

# Genex Kidston Connection Project

## Project Update



AUGUST 2023

### 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 northwest 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.

### About the Guybal Munjan™ Switching Station

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 will work with GBAC to negotiate a formal agreement for the respectful use of the name.



Guybal Munjan™ Switching Station, Mount Fox

### Construction and project highlights

- Multiple work fronts are progressing with transmission line access and vegetation management activities along the 186 kilometre stretch of line, with expected completion to occur in Q4 2023.
- Works are progressing well with more than 50 of the 348 transmission tower foundations now completed along the transmission line alignment. Tower assembly works recently commenced, with tower installation works to start in late August.
- Construction of Guybal Munjan™ and Aurumfield switching stations is well underway with significant progress at both sites.
- In partnership with Hinchinbrook Shire Council, Powerlink has installed additional call point signage along Mount Fox Range to boost safety for all drivers who use this road.
- Powerlink has delivered a safety initiative providing more than 60 UHF units to local residents who did not have a UHF in their vehicle and who frequently drive along Mount Fox Range.
- Powerlink engaged a local Ingham contractor to commence installation works of a wash down facility to be located at Mount Fox Cricket Ground. This will be used by project construction vehicles as a key biosecurity measure to prevent weed spread during construction.

### 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.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: FREECALL 1800 635 369 | [www.powerlink.com.au](http://www.powerlink.com.au)



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## Construction activity update

It was a tough start to the year for many in the region with significant weather impacting local access and roads. Our construction crews were limited to what activities they could conduct safely and with minimal impact to existing local infrastructure.

Since the start of March 2023, our construction crews have been on-site delivering the Genex Kidston Connection Project, making significant progress across the two switching stations and transmission line component of the project.

### Switching Station progress

#### Aurumfield Switching Station, Kidston

Works commenced on-site from late March 2023 to prepare the site platform (the base of the 275kV switching yard), which was completed in early June. Foundation works for the installation of key electrical equipment are now underway.

#### Guybal Munjan™ Switching Station, Mount Fox

Platform and foundation works have now been completed at the 275kV yard. Works are nearing completion on the gantry towers within the switching yard. Gantry towers guide the power from the last transmission tower near the switching yard to the electrical equipment within the yard.

In August, a control and telecommunications building will be delivered to site which houses essential electrical equipment that operates and monitors all of the equipment that will be located within the switching yard.

We are targeting a practical completion date of Q4 2023 for this switching yard, weather permitting.



Aurumfield Switching Station, Kidston

### Transmission line progress

Access and vegetation management works have been underway since October 2022 along the 186 kilometre stretch of transmission line from Kidston to Mount Fox. This is being conducted in stages due to the length of the line. Weather permitting, it is estimated all access and vegetation management works along the alignment will be completed by Q4 2023.

Transmission tower foundation works commenced in May 2023, with more than 50 foundations now complete. The foundation works are in preparation for the delivery of steel to the allocated tower locations, with tower assembly works to follow. We anticipate assembly work to commence in early August at the Kidston end of the project. Towers will be assembled in two to three sections over approximately one day, with tower installation works to commence one to two weeks later.

As the project continues to reach key milestones, we will keep landholders, the community and other stakeholders informed. We thank you for your patience as we conduct this important work.

## Wash down facility underway

Biosecurity activities are a key focus for Powerlink as we progress with project construction works. In consultation with Hinchinbrook Shire Council, Powerlink has negotiated a location to install a permanent wash down facility at Mount Fox Cricket Ground.

Initially, access to the wash down facility will only be permitted by project construction vehicles to prevent weed spread as the works progress. Once construction is complete, Powerlink will be handing the facility over to Hinchinbrook Shire Council and the community, to use moving forward.

Powerlink will also be working with Charters Towers Regional Council to consider a permanent wash down facility in Greenvale.



## Tapping into local expertise

Powerlink continue to have a strong focus on local procurement opportunities. To date, in partnership with principal contractor UGL, we have engaged more than 25 local suppliers, with contracts valued at more than \$30 million for works on the project.

Local supplier Ingham Concrete-Icon has been engaged to provide concrete batch plant and concrete supplies to construct the Guybal Munjan™ Switching Station at Mount Fox. The concrete batch plant, which has been operational on-site since March 2023, will be mixing approximately 1,200 cubic metres of concrete, negating the need for multiple heavy vehicles to drive along Mount Fox Range to deliver concrete to the substation site.

Powerlink Project Director Tony Janas said Powerlink had been very proactive with its principal contractor UGL to ensure local suppliers can be engaged on the project.

"There's a wealth of skill and experience in regional areas like Ingham, and it's very important that we provide opportunities for local businesses to work on significant projects like the Genex Kidston Connection Project," Tony said.

"We're thrilled to have local suppliers like Ingham Concrete-Icon on-board to help us to deliver the project while also supporting the local economy and community."



Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water The Honourable Glenn Butcher, Ingham Concrete-Icon owner-operator Kevin Marano, Hinchinbrook Shire Councillor Mary Brown, Minister for Resources The Honourable Scott Stewart, and Ingham Concrete-Icon staff member at the company's headquarters.



Powerlink providing Greenvale community members with additional recycling bins

## Community investment update

Powerlink's community investment activities are aimed at supporting initiatives and projects that focus on creating sustainable communities and assist in economic development, enhance community and social capacity, build resilience and create positive legacies.

More than \$75,000 in community investment funding has been distributed so far by the Genex Kidston Connection Project across the Charters Towers, Etheridge and Hinchinbrook local government areas including:

- Financial support to facilitate Greenvale State School's Year 5 and 6 student study tour in New South Wales and the ACT
- Supplying more than 60 UHF Radios to the Mount Fox community in the Hinchinbrook Shire to improve road user safety, particularly along the Mt Fox Range Road
- Providing recycling bins to the Greenvale community to assist with fundraising initiatives
- Greenvale Country Club renovations which are currently underway
- The donation of auction items to the Georgetown State School Annual Fundraiser as well as the Oak Park Races Fundraiser for Etheridge Cares
- A commitment to Etheridge Shire Council to install smart lighting in community parks.

For more information about Powerlink's community investment activities, please contact [community@powerlink.com.au](mailto:community@powerlink.com.au) or visit [www.powerlink.com.au/community-investment](http://www.powerlink.com.au/community-investment).

## Construction progress

### Transmission Line

Site clearing and access:

40% complete

Foundation works:

15% complete

Tower assembly:

0% complete

Conductor stringing:

0% complete

### Guybal Munjan™ Switching Station

Site clearing and earthworks:

100% complete

Civil works:

90% complete

Plant delivery:

100% complete

Assembly works:

80% complete

Electrical works:

15% complete

Testing and commissioning:

0% complete

### Aurumfield Switching Station

Site clearing and earthworks:

100% complete

Civil works:

70% complete

Plant delivery:

20% complete

Assembly works:

0% complete

Electrical works:

10% complete

Testing and commissioning:

0% complete

## Mount Fox Range update

Powerlink has been in regular contact with Hinchinbrook Shire Council regarding assessment and repair works to Mount Fox Range. Significant weather over the last wet season has contributed to the condition of the range. We acknowledge an increase in project construction vehicle activity has also had an impact.

Pothole patching has taken place and additional assessment and repair works will also be undertaken by Council, with Powerlink assisting to fund these activities.

The project has minimised heavy vehicle traffic where possible, with a local supplier engaged to provide a concrete batch plant and concrete supplies for the construction of Guybal Munjan™ Switching Station at Mount Fox.

We have also worked closely with Council to install call point signage along Mount Fox Range to boost safety for all drivers who use this road. In addition, we have recently completed a 'call out' to the local community to provide more than 60 UHF's to residents who regularly travel the Range and did not have a UHF in their vehicle.



### Further information

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

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