how suppliers can get involved in the project's supply chain. The guide steps out supplier pathways for involvement, prequalification standards and how to access support. You can find it at powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032.



Supplier Capability Development Program

Powerlink's Supplier Capability Development Program has wrapped up for 2024 and we are very proud of what has been achieved to date.

Almost 100 individuals from 70 businesses have attended workshops along the western link of the alignment.

This includes 19 individuals from 13 Indigenous businesses.

We have just released the dates for Workshop 2 in Mount Isa, Cloncurry and Julia Creek and Workshop 4 in Richmond and Hughenden.

Please register your interest via our website powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032 where you can also find Frequently Asked Questions and more information about the program.

We will soon release details for workshops along the eastern link.

Construction update

Things are moving ahead at both our Hughenden and Richmond workforce accommodation sites.

Hughenden workforce accommodation

- ✓ ATCO have delivered 126 out of the 180 buildings to the site with 85 now in position.
- ✓ ATCO have continued the installation of inground services.
- ✓ ATCO have completed over 50% installation of screw piers and 100% of pull testing.
- ✓ Form reo and pour contractor mobilised to site and have completed several critical pours.

Richmond workforce accommodation

- ✓ The import of engineered fill for Richmond has been completed, with placement progressing well.
- ✓ Gromac have delivered over 24,000 tonnes of gravel, with sufficient gravel stockpiled to complete the accommodation pad for ATCO.
- ✓ ATCO mobilised to site at the end of November to commence the installation of enabling facilities.



CopperString jobs - a career that matters

We are pleased to reveal our latest CopperString recruitment video.

This video was shot along the alignment and in Townsville with our key partners Flinders Shire Council, the Clontarf Foundation, TAFE Queensland and James Cook University.

This video will be used on our social channels to attract workers to the CopperString project.





Richmond Christmas Tree Donation

CopperString’s first Christmas in Hughenden and Richmond

Powerlink was proud to support the purchase of two new outdoor Christmas trees for Richmond and Flinders Shire councils.

As part of the Richmond construction commencement activities back in September, we surprised Mayor John Wharton with a giant cheque for the town’s tree at the community lunch.

We also supported the Hughenden Railway Social Club with two new bikes to be raffled off at the Christmas and Street Party in December.

The project team visited Richmond and Hughenden to see the new trees ahead of the Festive Season.



Sponsorship applications open for CopperString corridor

Community groups and events are encouraged to apply for sponsorship via the CopperString 2032 project website.

CopperString 2032 has always been a community project, and we are passionate about supporting community groups and events along the alignment. Our sponsorship application form and guidelines are now live on our project website.

To apply, please visit powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032.

Community Grants Program

Thank you to the community groups who submitted an application for our Community Grants Program. These grants of up to \$5,000 closed in October and we look forward to showcasing the recipients in the new year.

CopperString Experience Centre

Business community goes behind the scenes at the centre

In October and November, we welcomed Townsville Enterprise and Townsville Chamber of Commerce members to the Experience Centre. Project Director, Tom Dockray, provided an important project update at both events and shared insights into our local and Indigenous participation plans.

Thank you to the Townsville Chamber of Commerce and Townsville Enterprise for your continued support of CopperString 2032.

Group bookings and tours

Did you know the CopperString Experience Centre welcomes group bookings including corporate and school tours?

If you have more than eight people in your group, please book via our website copperstringexperience.com.au.

School Holidays at the Experience Centre

We're gearing up for our first summer holidays at the Experience Centre. From 6 – 26 January 2025, the Experience Centre will showcase the important roles delivering CopperString. With a different theme each week there will be something for the whole family to enjoy.

For more information follow our CopperString Experience Facebook page at facebook.com/copperstringexperience.



Townsville Summit and North Queensland WISER Breakfast

The CopperString project team was pleased to support the Townsville Summit and the WISER (Women in Sustainable Energy & Resources) Breakfast in Townsville on 27 and 28 November.

Project Director, Tom Dockray provided an important update to delegates at the Summit. He highlighted milestones from the year that was and shared what's ahead for the North's largest economic development project. Tom also revealed our latest recruitment video for CopperString featuring some familiar faces along the alignment.



WISER Breakfast Panel - Townsville



 Townsville North Queensland Tourism Volunteers

ATCO modules arrive in Hughenden

Since the sod turn event in early July, significant progress has been made on site in Hughenden at our largest workforce accommodation facility.

ATCO has delivered 126 out of the 180 buildings with 85 now in position. The production of all units has been completed at ATCO's manufacturing facility.

The Hughenden workforce accommodation will provide a home away from home for the workers who will build the transmission line and nearby substation.

We are on track to complete construction of the facility by mid-2025.



Delivering for community and industry

Where we've been recently...

- The Big Weekend – Julia Creek
- Cloncurry Beat the Heat Festival – Cloncurry
- Meeting of the Mines – Cloncurry
- Critical Minerals Round Table – Cloncurry
- CopperString 2032 Experience Centre Townsville Enterprise Member Mixer – Townsville
- Critical Business Networking Event – Townsville
- Townsville Summit – Townsville
- CopperString 2032 Experience Centre Chamber Coffee – Townsville
- WISER Breakfast – Townsville
- MITEZ AGM – Townsville
- Townsville Enterprise AGM – Townsville
- Keep the Fire Burning – Townsville
- Richmond sod turn and community lunch – Richmond
- Seniors Week – Hughenden
- Flinders Shire Council Street Party – Hughenden
- MITEZ Industry Luncheon – Mount Isa
- North West Business Awards – Mount Isa
- Supplier Capability Development Program Workshops – western link



Reid River realignment

In August, Powerlink released a Recommended Corridor and Substation Site Selection Report which assesses the broad study area to identify a potential transmission corridor and substation site based on a range of social, environmental, economic and technical factors. The report was available for community and landholder feedback from the end of August through to early October.

The feedback received during this consultation period will be used to refine the corridor and substation location and ensure we have considered all matters of importance. Powerlink will release the Final Corridor Report in Q1 of 2025.

Development approval and land acquisition for the proposed transmission line and substation is planned to commence around mid-2025, with construction proposed to occur from late 2026.



 Hughenden Christmas Tree

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