Powerlink activit

Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Process

Network Development Process



Version 5 - May 2021

About this brochure

This brochure provides an outline of our landholder engagement and planning approval process. We undertake extensive consultation with affected landholders and other stakeholders to ensure we have considered all relevant matters in determining the most appropriate location for our proposed infrastructure.

Alternative approval pathways may be followed (for example development application) where a customer assumes responsibility for the planning and development of transmission infrastructure.

Landholder engagement and planning approval process

Much like obtaining approval to build a house, we seek town planning and environmental approvals prior to constructing new electricity infrastructure. Given the nature of this infrastructure, we typically seek approvals at the State and Federal Government level.

The landholder engagement and planning approval steps that we follow for large projects are outlined below and incorporate the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation process in the Queensland Government's *Planning Act 2016*.

Our Landholder Relations team will take you through the process and are happy to assist with any queries you may have as things progress.

STEP 1

Introduce the project to landholders and other stakeholders

Opportunity for landholders and other stakeholders to provide preliminary input

We contact potentially affected landholders and other stakeholders to provide an overview of the project. Matters discussed typically include:

- project needs
- timeframes
- approval requirements and processes
- management of property impacts
- construction activities
- · operation and maintenance
- land acquisition and compensation process.

STEP 2

Understand and incorporate landholder and other stakeholder requirements

Opportunity for landholders and other stakeholders to provide continual input

Our team works closely with potentially affected landholders and other stakeholders to understand and address matters of importance to them.

STEP 3

Initial field assessments

With landholder approval, we undertake initial on-ground assessments to understand environmental, social, physical and economic aspects of the proposed project.

STEP 4

Corridor and/or Site Selection Report

Opportunity for landholders and other stakeholders to provide formal comment

Information gathered from Steps 1-3 forms the basis of the Draft Corridor Selection or Site Selection Report.

A Draft Corridor Selection Report outlines the assessments undertaken so far and compares potential transmission line corridors. From this analysis, a study corridor is recommended within which the transmission line will potentially be located. The study corridor can be several kilometres wide to allow flexibility in the final location of the transmission line based on ongoing engagement and further detailed studies.

A Draft Site Selection Report examines and compares potential substation locations. This report recommends an area that can be further reviewed and refined during additional engagement and investigations.

Landholders and other stakeholders are provided with a copy of the Draft Corridor Selection Report and/or Draft Site Selection Report and are invited to make comment on the suitability of its findings. All submissions are considered by us and further consultation may be undertaken with submitters to better understand and address any matters raised.

The Corridor/Site Selection Report is then finalised and released to landholders and other stakeholders. It is also available on our website.

Seek Minister's consideration on Infrastructure Designation

The engagement undertaken through the previous steps are a precursor to Powerlink seeking planning approval via Infrastructure Designation process. Powerlink writes to Queensland Government's Planning Minister seeking endorsement to lodge an infrastructure designation proposal. This step does not approve the project, but does endorse infrastructure designation as the approval pathway for the project.

STEP 6

Prepare Assessment Report

Studies which examine the environmental, social, physical and economic aspects of the study corridor are prepared, and together these factors are considered to identify a draft alignment for the proposed transmission line and/or draft location for a substation, which on balance, has the lowest overall impact. This material is submitted to the Planning Minister and forms Powerlink's Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Proposal.

STEP 7

Consultation

Opportunity for landholders and other stakeholders to provide formal comment Formal consultation on the Assessment Report is undertaken by the Planning Minister by writing to landholders and local government inviting submissions. Simultaneously, Powerlink undertakes public consultation for a minimum period of 20 business days.

STEP 8

Consideration of submissions and changes.

Opportunity for landholders and other stakeholders to provide formal comment Powerlink prepares a summary addressing matters raised in the consultation process and outlines what (if any) changes have been made to the proposal.

If a change is made to the proposed infrastructure (that is considered to warrant further consultation), either as a consequence of a submission made during consultation or another circumstance, further consultation may apply to the proposal.

STEP 9

State Government Assessment and **Approval**

The State Government assesses the Assessment Report and submissions. All submissions are considered. If the State Government decides to approve the project, the decision is published in the Queensland Government Gazette. Relevant local governments, directly affected landholders and Powerlink are notified.

STEP 10

Easement acquisition

It is our standard practice to negotiate with landholders regarding compensation to acquire the land and easements required for new transmission infrastructure.

These negotiations generally commence once the environmental assessment has been finalised, but may commence earlier in the process in some instances. If negotiations reach a mutually acceptable outcome, formal documentation will be signed and compensation will

Depending on the individual circumstances and to ensure the timely delivery of the project, prior to negotiations concluding, Powerlink may also begin the relevant legislative process to resume the land necessary for the project.

STEP 11

Construction

We are committed to ongoing communication and engagement with landholders and other stakeholders throughout the construction phase.

We contact landholders to provide details about proposed construction works, confirm access arrangements and property-specific issues, and discuss planning to reduce impacts.

STEP 12

Operation and maintenance

Access for maintenance activities is undertaken in accordance with agreed property specific requirements.

Powerlink will continue to engage with stakeholders and landholders around maintenance and operational works over the lifespan of the infrastructure.

Contact Us

Further information about Powerlink and our projects can be downloaded from www.powerlink.com.au

General Enquiries FREECALL 1800 635 369 (during business hours) and ask for Property Services In case of emergency FREECALL 1800 353 031 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

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