

Project update: Replacement of high voltage electricity transmission lines in your area

August 2017

Dear resident,

We are providing you with an update regarding works on Powerlink Queensland's project to replace the 3.8 kilometres of double-circuit transmission lines between the Garbutt and Alan Sherriff substations with a single transmission line.

Works to string the new replacement transmission line are scheduled to occur on Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 August (weather permitting), and will involve the use of a helicopter and specialist crew to conduct the works safely and efficiently. This activity will not result in any planned electricity outages.

The continued delivery of this project will ensure the ongoing safe and reliable supply of high voltage electricity to Townsville and the surrounding region. The project is scheduled for completion in December 2017 (weather permitting).

Overview of works

Current project works are progressing well, with removal of one of the two existing 132kV lines now complete, and the replacement towers (12 steel poles) assembled and ready for the stringing of the new single transmission line. Once the replacement 132kV line is in service, the remaining line and towers will be removed.

The project also includes the replacement of two existing transmission poles leading into the Alan Sherriff Substation to align with aviation authority requirements.

Land access and minimising impacts

The Garbutt to Alan Sherriff transmission lines are located within the Dalrymple Road reserve (managed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads), with access from surrounding streets and service roads. Powerlink will continue working with local residents, businesses and stakeholders to keep them informed of our activities.

All works will continue to be undertaken in accordance with Powerlink's Land Access Protocol (LAP). At all times, we aim to conduct our activities with as little disruption as possible to the community.

To minimise inconvenience, normal working hours will generally be restricted to 6.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Saturday.

Traffic management

To ensure the continued safe completion of the transmission line replacement works, some short traffic delays may be necessary when the helicopter stringing work is occurring. Traffic management plans will be in place along the impacted sections of Dalrymple Road, and feeder roads, at these times to help minimise any interruptions.

We thank local motorists, cyclists and pedestrians in advance for their patience and cooperation while these project works are underway.

Vegetation management works now complete

Vegetation management works were recently undertaken in key areas where some trees and shrubs encroached on safe clearance zones for the transmission line and towers. This work was required to ensure the safe and secure operation of the existing and replacement lines. In association with Townsville City Council, mulch generated from the works was donated to local environmental and community groups, and will be used for upcoming tree planting activities along Dalrymple Road.

Alongside our requirement for having safe and clear access to and around our transmission infrastructure, we understand visual amenity and community impacts are important. We would like to confirm that 1,000 seedlings will be planted along the replacement transmission line to offset the removal of trees in this area. Suitable replacement species will be planted at a safe distance from our transmission towers and lines. These tree plantings will be conducted as part of a broader community and environmental initiative with Townsville City Council.

Community and environmental initiative

As part of our commitment to responsible environmental management and working with the local community, Powerlink is working alongside Townsville City Council to deliver a community and environmental initiative over the coming months. In addition to the above tree plantings along Dalrymple Road, this will involve a series of community tree plantings at other nearby locations, as well as establishing a food garden at Heatley Secondary College. More information regarding this initiative and how you can participate will be provided in the near future.

Further information

If you would like more information or to discuss these planned activities face-to-face, please contact:

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Alternatively, visit our website at www.powerlink.com.au (go to 'Projects' > 'Northern').

About Powerlink Queensland:

Powerlink is a State Government Owned Corporation, which owns, develops, operates and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission network that extends 1700km from north of Cairns to the New South Wales border. Find out more about Powerlink: www.powerlink.com.au (go to 'About Powerlink').

