

April 2025



# Bungaban Wind Farm Connection Project

## Recommended Corridor Report

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## Acknowledgement of Country

*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.*



## How to provide feedback on the Recommended Corridor

Feedback is being sought on the recommended corridor for the proposed Bungaban Wind Farm Connection Project. Feedback can be provided in the following ways:

In-person: Community information drop-in sessions on 6 and 7 May 2025

Phone: 07 3898 4838

Email: [bungaban@powerlink.com.au](mailto:bungaban@powerlink.com.au)

Website: [powerlink.com.au/bungaban](http://powerlink.com.au/bungaban)

Our project webpage has links to an interactive map where you can add your comments on the proposed recommended corridor. This page also features a feedback survey which we encourage you to complete. You can also sign-up for our regular project-related email updates.

We are inviting feedback on the recommended corridor until **5pm Sunday 18 May 2025**.

## Executive summary

This Recommended Corridor Report (RCR) has been prepared by Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited, trading as Powerlink Queensland (Powerlink), for the Bungaban Wind Farm Connection Project (the project).

Powerlink is a leading Australian provider of high voltage electricity transmission network services, and owns, develops, operates and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission network in Queensland.

Powerlink engaged project consultants WSP Australia Pty Ltd (WSP) to undertake technical, spatial data and mapping analysis to support the preparation of this report.

The purpose of the RCR is to communicate Powerlink's corridor selection process, and to identify a recommended 1km-wide corridor. Powerlink will undertake further engagement activities before finalising a 1km-wide corridor.

## Project background

Powerlink has been engaged by Windlab Development Pty Ltd (Windlab) to connect their wind farm to the network. The connection requires a new substation at the wind farm site and a 275kV transmission line (approx. 84 kms) between the wind farm and Powerlink's existing Wandoan South Substation (the project).

In July 2024 Powerlink released a Study Area Report that provided a summary of the area that was identified for developing a transmission line connection for this project. Following community engagement, the Study Area was refined to identify possible corridor options. In November 2024, the Corridor Option Report was released, identifying two possible 1km-wide corridor options (southern and northern options) to connect the Bungaban Wind Farm Substation to the Wandoan South Substation. Both options had a common alignment between the Wandoan South Substation to an area approximately 50km northeast of the Bungaban Wind Farm Substation.

## Bungaban Wind Farm

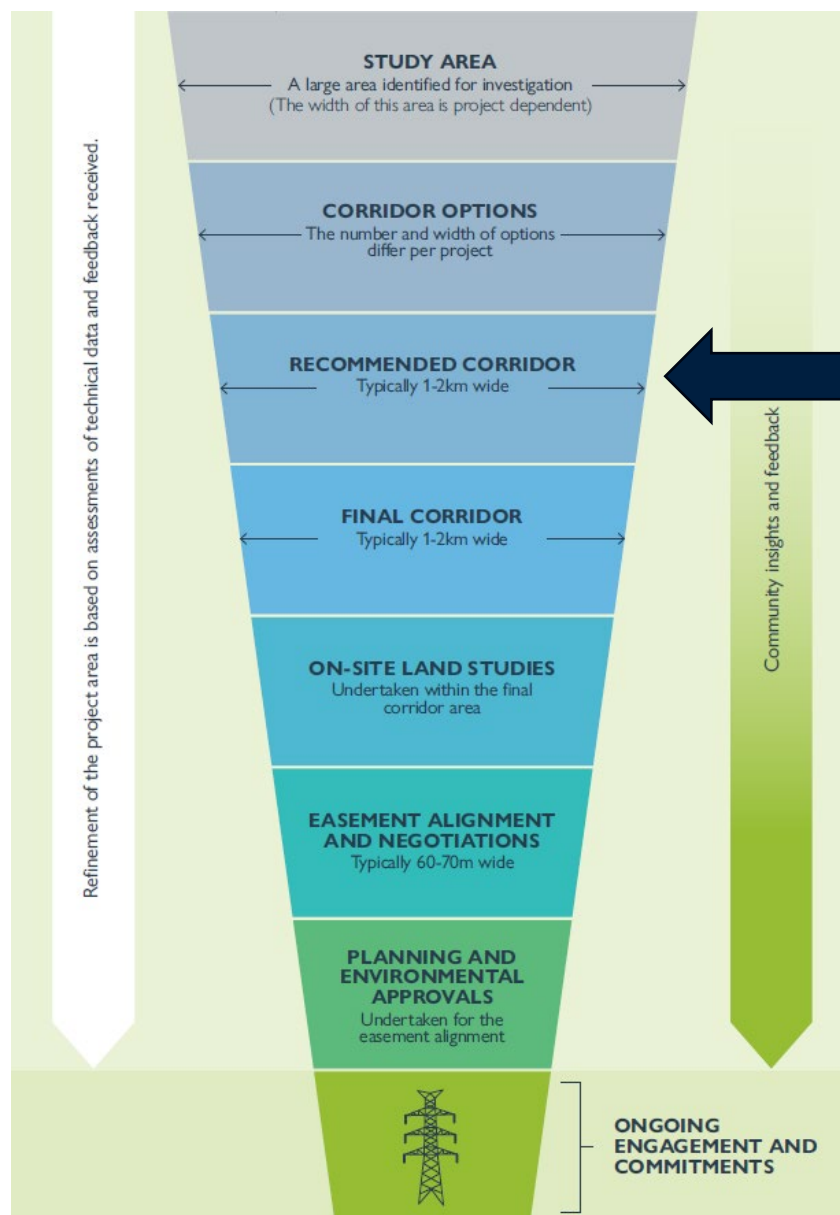
Windlab's Bungaban Wind Farm is a proposed 1.4-gigawatt (GW) wind farm located in the Western Downs and Banana Shire local government areas of Queensland, about 40km from Wandoan and 60km from Taroom, and 450km north-west of Brisbane. The wind farm is proposed to comprise of up to 204 wind turbines and a battery energy storage system with the capacity to generate enough energy to power 700,000 homes.

## Approach to corridor selection

At every step in the development of new transmission infrastructure, Powerlink actively seeks feedback from landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders to help inform our project planning and decision making, and how to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts resulting in the least overall impact on balance. Feedback, technical analysis and desktop studies are a large part of the foundations that support the corridor selection process.

The corridor selection process uses a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) that supports the project objectives to measure and assess the likely impact of the project whilst considering the values of the community. Using Powerlink's Transmission Easement Engagement Process (TEEP), stakeholder feedback helps to identify the criteria used in the MCA during the refinement of the corridor selection stages. This project is at stage three of the TEEP.

**Figure 1 – Transmission Easement Engagement Process**



This report builds on the outcomes of the earlier corridor analysis, by reviewing the options based on further assessment of feedback received from community engagement, physical land, environment and heritage values, social impacts, legislative requirements and technical input from Powerlink in relation to constructability of transmission lines.

Three objectives, referred to as project objectives, were used to inform the approach to corridor selection. They are:



**Social**

To consider the use of land and the community livelihood within and adjacent to corridor options.



**Environment**

To consider a balanced approach to corridor selection with the least practicable impact on environment and heritage values.



**Economic**

To consider construction and operational factors such as cost at a preliminary level, given the scale of the project.

Each objective has criteria that is considered based on feedback and technical and spatial analysis to help inform decisions regarding the refinement and selection of a recommended corridor.

Feedback from the community will continue to help inform the decision required to finalise the corridor selection.

## Recommended Corridor

The Corridor Option 1 (South) has been identified as the recommended corridor with the least overall impact across social, environment and economic objectives when compared to the Corridor Option 2 (North).

Feedback provided as part of the corridor options engagement process was assessed and responded to individually. For the purposes of this report, the feedback has been summarised into key themes. Most of these themes were related to the project as a whole and not specifically to the corridor location, however, the following key themes were considered to inform corridor refinement:

- proximity to houses and visual amenity
- impacts on farming operations
- interface with proposed renewable energy development

In particular, the feedback helped us to identify two realignments and one deviation to the recommended corridor. The details are as follows:

- **Mundell State Forest realignment**  
Upon exiting the Wind Farm site, the corridor is realigned further south to follow property boundaries, and bypassing Mundell State Forest
- **Hansens Road realignment**  
The corridor has been realigned to the east to follow property boundaries more closely and avoid potential land use impacts such as aerial mustering
- **Middle/Roche Creek roads deviation**  
A common section between Middle Creek Road and Roche Creek Road, has been deviated moving further west to minimise impacts on planned land use activities and farming operations

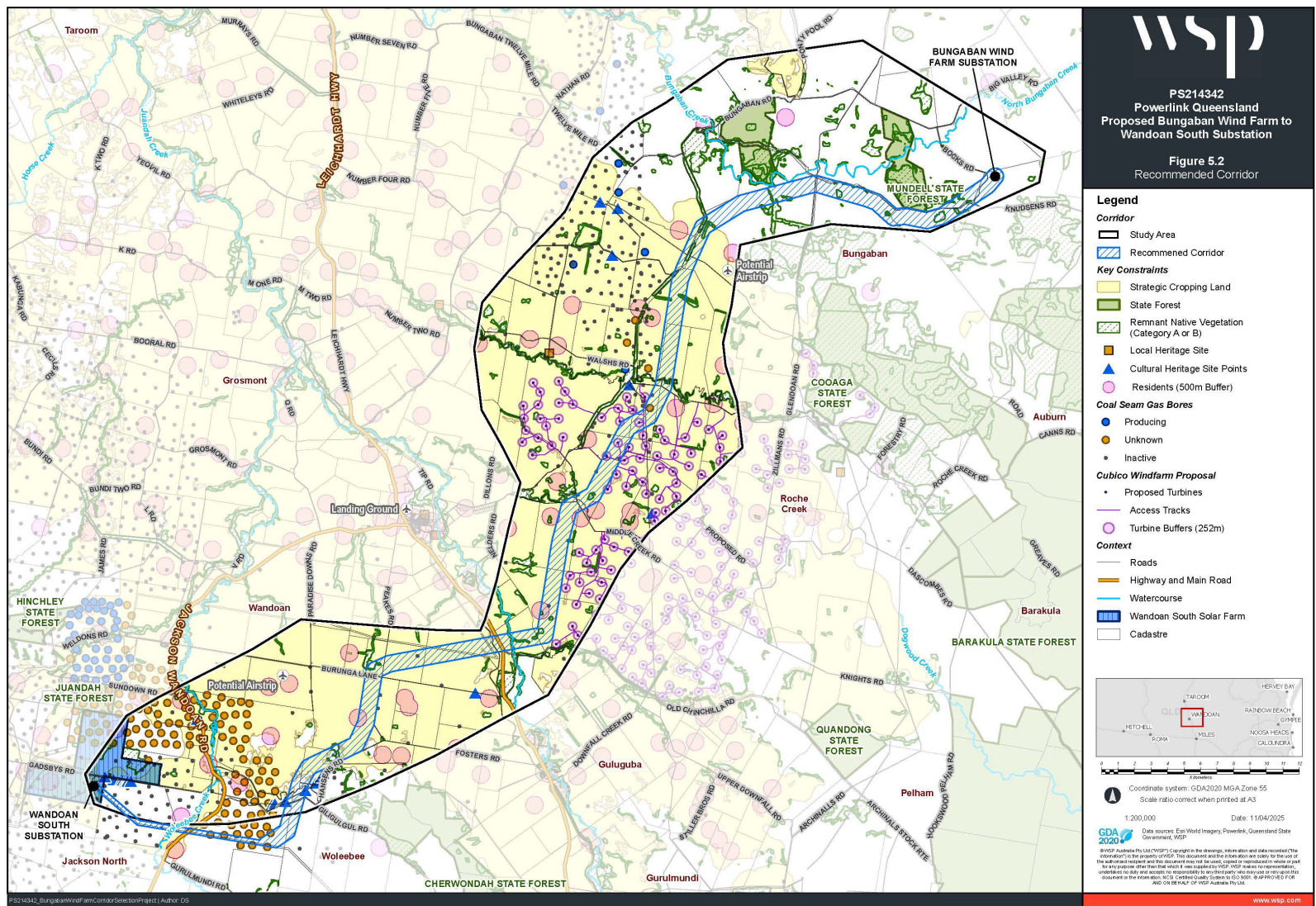
The 1km-wide recommended corridor:

- impacts fewer land parcels and properties, and avoids houses
- potential to co-exist with future farming and development opportunities (such as renewable energy developments)
- seeks to follow property boundaries where practicable
- reduces impacts to remnant vegetation
- minimises impacts on agriculture, intensive land use and cropping lands

The recommended corridor identified is shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2 – Bungaban Wind Farm Connection Project Recommended Corridor**





## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Project background

The Bungaban Wind Farm is a proposed 1.4 GW wind farm located in the Western Downs and Banana Shire regions of Queensland, about 40km from Wandoan and 60km from Taroom, or 450km north-west of Brisbane. Australian renewable energy company Windlab is developing the proposed Bungaban Wind Farm. Energy generated by the proposed wind farm will provide clean energy to Queensland households.

To connect the proposed wind farm to the electricity network, the following new transmission infrastructure is proposed under the project:

- a new 275 kilovolt (kV) substation
- up to 100m-wide easement to contain a double circuit 275kV transmission line between Powerlink's existing Wandoan South Substation and the proposed Bungaban Wind Farm, and to allow for future network expansion needs.

### 1.2 Purpose of this report

Powerlink has prepared this RCR to identify a recommended corridor between the proposed Bungaban Wind Farm and the existing Wandoan South Substation.

The purpose of this report is to outline and document the process used to determine the recommended corridor and identifies further engagement activities and detailed studies required to establish a final 1km-wide corridor. Subsequent stages of work will involve the identification of a 100m-wide easement alignment within this 1km-wide corridor, within which the proposed transmission line will be constructed.

This report:

- provides consideration of community feedback and inputs
- describe the process to assess the corridor options to identify the recommended corridor
- provides an overview of the recommended corridor and outlines the next steps.

### 1.3 Approach

The Transmission Easement Engagement Process (TEEP) is the overarching process that seeks to incorporate engagement activities and feedback into each step of the corridor selection process. This project is currently at stage three of the TEEP. Powerlink actively seeks feedback from landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders to help inform our project planning and decision making, and how to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts resulting in the least overall impact on balance.

The refinement process during corridor selection, uses a Multi-Criteria Analysis that supports the project objectives to measure and assess the likely impact of the project. The inclusion of feedback, along with technical and desktop studies are also used to help identify constraints and opportunities which are verified through detailed studies as the project progresses.

## 2. Corridor options engagement

Following the public release of the Corridor Options Report in November 2024 (available online at [powerlink.com.au/bungaban](https://powerlink.com.au/bungaban)) Powerlink has undertaken broad community engagement to inform of the need for the project, and the considerations of the corridor options.

The community information drop-in sessions were advertised via social media (e.g. community Facebook groups), the project website, local government channels, and flyer letter box drops.

Input from landholders, Traditional Owner groups and the community are valuable in helping Powerlink to identify corridor options, that seek to balance the impact across the project objectives. Engagement has included:

- community information drop-in sessions
- interactive map of the corridor options
- phone calls, emails and letters to landholders
- stakeholder briefings
- meetings with representatives of Traditional Owner groups
- newsletters
- webinar.

Subsequent phases of the project will include further engagement, detailed environmental and social impact assessment including targeted surveys, impact assessments and the development of planning, design and construction considerations.

Powerlink is committed to genuine and meaningful engagement, which forms a critical part of this project. Further details on our commitment to engaging on this project can be viewed on the [Bungaban Wind Farm Connection Project webpage](#).

### 2.1 Traditional Owner engagement

Powerlink acknowledges and respects the ongoing connection of Traditional Owners to their traditional lands and waters. Traditional Owner groups and First Nation People are welcome at all community engagement sessions, and dedicated engagement processes are also undertaken with Traditional Owner groups likely to be impacted by the proposed corridor selection. Engagement has been undertaken with the following Traditional Owner group identified under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld) (ACH Act):

- The Iman People (QUD413/2017 and QUD6162/1998)

### 2.2 Engagement analysis

Feedback following the Corridor Options engagement, identified areas of key interest and concern. All feedback has been reviewed and considered to determine the constraint, potential impact and necessary action. The key themes have flowed into the corridor selection process and have been referenced in the Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA).

The key themes are as follows:

Key landholder feedback	Consideration
Feedback theme	
<b>Property impacts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property impacts throughout construction</li> <li>Future development opportunities including renewable energy interface</li> </ul>	<p>We are committed to working with landholders to understand how their land is used including timing of key activities such as farming operations, future development plans and any potential incompatibility these activities may have. Management strategies will be developed to minimise impacts, such as adjusting construction schedules to coincide with the agricultural calendar and working closely with landholders to ensure their long-term property development plans are considered during the life of the project.</p> <p>The recommended corridor has been deviated near Middle Creek area to accommodate future potential development in that area.</p>
<b>Farming practices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farming operations including aerial activities</li> <li>Loss of productive and developed agricultural land</li> </ul>	<p>Detailed information about how land is used is a key consideration to corridor selection. Two realignments have been made to the corridor, following direct landholder feedback relating to farming practices and aerial activities. This includes seeking alignment to property boundaries where possible to reduce the segregation of land. More opportunities to co-exist with farming practices and other land uses may arise during the identification of the 100m-wide easement alignment.</p>
<b>Lifestyle impacts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visual impacts</li> <li>Proximity to homes</li> </ul>	<p>In considering the location of the recommended corridor, Powerlink has avoided houses within the 1km-wide recommended corridor. We note there are five houses that are in close proximity to the recommended corridor. Further conversations and considerations of proximity and visual impacts will occur as we continue to refine the corridor. Powerlink is seeking to identify a corridor with the least overall impact on balance.</p>

Additional themes were also noted and considered in relation to:

Key feedback	Consideration
<b>Biosecurity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powerlink seeks to understand landholders' biosecurity arrangements and current practices to limit any introduction or further spread of invasive weeds and pests.</li> <li>To address biosecurity concerns, Powerlink will implement strict biosecurity measures and controls. This may include regular inspection and monitoring of project sites and wash down stations for all project vehicles to go through before and after entering a landholder's property.</li> <li>Powerlink will work with landholders to identify biosecurity risks on each property and develop appropriate management measures, including those referred to in specific 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.</li> </ul>

Key feedback	Consideration
<b>Community benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powerlink acknowledges the importance of understanding social impacts resulting from the proposed transmission line and the broader considerations on communities. We will undertake further social assessments to understand the potential impacts. This approach enhances our ability to make informed decisions that consider and respect the diverse social dynamics within affected communities.</li> <li>• Powerlink also recognises that community benefits and investments are essential to fostering strong relationships and long-term trust with communities. By supporting local initiatives, infrastructure and programs, we aim to enhance the wellbeing of communities and reinforce Powerlink's commitment to sustainable development and responsible energy solutions. To date Powerlink has provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ an annual community grants round within Western Downs Region;</li> <li>○ financial and in-kind support for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wandoan Christmas Carnival</li> <li>▪ Buy Local Campaign</li> <li>▪ 'Women in Energy' – International Women's Day Event.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Co-funding the installation and operational costs for Starlink at the Wandoan showgrounds for a 3-year period.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Compensation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powerlink will seek the use of third-party valuation services to help inform and work through compensable matters with landholders. This will take into consideration elements such as the value of the property both before and after the project and other elements that are required to be compensated under the <i>Acquisition of Land Act 1967</i> which is a foundational element of our Landholder Payment Framework.</li> <li>• We are committed to being fair, transparent and equitable when negotiating payments with hosting landholders.</li> <li>• Powerlink acknowledges the impact of the project on landholders and, in accordance with our Landholder Payment Framework, will look to make payments not only to hosting landholders but also adjoining landholders within 1km of a new easement alignment. In addition, Powerlink offers a Project Participation and Access Allowance to eligible landholders whose properties we expect will be affected by field investigations. This payment is separate and in addition to landholder payments for hosting the line.</li> </ul>

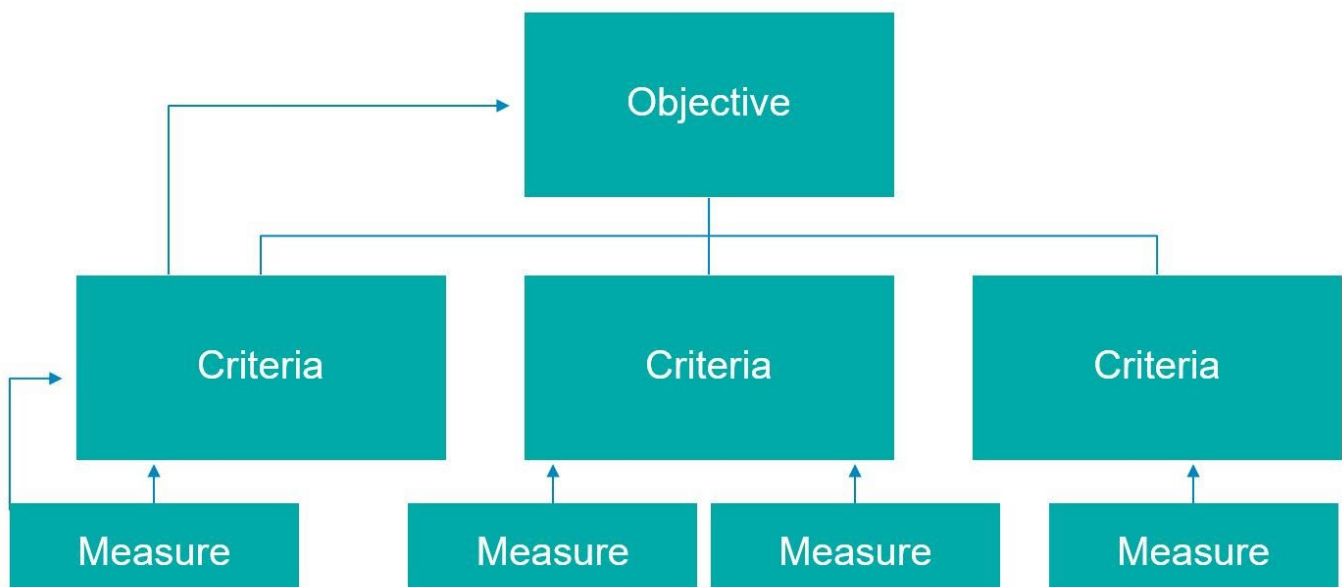
While these additional themes are important factors they are managed in broader terms throughout the project.

### 3. Corridor selection process

#### 3.1 Methodology

The MCA methodology considers the Project Objectives, incorporates direct feedback from landholders, the local community, Traditional Owner groups, and other stakeholders, publicly available spatial data and information provided by Powerlink, relevant to the planning and delivery of the transmission line infrastructure.

**Figure 3 Corridor selection process, adapted from Infrastructure Australia’s Multi-Criteria Analysis process**



Each objective is refined into measurable criteria to determine the possible impact and how it may be avoided, minimised, mitigated or offset. Feedback from the community helps us to identify and refine the criteria that is applicable to the project. The criteria are then measured and assessed against the objectives demonstrating the likely impacts across the project. The objective, criteria and measures adopted for the project are summarised below.

**Table 3.1 Corridor selection criteria considerations**

OBJECTIVES	CRITERIA	MEASURES
<b>Social</b> To consider the use of land and the community livelihood within and adjacent to the corridor	<b>Criteria 1:</b> Land parcels	Number of land parcels within the corridor
	<b>Criteria 2:</b> Residences	Number of residential houses
	<b>Criteria 3:</b> Strategic cropping land	Area of corridor with Strategic Cropping Land (including Agricultural land classes A & B)
	<b>Criteria 4:</b> Renewable energy infrastructure	Number of wind turbines within the corridor
	<b>Criteria 5:</b> Intensive land use	Area of corridor with intensive land use



OBJECTIVES	CRITERIA	MEASURES
	<b>Criteria 6:</b> Resource interests	Number of coal seam gas wells within proposed corridor
<b>Environment</b> To consider a balanced approach to corridor selection with the least practicable impact on environment and heritage values	<b>Criteria 1:</b> Regional ecosystems	Area of corridor with regional ecosystems
	<b>Criteria 2:</b> Threatened ecological communities	Area of corridor with regional ecosystems that are analogous with threatened ecological communities
	<b>Criteria 3:</b> MSES regulated vegetation – Category C and R	Area of Category C and R vegetation
	<b>Criteria 4:</b> Heritage	Number of registered heritage sites
<b>Economic</b> To consider construction and operational factors such as cost at a preliminary level, given the scale of the Project.	<b>Criteria 1:</b> Length of corridor	Length of corridor
	<b>Criteria 2:</b> Slope	Percentage of slopes >20% within the corridor
	<b>Criteria 3:</b> Co-location	Percentage of corridor option able to be co-located with existing infrastructure

The corridor selection approach considers the constraints and opportunities across the recommended corridor based on the objectives and criteria identified, ultimately resulting in a recommended corridor.

Where avoidance is not possible, the project will aim to minimise and/or mitigate impacts associated with these constraints.

## 4. 1km-wide recommended corridor

A summary of key findings and characteristics of the 1km-wide recommended corridor is included below.

### 4.1 Social

#### 4.1.1 Tenure

The recommended corridor traverses through a total of 51 land parcels, with majority being freehold land tenure. The recommended corridor has been realigned to navigate south of Mundell State Forest and as such State Forest land is no longer intersected.

#### 4.1.2 Land use

Land use types identified within the 1km-wide recommended corridor include grazing native vegetation, modified pastures, strategic/cropping land, residential and farm infrastructure and transport, and communication infrastructure. Additional areas of intensive animal production are noted along with several crossings of reservoirs/dams.

#### 4.1.3 Property

Locating the corridor away from residential properties is a key consideration. As such, there are no residences within the recommended corridor. There are five houses in close proximity to the recommended corridor.

#### 4.1.4 Resource interests

Petroleum leases (including wells) are registered throughout the region with five high-pressure pipelines (PPL74, PPL153, PPL163, PPL193 and PPL2075) are noted as intersecting the recommended corridor. No mining leases are traversed by the recommended corridor, however a transport corridor (associated with ML55010) is intersected by the recommended corridor.

A total of 18 coal seam gas wells are within the recommended corridor. Most of these wells are classified as being 'suspended/capped/shut-in' along with 'plugged and abandoned' or 'unknown'.

#### 4.1.5 Transport

Transport infrastructure within the corridor includes two state-controlled roads (Leichardt Highway and Jackson Wandoan Road) and six local roads (Bungaban Road, Burunga Lane, Giligulgul Road, Middle Creek Road, Peakes Road and Roche Creek Road). The corridor also intersects the Wandoan Branch Railway which is listed as 'booked out of use' by both Aurizon and Watco.

The recommended corridor co-locates with Bungaban Road for 4.1 km.

#### 4.1.6 Native Title

The Iman People are the Traditional Owner group for the area in which the corridor is located.

## 4.2 Environment

### 4.2.1 Flora

#### 4.2.1.1 Regional ecosystems

The recommended corridor intersects small, scattered areas of mapped remnant (endangered, of-concern and least concern) vegetation (regional ecosystems) (Categories A and B). As these areas are small in nature, they may be able to be spanned by the transmission line, with no or limited clearing required.

The recommended corridor intersects a total of 290.9ha of remnant and 123.9ha of regrowth regional ecosystems.

#### 4.2.1.2 Threatened ecological communities

Threatened ecological communities are listed as matters of national environmental significance under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Regional ecosystems analogous with threatened ecological communities have been identified within the recommended corridor (associated with regional ecosystems 11.9.1, 11.9.4a, 11.9.5, 11.9.6 and 11.3.2) and encompass a total of 234.4ha (149.4ha is remnant and 85ha high value regrowth). Ecological field assessments will be required to confirm the presence of threatened ecological communities within the recommended corridor.

#### 4.2.1.3 MSES regulated vegetation (Category C or R)

MSES are significant environmental values that are identified by the Queensland Government to aid in the protection of biodiversity through the planning system and environmental offset framework. In addition, to the regional ecosystems identified above, the recommended corridor intersects a total of 123.9ha of Category C or R regulated vegetation. Category C vegetation is scattered throughout the landscape while Category R vegetation is mostly located along the banks of watercourses and on lower-lying land.

### 4.2.2 Fauna

Threatened fauna species protected under State and Commonwealth legislation are known/likely to be present within the recommended corridor. Threatened fauna species could be potentially impacted through the loss of habitat. Given that fauna species are mobile and move throughout their habitat, the potential extent of impact to fauna species cannot be accurately determined by desktop searches alone. As such, further ecology studies are required to determine the presence of fauna species.

### 4.2.3 Heritage

No world, national, or state heritage sites were identified in the area. The recommended corridor intersects one known cultural heritage site 'artefact scatter' in proximity to Hansens Road. It is likely that areas near waterways and or with remnant vegetation will be associated with cultural heritage values. Further assessment will be undertaken to determine any heritage values within the recommended corridor.

## 4.3 Economic

### 4.3.1 Topography

Steep topography limits vehicle and machinery access and significantly increases the required earthworks at each tower site. Additional easements and access are often required in steep country and therefore environmental impacts can increase in these areas, for example, requirement for additional clearing for access tracks. Land in this category poses a significant constraint to construction and needs to be considered in the context of constructability, cost and time. Due to these constraints, the recommended corridor aims to avoid steep topography as far as practicable.

The Bungaban Wind Farm is located at an approximate elevation of 400m Australian Height Datum (mAHD) while the Wandoan South Substation is positioned at an approximate elevation of 300 mAHD. The landscape traversed by the recommended corridor is relatively consistent with slightly undulating hills and valleys. Since the recommended corridor navigates to the south of Mundell State Forest, it avoids steeper landscapes associated with the State Forest. Only, 0.2% of the recommended corridor intersects terrain with a slope greater than 20%.

#### 4.3.2 Geology and soils

Geological conditions vary throughout the recommended corridor and predominantly include a mix of sandstone, siltstone, mudstone and conglomerate, with smaller areas of sand, silt, gravel, and clay mainly associated with land around watercourses.

The recommended corridor traverses several mapped soil types, including:

- Dermosols - well-structured clay to clay loam soils, generally suitable for earthworks, non-dispersive, prone to compaction
- Chromosols - moderate agricultural potential, susceptible to soil acidification and soil structure decline
- Vertosols - clay-rich soils, high soil fertility, large water holding capacity, potential for strong cracking and salinity
- Sodosols - texture contrast soils with impenetrable subsoils, low agricultural potential commonly used for grazing, vulnerable to erosion and dryland salinity when vegetation removed.

Although transmission towers can be constructed on any ground, geology and soil conditions can lead to constructability issues associated with to erosion, dispersion and acidity which may affect the structural integrity of the transmission line infrastructure. Rocky underlying soils and geological units may also cause constructability complexities. The ground conditions will need to be studied in future geotechnical investigations to establish the appropriate design strategies.

#### 4.3.3 Hydrology

The main waterways crossed by the recommended corridor include Two Mile Creek, Six Mile Creek, Weringa Creek, Juandah Creek, Roche Creek and Downfall Creek. Other creeks and tributaries include Bottletree Creek, Bungaban Creek South Branch, Conloi Creek, Juandah Gully (Main Branch), Ogle Creek, Sheep Station Creek and Woleebee Creek.

Two flood hazard areas are interested by the recommended corridor associated with Juandah Creek and Woleebee Creek.

Corridor selection attempted to minimise the crossing of waterways. However, waterways can be spanned by the placement of transmission towers and as such consideration of waterways will be addressed during the design phase of the project.

#### 4.3.4 Contaminated land

Contaminated land searches were not undertaken as part of this assessment. However, the land uses that are generally registered on the environmental management and contaminated land database which are likely to be present within the recommended corridor include cattle dips, waste areas, manufacturing activities, fuel storage tanks and old machinery.

#### 4.3.5 Unexploded ordnance

The Department of Defence mapping does not identify any Defence Areas or land subject to potential unexploded ordnance (UXO) within the recommended corridor. UXO will therefore not influence the proposed transmission connection.

#### 4.4 Corridor realignments

Feedback is important to help inform Powerlink's decision making associated with corridor selection processes.

After receiving feedback following the November and December 2024 engagement sessions, Powerlink delayed the release of the Recommended Corridor Report to further investigate the section corridor near the Middle Creek area. Based on discussions and feedback, it was identified that a realignment of the corridor in this area may be required to consider existing land use activities / farming operations and proposed renewable energy infrastructure and seek to explore possible co-location opportunities.

Further engagement occurred in March 2025 specifically within this area. Considering all feedback received, land uses, known constraints, improvements and future development plans, three areas within the recommended corridor have been considered.

In particular, the feedback helped us to identify two realignments and one deviation. The details are as follow:

- **Mundell State Forest realignment**  
Upon exiting the Wind Farm site, the corridor is realigned further south to follow property boundaries, and bypassing Mundell State Forest
- **Hansens Road realignment**  
The corridor has been realigned to the east to follow property boundaries more closely and avoid potential land use impacts such as aerial mustering
- **Middle/Roche Creek Roads deviation**  
A common section between Middle Creek Road and Roche Creek Road, has been deviated moving further west to minimise impacts on planned land use activities and farming operations

The final 1km-wide corridor will be narrowed down further to a 100m-wide easement alignment. Powerlink will keep working closely with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the wider community and other stakeholders, while also completing field and site investigations, to determine the most appropriate final alignment.

#### 4.5 Summary of Recommended Corridor

Overall, the recommended corridor has sought to identify a corridor that, on balance, has the least overall impacts.

The recommended corridor:

- impacts fewer land parcels, is slightly shorter in length and more direct than previous options identified
- includes three specific changes in response to direct feedback
- seeks to avoid houses directly within the 1km-wide corridor
- has potential to co-exist with future farming and development opportunities (such as renewable energy developments)
- seeks to follow property boundaries where practicable
- reduces impacts to remnant vegetation
- minimises impacts on agriculture, intensive land use and cropping lands



The overarching Multi-Criteria Analysis is set out in Table 15 below:

**Table 15: Multi-Criteria Analysis**

CRITERIA	Unit	Recommended Corridor
<b><u>Social</u></b>		
Criteria 1: Land parcels	Count	51
Criteria 2: Residences	Count	0
Criteria 3: Strategic cropping land	Ha	4,498.2
Criteria 4: Renewable energy infrastructure	Count	3
Criteria 5: Resource interests	Count	18
Criteria 6: Intensive land use	Ha	14.7
<b><u>Environmental</u></b>		
Criteria 1: Regional ecosystem	Ha	290.9
Criteria 2: Threatened ecological communities	Ha	234.4
Criteria 3: MSES regulated vegetation – Category C and R	Ha	123.9
Criteria 4: Heritage	Count	1
<b><u>Economic</u></b>		
Criteria 1: Length of corridor	Km	82.7
Criteria 2: Area with a slope greater than 20%	%	0.2
Criteria 3: Co-location	Km	16.2

Opportunities to further minimise impacts and or avoid constraints will be considered as we seek to finalise the 1km-wide Final Corridor.

## 5. Transmission line construction overview

### 5.1 Overhead transmission line

If approved, the overhead transmission line will be a 275kV double circuit line, constructed predominantly with steel lattice towers and some steel poles, pending constraints. The line will be located on an easement, approximately 100m wide. Transmission infrastructure is generally located either at the centre of the easement or offset when co-locating with other infrastructure.

Easements provide legal access over land to construct, operate and maintain energy infrastructure and to regulate certain activities on the easement area, allowing Powerlink to provide a safe, reliable and secure power supply. Landholders continue to own and be responsible for the land on which the easement is located, including land management and other general land maintenance activities. In some instances, rules around activities that can and cannot be undertaken on our easements are outlined in the registered easement terms and conditions on property titles, along with the rights of both the landholder and Powerlink. In addition to registered conditions, there are also other rules based on:

- safety for the public, our employees and contractors
- the risk of damage to property
- the safe operation of the overhead transmission line, underground cable or other assets
- access to the line or associated infrastructure for any future works, including maintenance, upgrading or refit activities.

We are committed to working closely with directly affected landholders to understand how they use and manage their property. We do this to ensure we can suitably locate transmission towers within the easement and provide sufficient tower height to avoid or minimise impacts on property operations. This includes our ongoing commitment to work with landholders to ensure access requirements both on and off the easement, are suitably managed and protocols are implemented throughout construction and as part of the full project life cycle of the infrastructure.

Due to the design and operating requirements of high voltage electricity transmission infrastructure, easements require clearing of vegetation to safely construct and maintain transmission towers and lines. Where possible, Powerlink does not clear the entire easement but rather minimises vegetation clearing for the safe and reliable operation of transmission line. When designing the transmission line, mitigation measures such as selective tower placement and spanning to decrease the amount of required vegetation clearing will be used, particularly in sensitive environments.

Tower pads will be approximately 40m x 40m and spans between towers will be up to 450m on flat land. Tower heights will be dependent on terrain, topography and land use of the final alignment with shorter towers likely on higher ground and taller towers within low points of the corridor. It is likely that 275kV towers will be up to 60m in height. Generally, the steps involved in building a transmission line include:

- preparing the site
- installing the foundations
- assembling the transmission towers and equipment
- stringing the transmission line
- testing and commissioning
- reinstating the site.

More detail on each step is outlined below.

#### 5.1.1 Preparing the site

Following comprehensive field visits to sample or test soil, vegetation and water, and undertake other detailed investigations, the exact position of each transmission tower is marked on-ground.



Vegetation clearing is then undertaken to make way for tower pads, lay-down areas and access tracks. Clearing is required to ensure the line can operate safely and reliably. Various clearing methods may be used based on existing land use, environmental considerations, maintenance requirements and landholder preferences. To minimise vegetation clearing, existing access tracks are used wherever possible. We will continue to use access tracks beyond construction activities to facilitate safe and streamlined access to towers during operation and maintenance.

#### 5.1.2 Installing the foundations

Based on findings from geotechnical investigations completed prior to construction, the construction crew commences work to install suitable foundations at each tower site. A large boring machine is generally used to excavate foundations which can be around 8m to 12m deep. Steel is inserted to reinforce foundations and tower leg stubs are held in place, while concrete is poured into the excavation. Final steelwork is then completed, with the foundation column finishing slightly above ground level.



#### 5.1.3 Assembling the structures and equipment

Fabricated and galvanised steel components for lattice towers are sorted and bundled ahead of being delivered to tower sites. Usually, this delivery takes place with a semi-trailer, and tower assembly work is completed adjacent to a tower's final location. Specialist crews methodically piece together the towers, with smaller assembled sections lifted with a crane and bolted into place until the tower is fully erected.





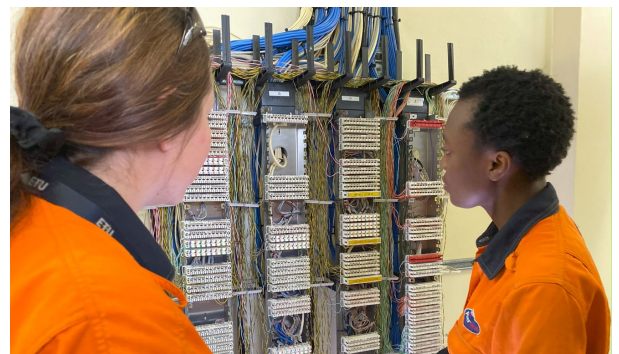
#### 5.1.4 Stringing the transmission line

Machinery such as helicopters, semi-trailers, cranes and light 4WD vehicles are on-site to string the transmission line. Normally, stringing takes place in 5km to 10km sections at a time. Prior to stringing, large drums of conductor (transmission line wires) are delivered to locations along the line route. A draw wire is run between the assembled towers and used to pull the conductor along a section of line. Helicopters may be used to pull the draw wire. The conductor is fed through the line section and tensioned from the ground using winches. Equipment is then repositioned to the next stringing section to repeat the process until the conductor is strung across all towers.



#### 5.1.5 Testing and commissioning

After a new transmission line is assembled, strung and ready to be energised, a series of thorough inspections and commissioning tests are carried out. This ensures the line is ready to be put into service safely and reliably as it enters the operation and maintenance phase of the project lifecycle.



### 5.1.6 Reinstating the site

Powerlink will engage with landholders to determine site and property specific rehabilitation works following completion of construction activities. Depending on the type and level of on-ground works completed, crews reinstate the tower site area and surrounding environment to ensure appropriate rehabilitation occurs. This helps to stabilise soil and encourage vegetation re-establishment to occur, preventing erosion. This stage also includes reinstating farm infrastructure that may have been impacted during construction works, and remediating paddocks and other grazing areas to enable recommencement of farming activities. Installation of identification signs on towers and anti-climb barriers are installed for safety purposes. Access tracks are finalised to allow ongoing access for future maintenance as required.

Powerlink continues to engage with landholders once a transmission line enters the operation and maintenance phase to undertake a range of activities periodically as required, including:

- routine inspections on easements and infrastructure
- vegetation management to maintain safety clearances
- minor works for infrastructure, replacement of parts and emergency repair of damage
- access track management
- installing or replacing tower signage
- installing or replacing anti-climbing barriers on towers.





## 6. Conclusion and next steps

Following release of the recommended corridor, additional investigations and feedback from landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the wider community and other stakeholders is needed to finalise the 1km-wide corridor.

Community-based engagement sessions are planned to discuss the recommended corridor and associated corridor selection process. These sessions will be held throughout the local region, to help facilitate the provision of feedback. Further information is available on our website ([powerlink.com.au/bungaban](https://powerlink.com.au/bungaban)) and feedback on the recommended corridor report is open until **5pm Sunday 18 May 2025**.

### Feedback can be provided in the following ways:

- speak to our Project Team in-person at an upcoming community information drop-in session in Wandoan (see details below)
- fill out the online feedback form at [powerlink.com.au/bungaban](https://powerlink.com.au/bungaban)
- call us on **07 3898 4838** (Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm)
- email us at [bungaban@powerlink.com.au](mailto:bungaban@powerlink.com.au)
- write to us at Bungaban Project Team, Powerlink Queensland, PO Box 1193, Virginia QLD 4014.

During this feedback period, members of our Project Team will be available to speak with landholders and community members at the below locations and times.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 6 May 2025	2pm-3:30pm	Wandoan Park (next to café)
Tuesday 6 May 2025	4pm-7pm	Wandoan Cultural and Community Centre
Wednesday 7 May 2025	7am-10am	Wandoan Cultural and Community Centre
Wednesday 7 May 2025	10:30am-12pm	Wandoan Park (next to the café)

The final 1km-wide corridor will be published in the Final Corridor Report to be released in **June 2025**. Powerlink will then continue to work with landholders to undertake detailed technical studies to determine a 100m-wide final easement alignment.



## 6.1 Further studies and engagement

This project is currently in Step 3 (Recommended Corridor phase) of the Transmission Easement Engagement Process (TEEP). The refining process that occurs to move from Step 3 to Step 4 (Final Corridor) predominantly focuses on further investigations and details that are needed to build upon the current understanding of the opportunities and constraints that have been identified to date. Working property by property within the recommended corridor area to really understand challenges that may inhibit co-existence whilst balancing the project objectives.

The project will continue to seek to avoid and/or minimise impacts to landholders and community areas as well as environment, cultural values, agriculture and cropping land values.

As the project progresses through the steps of the TEEP, planning and other legislative requirements will be identified and detailed once the project reaches final corridor stage and refinement to a 100m-wide easement alignment commences. In addition, detailed studies and surveys including such things as Geotech, flood surveys and various other technical considerations will emerge, and concept tower siting and design will commence.

## APPENDIX A

### Summary of legislative considerations

A summary of legislation potentially applicable to the project is provided below in Table A-1 below. Further design and detailed investigations and assessment will be required to confirm the appropriate approval pathway for the project.

**Table A-1 Summary of legislation**

Legislation	Summary
Commonwealth legislation	
<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	<p>The EPBC Act (Cth) is the centrepiece of Commonwealth environmental laws. It provides a legal framework to protect, and manage nationally, and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places — defined in the EPBC Act as Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).</p> <p>MNES include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the world heritage values of a declared world heritage property;</li> <li>• the national heritage values of a declared national heritage place;</li> <li>• the ecological character of a declared Ramsar wetland (wetlands of international importance);</li> <li>• listed threatened species and ecological communities;</li> <li>• listed migratory species;</li> <li>• nuclear actions (including uranium mining);</li> <li>• Commonwealth marine areas;</li> <li>• the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; and</li> <li>• a water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development.</li> </ul> <p>The EPBC Act is administered by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and establishes a process for environmental assessment and approval of proposed actions that have, will have, or are likely to have a significant impact on MNES.</p> <p>If a project may cause a significant impact on an MNES, the project must be referred to DCCEEW for assessment of the potential impacts. The Minister will decide whether the project is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not a controlled action: the project does not need to be assessed further;</li> <li>• not a controlled action ‘particular matter’: the project does not need to be assessed further, providing the action is completed in accordance with conditions that are supplied with the decision; and</li> <li>• a controlled action: the project will need to be assessed against the EPBC Act, through one of several processes available.</li> </ul> <p>Ecological investigations and subsequent significant impact assessment will be completed to understand the presence of, and potential impacts on, MNES. Outcomes of these investigations will determine the requirement for referral to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment.</p>

Legislation	Summary
<i>Native Title Act 1993</i>	<p>The <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Native Title Act) (Cth) establishes a national framework for the protection and recognition of Native Title, including by conferring on Indigenous people who hold (or claim to hold) Native Title rights and interests in respect of any land or waters, the right to be consulted with and in some cases to participate in decisions about activities proposed to be undertaken.</p> <p>The recommended corridor intersects native title claim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Iman People #4 Claim Area (QC2017/008).</li> </ul> <p>Under the Native Title Act (Cth), Native Title cannot be claimed on freehold land as it is extinguished over the area. Where the corridor intersects roads that were declared as roads on or before 23 December 1996, Native Title is extinguished and is not required to be considered.</p> <p>On land where Native Title exists, Powerlink must comply with the requirements of the Native Title Act (Cth) to secure an easement for the transmission line. Construction of the transmission line is covered by processes under section 24KA or possibly by an Indigenous Land Use Agreement. Section 24KA validates future acts that consist of the construction, and operation of public infrastructure and suspend the native rights over the land for the duration of the easement. Therefore, the legislative requirements under the Native Title Act (Cth) are low risk to the project.</p>
<b>State legislation</b>	
<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>	<p>The <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> (Qld) is administered by Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (DTATSIPCA) and aims to provide effective recognition, protection, and conservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage.</p> <p>It establishes the processes for managing activities that may cause potential harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage, which is identified through the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Database, and Register and the Cultural Heritage Duty of Care Guidelines.</p> <p>Should the project be considered to pose a high risk to Aboriginal cultural heritage, engagement with the relevant cultural heritage parties for the area is likely to be required. It may also necessitate preparation of a cultural heritage management plan or cultural heritage management agreement. Activities which pose a high risk to Aboriginal cultural heritage which may apply to the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>works in, or within proximity to registered Aboriginal cultural heritage sites or places;</li> <li>works in areas with little or no previous ground disturbance;</li> <li>works in proximity to water features.</li> </ul> <p>Powerlink is in the process of undertaking engagement with the relevant parties to discuss the project and its potential impacts.</p>
<i>Acquisition of Land Act 1967</i>	<p>The <i>Acquisition of Land Act 1967</i> (Qld) is administered by Department of Resources (DoR) and sets out the processes for compulsory and voluntary acquisition of land for a public purpose by a constructing authority. Powerlink may acquire freehold land or register an easement over land for the transmission line. Land may be acquired either by voluntary agreement for easements or other tenures required or, where agreement cannot be reached, by compulsory resumption of land.</p>

Legislation	Summary
<i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>	<p>The <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> (Biosecurity Act) (Qld) is administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and provides a biosecurity system framework which aims to minimise biosecurity risk, and facilitate responses to biosecurity impacts, to ensure the safety, and quality of agricultural inputs, and to align the state's management of biosecurity risk and other requirements for plant and animal responses to biosecurity risk with federal and international obligations. The Biosecurity Act also aims to manage emerging endemic, and exotic pests, and diseases as well as the transfer of diseases between humans and animals and contaminants in carriers.</p> <p>Under the Biosecurity Act, a general biosecurity obligation is placed on all persons to undertake all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise biosecurity risk. Additionally, the movement of biosecurity matter must comply with movement restrictions associated with each relevant biosecurity zone, and biosecurity instrument permits are required for the movement of biosecurity matter which cannot comply with movement restrictions.</p>
<i>Environmental Offsets Act 2014</i>	<p>The purpose of the <i>Environmental Offsets Act 2014</i> (EO Act) (Qld) is administered by the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) and is to counterbalance the significant residual impacts of particular activities on prescribed environmental matters through the use of environmental offsets.</p> <p>Prescribed environmental matters are described under the EO Act (Qld) as a MNES, Matters of State Environmental Significance (MSES) and Matters of Local Environmental Significance (MLES).</p> <p>An environmental offset may be required as a condition of development approval, where following consideration of avoidance and mitigation measures, a prescribed activity is likely to result in a significant residual impact on a prescribed environmental matter. Once the administering authority has decided that a prescribed activity is required to provide an offset, the environmental offset is required to be delivered in accordance with the EO Act (Qld), the <i>Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014</i> and the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy. The desktop assessment has identified that MNES and MSES are potentially present within the recommended corridor, however this will need to be confirmed during future phases of the project through field surveys.</p> <p>To avoid duplication between jurisdictions, state and local governments can only impose an offset condition in relation to a prescribed activity if the same, or substantially the same impact, or substantially the same matter has not been subject to assessment under the EPBC Act (Cth).</p> <p>It is important to note that advice from Queensland Treasury is that the EO Act (Qld) does not apply to the designation of premises for development of infrastructure, however the designation decision can still apply compensatory measures/requirements akin to an offset.</p>
<i>Electricity Act 1994</i>	<p>The <i>Electricity Act 1994</i> (Qld) is administered by Queensland Treasury, requires that all electricity industry participants must ensure a safe, efficient, and reliable supply of electricity, as well as ensure that the supply of electricity is carried out in an environmentally sound manner.</p> <p>Section 31 of the <i>Electricity Act 1994</i> (Qld) states that the transmission entity must properly account for the environmental effect of its activities under the transmission authority. Powerlink holds a transmission licence in Queensland and is required to develop its network to meet the security, and reliability standards of the National Electricity Rules, the <i>Electricity Act 1994</i> (Qld) and the terms of its transmission licence.</p> <p>The legislative requirements of the <i>Electricity Act 1994</i> (Qld) are standard to Powerlink projects and pose a low risk to the construction and operation of the transmission line.</p>



Legislation	Summary
<i>Electrical Safety Act 2002</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <i>Electrical Safety Act 2002</i> (Qld) is administered by the Department of State Development and Infrastructure and seeks to regulate electricity works to prevent death, injury or destruction caused by electricity. The transmission line must be designed in compliance with the requirements outlined under the <i>Electricity Safety Act 2002</i> (Qld). These requirements are standard to Powerlink processes and are considered to have a low risk to the project.</li> </ul>
<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	<p>The <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> (EP Act) (Qld) is administered by Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) and aims to protect Queensland's environment, while allowing for development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future.</p> <p>The EP Act regulates activities that will or may have the potential to cause environmental harm and prescribes several mechanisms to ensure that objectives are met. The two primary environmental duties that apply to everyone in Queensland are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General environmental duty – a person must not carry out any activity that causes, or is likely to cause environmental harm, unless all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm have been taken. Environmental harm is defined in Section 14 of the EP Act (Qld) as any adverse effect, or potential adverse effect (whether temporary or permanent and of whatever magnitude, duration or frequency) on an environmental value and includes environmental nuisance.</li> <li>Duty to notify of environmental harm – a person must inform the administering authority and landowner or occupier when an incident has occurred that may have caused or threatens serious or material environmental harm that is not authorised.</li> </ul> <p>The EP Act (Qld) also provides the power to administering authorities to order the actions to be taken to improve environmental performance, conduct audits, and environmental evaluations of activities, approve environmental management programs and impose penalties or prosecute persons for non-compliance with the requirements of the EP Act (Qld).</p> <p>The EP Act (Qld) is supported by the following subordinate legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Protection Regulation 2019 (EP Regulation);</li> <li>Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2019 (EPP (Air));</li> <li>Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2019 (EPP (Noise)); and</li> <li>Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019 (EPP (Water and Wetland Biodiversity)).</li> </ul>
<i>Fisheries Act 1994</i>	<p>The <i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> (Fisheries Act) (Qld) is administered by DAF and governs the management of fisheries, declared fish habitat areas and marine plants. Works which may cause disturbance to 'waterways' as defined under the Fisheries Act (Qld) can be subject to assessable operational work for waterway barrier works, unless construction complies with the conditions under the 'Accepted development requirements for operational work that is constructing or raising waterway barrier works'.</p> <p>Should any works within a waterway not comply with the accepted development requirements, a development permit is ordinarily required under the Planning Act 2016 (Qld). However, if the</p>

Legislation	Summary
	project is granted an Infrastructure Designation, operational work for waterway barrier works will be considered accepted development and will not require a development permit.
<i>Land Act 1994</i>	The <i>Land Act 1994</i> (Qld) is administered by the Department of Resources (DoR) and governs the allocation and management of land for development. The <i>Electricity Act 1994</i> (Qld) provides exemptions to the <i>Land Act 1994</i> (Qld) for works by transmission entities. Transmission entities are entitled to take necessary action in publicly controlled places (such as unallocated State land) to provide or supply electricity under section 101 of the <i>Electricity Act 1994</i> (Qld), as well as undertake works on road reserves through written agreement from the road authority under section 102.
<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	<p>The <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> is administered by DESI and is the primary legislation governing the protection and management of native wildlife, habitat and protected areas in Queensland.</p> <p>The protected plants flora survey trigger map identifies high risk areas for protected plants to occur and must be used to determine whether a targeted flora survey is required for a particular area. High risk areas are those in which endangered, vulnerable, threatened or near threatened flora is known or likely to exist.</p> <p>Where clearing is required in an area containing a protected plant species, a clearing permit must be obtained from DESI.</p>
<i>Planning Act 2016</i>	<p>The <i>Planning Act 2016</i> (Qld) is administered by the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works and establishes a system of land use planning and development assessment prescribed under the Planning Regulation 2017 (Planning Reg). The proposed project is considered 'Electricity Operating Works', which is considered 'infrastructure' and therefore prescribed development under the Planning Reg.</p> <p>Under the <i>Planning Act 2016</i> (Qld), the Planning Minister is the only minister with the power to designate land for infrastructure. The 'Minister's Guidelines and Rules' outlines the process for making a ministerial designation.</p> <p>An approval for a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) will require submission of an environmental assessment report that includes requirements about works for the infrastructure (such as the height, shape, bulk, landscaping, or location of works), the use of premises including access and ancillary uses, or lessening the impact of the works or use (such as environmental management procedures).</p> <p>Under section 44 of the <i>Planning Act 2016</i> (Qld), infrastructure that is designated is considered accepted development and will not require further approvals under the <i>Planning Act 2016</i> (Qld); with the exception of building work approval under the <i>Building Act 1975</i> (Qld).</p> <p>A MID will be required for construction of the transmission line.</p>
<i>State Planning Policy</i>	The State Planning Policy (SPP) identifies matters of State interest requiring protection and enhancement. The SPP is at the top of the planning hierarchy in Queensland and is the overarching policy for all other regional and local planning instruments. The SPP States that the SPP applies to the extent relevant, when designating premises for infrastructure under the Planning Act 2016 and development applications.

Legislation	Summary
<i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i>	<p>The <i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i> (Qld) is administered by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) and regulates the management of state-controlled road networks across Queensland.</p> <p>Under section 50 of the <i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i> (Qld), construction, maintenance, and operation of ancillary works and encroachments within State-controlled roads (e.g. placement of a transmission line over the road) can only be completed where written approval has been granted from the DTMR.</p> <p>Under section 33 of the <i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i> (Qld), written approval is required from the DTMR to carry out road works on a State-controlled Road (SCR) or interfere with a SCR or its operation. This may include where road works to a Council Road interferes with a SCR or its operations.</p> <p>Under section 62 of the <i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i> (Qld), written approval is required from DTMR to locate a permitted access on a SCR. A decision of access approval may include conditions or restrictions on the location or use of the permitted road access, type or number of vehicles to use the permitted road access location.</p> <p>Under the <i>Transport Infrastructure (Rail) Regulation 2006</i> permission from the railway manager (Queensland Rail) is required to take over dimensional road loads across Queensland Rail infrastructure (e.g. rail level crossings and rail bridges).</p>
<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	<p>The <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> (VM Act) (Qld) is governed by the DoR and seeks to manage native vegetation across Queensland. Regulated Vegetation Mapping identifies categorised areas of remnant vegetation in Queensland and is used to establish whether clearing of native vegetation is considered assessable development requiring a permit.</p> <p>Clearing of any relevant remnant or regulated regrowth vegetation constitutes operational work under schedule 10 of the <i>Planning Regulation 2017</i>, which will require development approval unless a vegetation clearing code or exemption applies. Under Section 22A of the VM Act (Qld), an application for operational work, including applications where DoR is a concurrence agency, cannot be accepted as properly made unless the Chief Executive is satisfied that the development is for a relevant purpose. Exemptions exist for electricity infrastructure were associated with an infrastructure designation.</p> <p>Any infrastructure designation or development application will need to demonstrate that Powerlink has sought to reduce the impacts of vegetation clearing through the hierarchy of avoid, minimise and mitigate. Where a significant residual impact remains, an offset, or compensatory measures may be required.</p>
<i>Water Act 2000</i>	<p>The <i>Water Act 2000</i> (Water Act) (Qld) is administered by the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, and provides a legislative framework for the sustainable use, allocation, and management of water resources in Queensland and regulates activities occurring within designated watercourses under the <i>Water Act 2000</i> (Qld).</p> <p>The Watercourse Identification Map categorises water features as either a designated watercourse, drainage feature, downstream limit of a watercourse or lake and is used to determine the assessment requirements for undertaking activities within a watercourse. Activities including excavating, filling, or destroying native vegetation within a watercourse may require approval under the <i>Water Act 2000</i> (Qld) in the form of a riverine protection permit. Powerlink is an</p>

Legislation	Summary
	approved entity exempt from requiring a permit if the self-assessment guidelines under DoR's 'Riverine protection permit exemption requirements' are followed.
<i>Human Rights Act 2019</i>	The <i>Human Rights Act 2019</i> is administered by the Department of Justice and requires PowerInk to act or make decisions that are compatible with human rights, including property rights, cultural rights and to give proper consideration to human rights in making decisions.
Regional Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recommended corridor and site are subject to the Central Queensland Regional Plan 2013. The plan was implemented in 2013 to provide policy responses to resolve the region's most important issues affecting its economy and the liveability of its towns. The plan specifically provides direction to resolve competing state interests relating to the agricultural and resources sectors, and to enable the growth potential of the region's towns.</li> <li>The plan's regional policies address the emerging regional issues of land use competition between the agricultural and resources sectors, and the need to protect areas required for the growth of towns.</li> <li>The plan also discusses other state interests relevant to land use planning in the region, including housing and liveable communities, economic growth, environment and heritage, and hazards and safety.</li> <li>The transmission line and substation are consistent with the intent of the plan, to provide continued distribution capacity of the region.</li> </ul>
Local Laws	<p>The project is primarily within Western Downs Regional Local Government Area. Local Government Areas are subject to individual Local Planning Instruments under the Planning Act (Qld), as well as a range of local laws under the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> (Qld).</p> <p>Local laws under the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> (Qld) are used to regulate matters specific to LGAs, particularly relating to pests and weeds, use of local government roads and nuisances such as noise and dust. While the approvals framework for this project gives rise to legislative and regulatory exemptions, the local laws imposed by the relevant LGAs will still apply and may trigger permits required to be obtained for certain activities. The local laws that may apply to the project are provided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011; and</li> <li>Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2011.</li> </ul> <p>Once the land becomes designated as part of the MID process, development relevant to the designation becomes accepted development under the local planning scheme, and, further planning approval is not required. However, the Minister may have regard to the local government assessment framework and decisions may be influenced by zoning, land-use intent, and local ordinances and by-laws. Additionally, the local council will be consulted with during the MID process with regards to impacts on local government-controlled roads, prior to the commencement of construction.</p>

## APPENDIX B

### Acronyms in the Recommended Corridor Report

<b>ATSICH</b>	<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage</b>
<b>Biosecurity Act</b>	<i>The Biosecurity Act 2014</i>
<b>DCCEEW</b>	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
<b>DESI</b>	Department of Environment, Science, and Innovation
<b>DSITI</b>	Department Science, Information Technology and Innovation
<b>DNRM</b>	Department of Resource Management
<b>DoR</b>	Department of Resources
<b>DTMR</b>	Department of Transport and Main Roads
<b>DTATSIPCA</b>	Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts
<b>EO Act</b>	<i>Environmental Offsets Act 2014</i>
<b>EP Act</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>
<b>EPBC Act</b>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
<b>Ergon Energy</b>	Energy Queensland
<b>Fisheries Act</b>	<i>Fisheries Act 1994</i>
<b>ha</b>	<i>Hectare</i>
<b>km</b>	<i>Kilometre</i>
<b>MNES</b>	Matters of National Environmental Significance
<b>MSES</b>	Matters of State Environmental Significance
<b>Native Title Act</b>	Native Title Act 1993
<b>NER</b>	National Electricity Rules
<b>NC Act</b>	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>
<b>MID</b>	Ministerial Infrastructure Designation
<b>Planning Act</b>	<i>Planning Act 2016</i>
<b>Powerlink</b>	Powerlink Queensland
<b>PMST</b>	Protected Matters Search Tool
<b>SCL</b>	Strategic Cropping Land
<b>SMP</b>	Species Management Program
<b>SPP</b>	State Planning Policy
<b>RCR</b>	Recommended Corridor Report



<b>RE</b>	Regional Ecosystem
<b>Renewable Energy Target</b>	RET
<b>REZ</b>	Renewable Energy Zone
<b>SMP</b>	Species Management Program
<b>TECs</b>	Threatened Ecological Communities
<b>VM Act</b>	<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>
<b>Water Act</b>	<i>Water Act 2000</i>
<b>WSP</b>	WSP Australia Pty Ltd

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## Contact us

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