# Powerlink's network development process



Version I - SEPT 2018

To select new transmission line routes or substation sites, Powerlink uses comprehensive processes which carefully assess social, economic and environmental factors such as existing and future land use, the location of homes, flora and fauna, existing electricity infrastructure corridors, industrial development and topography.

For major transmission infrastructure projects, we generally follow the Infrastructure Designation process in accordance with the Queensland Government's *Planning Act 2016*. Powerlink works closely with the government department responsible for administering the designation process as outlined in the flowchart below.

#### PHASE

### STEP

### **KEY ACTIVITIES**

### STEP I

Propose project and investigate options

Opportunity for stakeholders to provide preliminary input to the project

- In recognition of the importance of local knowledge, Powerlink establishes relationships with key stakeholders and shares information on a proposed project's location so viability and constraints can be investigated.
- Input will be sought from Government representatives, councils and peak bodies.

### STEP 2

Further assessment of study area

Opportunity for stakeholders to provide initial feedback on corridor options

- Based on initial assessments and stakeholder feedback, further information is sought on ways to improve the proposed project's location, identify other issues or constraints, and refine options.
- Input will be sought from Government representatives, councils, peak bodies and community leaders.
- This stage refines the project so a Draft Corridor Selection Report (CSR) can be prepared.

### STEP 3

Study corridor identified

Opportunity for stakeholders and landholders to provide formal comme<u>nt</u>

- Stakeholders and landholders will be consulted on the Draft CSR and Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR).
- This may involve a range of engagement activities, including one-on-one meetings or community information sessions.
- A Landholder Relations Advisor may be appointed to liaise directly with landholders and other relevant stakeholders to ensure their local knowledge and input is captured.

### STEP 4

Preliminary alignment identified

- The CSR and ToR for the EAR will be finalised and released.
- Landholders within the selected study corridor will continue to be consulted oneon-one to identify further considerations when determining the new infrastructure's potential location.

## STEP 5 Draft EAR preparation

- Consultation and information gathering will continue with input from stakeholders and landholders incorporated into the Draft EAR.
- Powerlink will continue to work closely with landholders to understand property-specific matters relevant to the project. A range of on-ground environmental and technical assessments will also be undertaken.

PHASE ONE — POWERLINK

### STEP 6 Feedback on Draft EAR

Opportunity for stakeholders and landholders to provide formal comment

### STEP 7

Final EAR preparation

- Powerlink publicly notifies stakeholders and landholders that the Draft EAR is available for review and outlines the submission process.
- Powerlink will be available to discuss the document and options to provide feedback.
   Community information sessions may be held.
- Any interested parties may lodge their Draft EAR submission to the Planning Minister via a process administered by the relevant department. Powerlink reviews submissions received and provides a written response to all submitters.
- Powerlink prepares the Final EAR, addressing matters raised in submissions and any other matters raised in the process.
- Powerlink submits the Final EAR and other supporting documents to the Minister requesting designation of the land for the proposed works.

### STEP 8

Planning approval
- Infrastructure
Designation

Opportunity for affected parties to provide formal

- The Minister assesses the Final EAR and invites local governments and directly affected landholders to make a submission on the proposed Infrastructure Designation.
- All submissions will be considered. If the Minister decides to designate, the decision is
  published in the Queensland Government Gazette. Relevant local governments, directly
  affected landholders and Powerlink are notified.
- The Minister publishes the Infrastructure Designation (including requirements, plans and response to submissions) on the department's website. Powerlink publishes the Final EAR on its website and notifies all other stakeholders of the Minister's decision.
- Powerlink continues to be available to discuss the project and its progress during this step.

### STEP 9

Easement acquisition
- Negotiation/

Resumption of easements

### NOTE:

This step may occur earlier at the same time as Step 8

Opportunity for directly affected landholders to submit a formal objection

- Powerlink prefers to negotiate with landholders on compensation to acquire the land and easements required for new transmission infrastructure. If negotiations reach a mutually acceptable outcome, formal documentation will be signed and compensation will be paid.
- Depending on the individual circumstances and to ensure the timely delivery of projects, prior to negotiations concluding, Powerlink may also begin the relevant legislative process to resume an easement. Resumption may occur at the same time as Infrastructure Designation. The following steps outline the legislative process:
  - A Notice of Intention to Resume is issued to the landholder. Anyone with an interest in the property is entitled to claim compensation.
  - All landholders and interest holders can object to the resumption. The Powerlink Board will consider any objections received and the submitter may request a hearing with a Board Delegate regarding their objection. The Board considers the objection and decides whether to proceed with the resumption application to the relevant State Government Minister. If the Board decides not to proceed or to amend the resumption application, further studies may result. Alternatively, if the Minister approves the resumption, formal compensation assessment processes commence.
  - Powerlink arranges for a registered property valuer to formally assess compensation.
- As compensation via resumption and construction are separate processes, construction may start before compensation is paid.

### STEP 10 Construction of

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- We are committed to ongoing communication and engagement with landholders and stakeholders throughout the construction phase.
- Powerlink will contact landholders to provide details about proposed construction works, confirm access arrangements and property-specific issues, and discuss planning to reduce impacts.

### STEP 11

Operation and maintenance of infrastructure

- If requested, we will notify landholders prior to accessing their property to undertake routine maintenance inspections.
- When unexpected electrical faults occur, it is not always possible to provide advance notice of access, but we always endeavour to keep landholders informed of our activities.
- Measures will be taken to minimise any potential disruption from maintenance activities.
   Landholders with specific requirements regarding access to their property should contact us so we can record these requests.