

# Genex Kidston Connection Project

## Start of construction



NOVEMBER 2022

### About Powerlink

Powerlink is a Government Owned Corporation that owns, develops, operates and maintains the transmission network in Queensland.

We connect Queenslanders to a world-class energy future, providing electricity to more than five million Queenslanders and 238,000 businesses. We are also responsible for connecting large-scale renewable energy developments, including wind and solar, and providing electricity to large industrial customers in the rail, mining and LNG sectors.

### About the Kidston Clean Energy Hub

Genex Power Limited is developing the Kidston Clean Energy Hub, which comprises the Kidston Pumped Storage Hydro Project in combination with wind and solar, approximately 270 kilometres north-west of Townsville. This facility will connect to the Queensland grid via a new 275kV electricity transmission line and switching stations, collectively referred to as the Genex Kidston Connection Project (for more information visit [www.genexpower.com.au](http://www.genexpower.com.au)). Powerlink has been engaged by Genex to deliver this project.

### Acknowledgement

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.

### Key points

- Following recent completion of planning approvals, activities to prepare for construction of the 275kV electricity transmission line and associated switching stations to connect the Kidston Clean Energy Hub to the grid have commenced. This includes establishing access tracks where necessary, weed management on the easement, pegging transmission tower locations and selective vegetation removal.
- Federal environmental approvals were received in October 2022 for the project under the Commonwealth's *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*. This marks completion of a detailed technical assessment of the project and public consultation process administered by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.
- Ministerial Infrastructure Designation under the *Planning Act 2016* (Qld) was received in July 2022, following the Queensland Government Planning Minister's assessment of Powerlink's Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Assessment Report which was released for public comment in November 2021.
- Our team has also been progressing Cultural Heritage survey works with Traditional Owners and is continuing to work with Native Title Holders to negotiate voluntary Indigenous Land Use Agreements for the project.
- On achieving EPBC approval, site preparation works including establishing access tracks and vegetation management commenced at the Guybal Munjan™ Switching Station<sup>1</sup> site located in Mount Fox and the Aurumfield Switching Station at Kidston, which Powerlink has now been engaged by Genex to build as part of the project.
- Following preliminary site works, transmission tower foundation works are expected to commence in January 2023, followed by tower construction and assembly starting March 2023 (weather dependent).
- To date, Powerlink has partnered with more than 20 local suppliers based in Ingham, Charters Towers, Townsville and Cairns to complete nearly \$14 million in contracts for services including earth moving, crane hire and vegetation management works. We encourage interested local businesses to contact UGL about future sub-contracting opportunities via our website: [www.powerlink.com.au/genex](http://www.powerlink.com.au/genex).
- Powerlink would like to thank landholders, the local community and other stakeholders for their time, involvement and valuable contributions as the project has progressed over a number of years. We are committed to keeping you updated as we progress our construction activities.

<sup>1</sup> The name Guybal Munjan is the Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property of the Gugu Badhun Aboriginal Corporation (GBAC) and is an unregistered trade mark owned by the GBAC. Powerlink is continuing to work with GBAC in relation to a formal agreement for the respectful use of the name.





*Meeting with local businesses and Council representatives in Charters Towers to discuss potential contracting opportunities.*

## Construction process

Construction of the Genex Kidston Connection Project will be conducted in phases. Site preparation and preliminary construction works for the transmission line in Kidston and Guybal Munjan™ Switching Station in Mount Fox started in October 2022, and consists of site establishment, clearing works and vegetation management.

Site establishment works for Aurumfield Switching Station in Kidston are expected to start in March 2023.

It is estimated that construction works on the Genex Kidston Connection Project will be completed by April 2024 (weather dependent).

### Phase 1 – Vegetation management, weed control, access track installation and tower pegging

Where necessary, access tracks will be constructed and gates installed in existing fences. Weed control measures will be undertaken on easements and access tracks. Surveyors have commenced final pegging of transmission tower locations, marking the site with painted stakes. Vegetation will be removed or trimmed from around the tower sites as needed to allow adequate room to safely excavate foundations, and construct and assemble the towers.

*Expected timing: October 2022 to July 2023*

### Phase 2 – Earthworks and preparing tower foundations

Tower foundations will be installed using an excavator and/or a boring machine. Excavated material will generally be spread around the tower site. Concrete trucks will require access to all tower sites to bring in the concrete required for each foundation.

*Expected timing: January 2023 to August 2023*

### Phase 3 – Assembly and installing towers

Steel for the towers will be supplied to each location in bundles and assembled into tower sections on-site. These sections are then lifted by an all-terrain crane to form the completed tower.

*Expected timing: February 2023 to November 2023*

### Phase 4 – Stringing transmission line wires

Initially, a helicopter will be used to string a draw wire through rollers attached to the tower arms. Using a helicopter helps to minimise the impact on land uses, the environment and traffic. Winches are then used to pull the aluminium conductors (wires) through the rollers. Once the conductors are drawn through, work crews will use insulators and special fittings to clamp the conductors onto each tower.

*Expected timing: May 2023 to January 2024*

### Phase 5 – Inspection and completion of construction

When construction activities have been completed, the work area will be rehabilitated. A final quality and environmental inspection of the transmission line will also be undertaken, prior to the line being commissioned. We will also ensure all work sites have been left in good condition and that all site management, environmental and access conditions have been met.

*Expected timing: Completion of transmission line construction in April 2024*

## Environmental management

All works will be carried out in accordance with the project's Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to ensure that any potential impacts on surrounding properties, the environment and the local community are minimised. Specific control measures to minimise noise, dust, vibration, and traffic impacts will be in place. At all times, we aim to conduct our activities with as little disruption as possible to landholders and the wider community.

The EMP outlines the strategies and actions Powerlink will take to manage any environmental issues that may arise during construction.

Key planning approval and project information, including the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Environmental Assessment Report, and EPBC and EMP documents are available on our website [www.powerlink.com.au/genex](http://www.powerlink.com.au/genex).

## Working hours

Our construction crews will typically complete on-ground works between **6:30am and 6:30pm, Monday to Saturday**. Should we need to undertake any activities outside the normal work hours, we will notify impacted landholders in advance.

## Property access

Powerlink is committed to providing landholders with as much notice as possible prior to accessing their property. We will always endeavour to work around landholders' farming activities and business operations.

We will keep landholders informed of planned construction activities and discuss timing of works on individual properties. All property access is in accordance with Powerlink's Land Access Protocol (LAP) and the conditions agreed with the landholder.

Multiple visits by construction crews will be required to each property over an extended period of time to facilitate the different phases of construction. Please direct any queries related to property access to Powerlink's Landholder Relations team (details at the back of the newsletter).

## Biosecurity

We recognise the effective prevention and management of identified weeds, pathogens and pests is important to landholders. This is highlighted in our LAP. Stringent measures have been put in place to manage and mitigate biosecurity risks, including:

- vehicle wash down procedures for vehicles accessing properties and construction areas
- identifying the origin of high risk construction machinery or equipment
- implementing weed monitoring during construction and operation to identify any new incidences of weeds.

We appreciate the ongoing cooperation from landholders in working with us to identify relevant biosecurity matters. We remain committed to continuing to identify and manage any future potential biosecurity risks on a property-specific basis as construction progresses.

## Fast facts

TOWER HEIGHT  
AVERAGE **60M**



**350** TRANSMISSION  
**TOWERS**



**5,500** TONNES OF  
GALVANISED STEEL



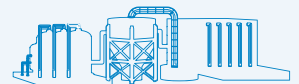
**275kV**

SINGLE CIRCUIT LINE



**186KM**

OF TRANSMISSION LINE



**250MW** KIDSTON PUMPED  
STORAGE HYDRO

INSULATORS **35,000** | CONDUCTORS **1,200KM**



KEY TOWNSHIPS | MOUNT FOX | GREENVALE | CONJUBOY | KIDSTON

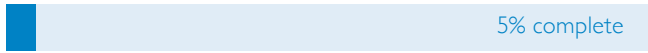
SUPPORTING  
**400** JOBS



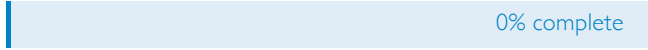
## Construction progress

### Transmission Line

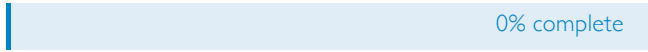
Site clearing and access:



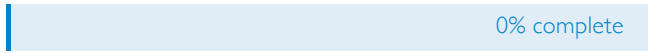
Foundation works:



Tower assembly:

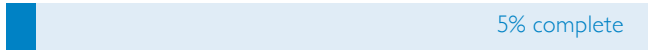


Conductor stringing:

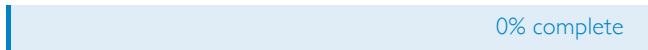


### Guybal Munjan™ Switching Station

Site clearing and earthworks:



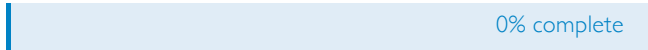
Civil works:



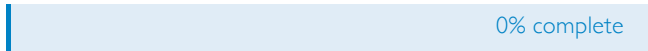
Plant delivery:



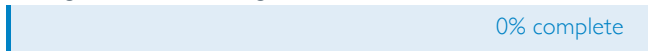
Assembly works:



Electrical works:

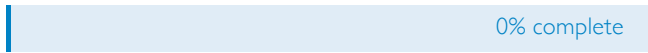


Testing and commissioning:

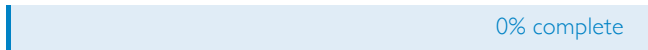


### Aurumfield Switching Station

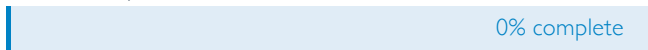
Site clearing and earthworks:



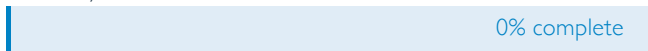
Civil works:



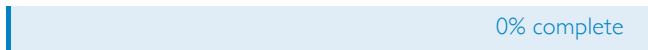
Plant delivery:



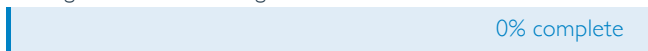
Assembly works:



Electrical works:



Testing and commissioning:



## Partnering with the local community

Powerlink is committed to building genuine relationships with landholders, the community and other stakeholders in areas traversed by existing or future transmission infrastructure.

We recently provided funding to support the Greenvale State School P&C install a new undercover area for students and the Greenvale Campdraft Association's 2022 campdraft event, and supported the 2022 Maraka Festival in Ingham.

We also sponsored the Melbourne Cup Day 'Fashion of the Fields' community function in Greenvale and are providing assistance to replace toilet facilities at the Greenvale Rural Transaction Building. We are also supporting the Greenvale Horse Sports Club in November and the Charters Towers Isolated Children's Parents' Association 'Fit for Rural Futures' sports camp, plus assisting Greenvale Country Club with upgrade works to their club house.

We will also be holding local community BBQs in Mount Fox and Greenvale during December to welcome landholders, the local community and other stakeholders to meet with members of our project team and learn more about upcoming construction work for the Genex Kidston Connection Project. We will provide details of these BBQs closer to the time and look forward to meeting with you as we head into the festive season and this new phase of our project.



### Further information

For more information on the Genex Kidston Connection Project, please contact:

**Murray Abel**

**Manager Landholder Relations**

**Ph: (07) 3860 2377**

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

 **FREECALL: 1800 635 369** (business hours)

 **[pqenquiries@powerlink.com.au](mailto:pqenquiries@powerlink.com.au)**

 **[www.powerlink.com.au/genex](http://www.powerlink.com.au/genex)**

 **Connect:**    



Use the QR code  
to access our project  
webpage.



**SAFE FOR LIFE**  
Everyone. Everywhere. Everyday.