

Chapter 28

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

Oct-2021

Genex Kidston Connection Project - Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Assessment Report

28.0 Community and Stakeholder Consultation

28.1 Engagement Framework

Powerlink is committed to effective and genuine engagement practices with landholders and other stakeholders. Powerlink's activities are guided by our Stakeholder Engagement Framework which is underpinned by the key principles of integrity, openness, responsiveness, accountability and inclusiveness. Our Community Engagement Strategy also underpins our engagement planning approach and commitments to ensure we remain focused on undertaking respectful and transparent engagement across all stages of our infrastructure lifecycle. These documents are available online⁴.

The aim of Powerlink's engagement process with landholders and other stakeholders is to:

- collaborate and partner with a range of key stakeholders to incorporate their advice and feedback during key stages of decision-making
- gather information to identify the proposed land acquisition approach and associated timeframes for delivery
- facilitate discussions with landholders to gain access to properties to complete the required environmental and technical studies which support information analysis and decision-making
- provide timely, relevant and meaningful information about the project, reflective of the scale and complexity of project activities
- ensure landholders and other stakeholders are aware of key project activities and how they can genuinely provide input within the scope of consultation processes to contribute to decision-making
- listen to and understand what landholders, other stakeholders and the broader local community value and actively consider how this can be taken into account when analysing alternatives and determining solutions
- provide feedback on and demonstrate where input from landholders, other stakeholders and the wider community has informed decision-making
- promote the project need and benefits to secure broad support for the Project
- monitor, understand and consider landholder sentiment towards the project, working alongside landholders to address potential concerns and aspirations they may have
- identify potential risks and management strategies which acknowledge feedback from landholders and other stakeholders.

28.2 Landholders and other stakeholders

Powerlink has undertaken early and targeted consultation with relevant Federal, State and Local Governments stakeholders, elected representatives, industry groups and landholders as part of the Project. Engagement activity has been undertaken to help gain meaningful input into social, environmental and technical matters to be considered during the initial project development phase. These learnings will be used to inform the subsequent construction phase of the Project. For the purposes of this assessment report, 'landholders' refers to the leaseholders and owners of the property titles traversed by the Preferred Alignment. 'Stakeholders' refers to all other interested parties, including government bodies, industry groups, cultural heritage and native title parties. The identified key stakeholder categories are provided in Table 29-1.

⁴ <https://www.powerlink.com.au/community> and <https://www.powerlink.com.au/engagement-framework>

Table 29-1 Key current stakeholders

Group	Engaged Party
Stakeholders	
Federal Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Department of Environment Department of Defence (ASMTI)
State Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State MPs - Electorates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traeger Hinchinbrook⁵ Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (formerly Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) Office of the Coordinator-General Queensland Department of Environment and Science (formerly the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing) Queensland Department of Energy and Public Works (formerly Department of Energy and Water Supply and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) Queensland Treasury
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hinchinbrook Shire Council Charters Towers Regional Council Etheridge Shire Council Townsville City Council
Peak bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland Farmers' Federation Townsville Enterprise Mt Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone (MITEZ) AgForce North Queensland Conservation Council
Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ergon Energy
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native Title holders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gugu Badham People #3 Ewamian People #2 Ewamian People #3
Landholders	
Landholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leasehold: 30 landholders Freehold: 8 landholders Unallocated State Land: 1 landholder

⁵ In 2017 the Queensland state electoral boundaries were re-drawn to accommodate Queensland's growing population. Under the former electoral boundaries, Powerlink engaged with elected representatives for the predecessor electorates of Mt Isa, Dalrymple and Hinchinbrook.

28.3 Engagement Activities to Date

A summary of engagement activities undertaken to date for landholders and other stakeholders is provided in Table 29-2. Specific engagement activities are discussed in Section 28.3.1 (general stakeholders) and Section 28.3.2 (landholders).

Table 29-2 Summary of engagement activities for landholders and other stakeholders

Timing	Milestone Engagement Activity	Target Stakeholders	Purpose	Engagement Method
March - May 2016	Preliminary engagement to inform Draft Corridor Selection Report (CSR)	Key Federal, State and Local Government stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise targeted awareness of the proposed project Gain initial insights to guide development of the Draft CSR, including potential consultation considerations, land tenure, environmental constraints and legislative requirements. 	For target stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings Phone briefings Emails/letters Preliminary mapping
November 2016 – February 2017	Engagement on the Draft CSR to inform Final CSR <u>Included:</u> Stakeholder Workshop (Held in Townsville during November 2016, the workshop was attended by representatives from six key stakeholder organisations) Activation of landholder engagement Ongoing consultation with key government departments and elected representatives	Landholders Key Federal, State and Local Government stakeholders Key peak bodies, industry groups and Aboriginal parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise broad awareness of the proposed project Obtain feedback on the Draft CSR to support the completion of the Final CSR, with a focus on understanding opportunities, constraints and key issues Appropriately incorporate community feedback to ensure effective project outcomes Identify a preferred study corridor and preliminary alignment. 	For target stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder Workshop Meetings Phone calls Emails/letters Mapping For target stakeholders and accessible to general public: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project newsletter Powerlink website update
March 2017	Release Final CSR	Landholders Key Federal, State and Local Government stakeholders Key peak bodies, industry groups and Aboriginal parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to generate broad awareness of the proposed project Thank landholders and other stakeholders for their feedback on the Draft CSR. Publish the Final CSR. Communicate the preferred study corridor and preliminary alignment. 	For target stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings Phone calls Emails/letters Mapping For target stakeholders and accessible to general public: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project newsletter

Timing	Milestone Engagement Activity	Target Stakeholders	Purpose	Engagement Method
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerlink website update
August 2017	Further investigations	Landholders Key Federal, State and Local Government stakeholders Key peak bodies, industry groups and Aboriginal parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain further information about the study corridor and preliminary alignment Seek input from landholders and other stakeholders to better understand the potential impacts and how they can be minimised and mitigated Seek access to landholders' properties for on-ground environmental and technical assessments, and initial Cultural Heritage input. 	For target stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings Phone briefings Emails/letters Mapping For target stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project newsletter Powerlink website update
May 2018	Release Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR)	Landholders Key State and Local Government stakeholders Key peak bodies, industry groups and Aboriginal parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal consultation period for Draft ToR. Seek input from stakeholders and landholders to inform development of the Final ToR. Set expectations for information to be covered in the Draft EAR. 	For target stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings Phone briefings Emails/letters For target stakeholders and accessible to general public: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project newsletter Powerlink website update
June 2018	Release Final ToR for the EAR	Landholders Key State and Local Government stakeholders Key peak bodies, industry groups and Aboriginal parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerlink to respond to submissions received on the Draft ToR. Advise stakeholders and landholders the ToR has been finalised. Provide information on components of the Draft EAR. 	For target stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone briefings Emails For target stakeholders and accessible to general public: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerlink website update

Timing	Milestone Engagement Activity	Target Stakeholders	Purpose	Engagement Method
September 2018	Release Draft EAR	Landholders Key State and Local Government stakeholders Key peak bodies, industry groups and Aboriginal parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerlink release of the Draft EAR for public comment. Information on how to make a submission to the Planning Minister via the Infrastructure Designation website. Formal consultation period for the document. Submissions were invited within the statutory minimum 20 business day period. Seek submissions (to be lodged to the Planning Department) from stakeholders and landholders on the document. Widespread notification of the Draft EAR's release via public communication channels. 	<p>For target stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings Phone briefings Emails Provide a copy of the Draft EAR on USB to directly affected landholders and key stakeholders Mapping <p>For target stakeholders and accessible to general public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerlink and Planning Department's Infrastructure Designation website updates – included an electronic copy of the Draft EAR and information on how to make a submission. Copies available at local Councils and elected representatives' offices Newsletter Newspaper advertising Media release on Community Information Drop-In Sessions (a hard copy of the Draft EAR will be available at the sessions).
September-November 2018	Receive and respond to Draft EAR submissions	Any individuals/organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Department acknowledged receipt of 	<p>For target stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone briefings

Timing	Milestone Engagement Activity	Target Stakeholders	Purpose	Engagement Method
		who lodged a submission on the Draft EAR	<p>submissions and provided copies to Powerlink for review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerlink provided a written response to each submitter following receipt of the Minister's State Interest Review Outcome and Draft Requirements explaining how their issues have been considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emails/letters <p>For target stakeholders and accessible to general public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerlink newsletter Powerlink website update
May-September 2021	Reactivate engagement following Connection and Access Agreement exchange and Notice to Proceed from Genex	<p>Landholders</p> <p>Key State and Local Government stakeholders</p> <p>Key peak bodies, industry groups and Aboriginal parties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise landholders and other stakeholders of reactivation of project engagement following Genex's finalisation of project approvals. Explain next steps on remaining project approvals under the refreshed Ministerial Infrastructure Designation process and opportunities for formal consultation. 	<p>For target stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings Phone briefings Emails/letters <p>For target stakeholders and accessible to general public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerlink newsletters Powerlink website update Media releases Virtual workshop in conjunction with principal contractor UGL for local North Queensland-based businesses on employment and procurement opportunities

28.3.1 General stakeholders

Powerlink has identified and categorised general stakeholders in accordance with an engagement framework from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), taking into account their role in decision-making processes (Figure 29-1). Powerlink has used this spectrum to guide the frequency, nature and scope of engagement carried out for the project. Table 29-3 provides an overview of the key stakeholders engaged and the associated type of engagement activities Powerlink has conducted with them for the Project to date.

Powerlink is committed to establishing and maintaining respectful and cooperative engagement of Traditional Owners (Native Title holders) and providing effective recognition, protection and conservation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage. During the engagement processes, Powerlink has sought input from the relevant Native Title holder groups. Subsequent face-to-face meetings have also been held with each group to provide them with further information about the Project, seek early advice about any known constraints and understand each group's preferred engagement approach. Advice was also sought from the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Cultural Heritage Unit on any known local matters of interest. Powerlink will meet its Duty of Care under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* through the negotiation of formal agreements or Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) with each of the relevant Aboriginal Parties (Native Title holders).



Figure 29-1 IAP2 Engagement Spectrum

Table 29-3 Key stakeholders and scope of engagement

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Engagement Focus			
		Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate
Federal Government	Federal Department of Environment			✓	
State Government	State MPs - Electorates: Traeger Hinchinbrook ⁶	✓			
	Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	✓			
	Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships		✓		
	Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (formerly Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning)				✓
	Office of the Coordinator-General			✓	
	Queensland Department of Environment and Science (formerly the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing)			✓	
	Queensland Department of Energy and Public Works (formerly Department of Energy and Water Supply and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy)				✓
	Queensland Treasury				✓
Local Government	Local Councils: Hinchinbrook Charters Towers Etheridge Townsville			✓	
Peak Bodies	Queensland Farmers' Federation	✓			

⁶ In 2017 the Queensland state electoral boundaries were re-drawn to accommodate Queensland's growing population. Under the former electoral boundaries, Powerlink engaged with elected representatives for the predecessor electorates of Mt Isa, Dalrymple and Hinchinbrook.

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Engagement Focus			
		Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate
	Townsville Enterprise	✓			
	Mt Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone (MITEZ)	✓			
	AgForce			✓	
	North Queensland Conservation Council			✓	
Industry	Ergon Energy			✓	
Cultural Heritage	Native Title holders: Gugu Badham People #3 Ewamian People #2 Ewamian People #3			✓	

The key topics raised during stakeholder interactions to date are provided in Table 29-4.

Table 29-4 Key topics raised by stakeholders

Focus Area	Key Topics Raised
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> effectively identifying relevant stakeholders and engagement preferences land use and tenure, prominence of family-owned properties, geographic connectivity, fencing, farming activities (e.g. aerial mustering) Indigenous and European Cultural Heritage, Native Title tenure community development projects.
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> biosecurity vegetation management flora and fauna water flow erosion and catchment impacts irrigation enhanced bushfire management from vegetation management.
Economic and Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> local industry and workforce opportunities workforce access, retention and accommodation access to raw materials and natural resources (e.g. water) road and traffic impacts during construction, management of stock during construction and maintenance landholder compensation.
Political and Legislative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> implementation of the <i>Planning Act 2016</i> and other regulatory approval processes.

28.3.2 Landholders

Powerlink has a dedicated Landholder Relations team to engage with landholders on a regular and comprehensive basis. Two Landholder Relations representatives have been assigned by Powerlink to lead landholder engagement and be the primary contact for landholder interactions.

Central to landholder engagement activities is Powerlink's Land Access Protocol (LAP)⁷. This document outlines the guiding principles for land access which underpin Powerlink's relationship with landholders and access to, and use of, their land. The LAP supports open and transparent communication between Powerlink and landholders, prompts discussion and collaboration during the engagement processes, and fairly safeguards the interests of landholders while providing Powerlink with the access to land needed to meet its business requirements.

Table 29-5 summarises the key purpose of landholder engagement activities to date for the Project as well as the associated methods actioned. Methods of engagement were tailored to meet landholder preferences. Direct phone conversations and face-to-face meetings were generally preferred for key engagement activities. Email and phone contact were landholders' preferred methods for receiving information and follow-ups in response to their requests for further information.

Throughout the engagement, the top five topics most frequently raised have been:

- potential impacts on property operations
- biosecurity
- compensation
- potential impacts on existing infrastructure/topography
- co-location with Ergon Energy powerlines.

⁷ www.powerlink.com.au/land-access

Table 29-5 Purpose and methods of landholder engagement

Landholder Phase	Purpose of Engagement Activity	Approximate Number of Engagement Activities
Project activation with landholders and development of CSR (November 2016 to mid-January 2017)	Provide project information and obtain landholder input to CSR	43
	Follow up information and follow up in response to landholder request	9
	Make arrangements for future engagement opportunities	27
	Provide advice and obtain landholder input on helicopter flythrough activities	14
Finalisation of CSR (Mid-January 2016 to mid-August 2017)	Provide project information and obtain landholder input regarding the finalisation of the CSR	56
	Follow up response to landholder request/input	10
	Make arrangements for future engagement opportunities	2
	Provide advice and obtain landholder input on helicopter flythrough activities	3
Further project investigations (Mid-August 2017 to mid-July 2018)	Provide project information, receive landholder input and complete further investigations regarding the project	221
	Follow up response to landholder request/input	8
	Make arrangements for future engagement opportunities	48
	Provide advice and obtain landholder input on helicopter fly-through activities	66
Project Re-engagement following Notice to Proceed (April 2021 – Current)	Provide updates to landholders on re-commencement of the Project	32
	Discussions regarding access for preliminary project activities (i.e survey works, project scoping and technical works)	96
	Preliminary discussions of compensation and acquisition options	21
	Landholder conferences	5
	Onsite meetings to review alignment (based on CSR)	3

28.4 Consultation and Further Engagement

Powerlink is continuing its direct engagement activities with landholders and other stakeholders as part of the public consultation process for this assessment report.

Advertisements have recently been placed in local newspapers advising of the availability of the assessment report and the process to make a submission to the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. A copy of the document on USB has been mailed to all directly affected landholders and other key stakeholders and publicly displayed in local libraries, council offices and other places of assembly. Powerlink is also holding community information sessions in Mount Fox, Greenvale and the Kidston area.

Landholders and other stakeholders are able to lodge formal submissions to this document by:

- emailing infrastructure designations@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au; or
- posting to PO Box 15009 CITY EAST QLD 4002.

The assessment report and public submissions will be assessed by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

Ongoing engagement with landholders and other stakeholders remains a key focus during all phases of Powerlink projects. This ensures Powerlink has the opportunity to strengthen and leverage relationships with landholders and other stakeholders well into the future for the entire project lifecycle.