

Project Participation and Access Allowance (PPAA)



Information for landholders

This document provides information about **Powerlink's Project Participation and Access Allowance** and the eligibility criteria.

Powerlink's Project Participation and Access Allowance was implemented in 2014.

About Powerlink

Powerlink is a State Government-owned corporation which owns, develops, operates and maintains a high voltage transmission network that extends 1700km from north of Cairns to the New South Wales border.

Powerlink's primary role is to provide a safe, cost effective and reliable network to transport high voltage electricity from generators to electricity distribution networks owned by Ergon Energy, Energex and Essential Energy.

Powerlink also transports electricity directly to large Queensland customers, such as aluminium smelters and to New South Wales via the NSW/Queensland Interconnector Transmission Line.

Landholder participation in projects

When Powerlink needs to acquire a new high voltage transmission line easement or substation site we undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required under legislation. We ask potentially affected landholders to engage in the EIA process and to provide access to their properties for investigations and consultation.

We need access for activities such as face-to-face meetings, inspections to refine the alignment and understand property impacts, investigations by environmental consultants, cultural heritage assessments, geotechnical investigations, and easement or site surveys.

Powerlink recognises the cooperation of landholders who provide valuable information about their properties, as well as facilitating our access to gather on-ground information. We also recognise that engaging with us may interrupt landholders in carrying out other activities on their property that contribute to their income.

In recognition of their cooperation and this potential interruption, Powerlink provides a **Project Participation and Access Allowance (PPAA)** to eligible landholders.

What is the PPAA?

The PPAA is a payment made to eligible landholders whose properties we expect will be impacted by field investigations during the EIA phase of a Powerlink project to acquire new high voltage transmission line easements or substations.

The PPAA is totally separate and in addition to the land compensation paid to landholders under the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967* (ALA). It is not linked to the amount of time a landholder spends engaging with Powerlink, or whether a property is ultimately affected by a transmission easement.

Who is eligible for the PPAA?

To be eligible to receive the PPAA, landholders must meet **all three** criteria:

1. their property must be identified by Powerlink as one which Powerlink and its consultants will need to directly access for field investigations and information gathering during the EIA phase for new high voltage transmission line easements or substation site.
2. they must be engaged in deriving their primary income from the property (e.g. primary production, commercial operations) and Powerlink access and engagement activities are reasonably expected to cause some interruption to these income-producing activities.
3. they must be the registered owner or tenant of the property, or be nominated in writing by the registered owner or tenant to receive the allowance.

The PPAA does not apply to land zoned *residential* or *rural residential*, as these properties are not typically used for income-producing activities.

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Where can I get more information about the PPAA?

For more information about the PPAA, please call Powerlink's **FREECALL** number **1800 635 369** (during business hours).

What allowance will eligible landholders receive?

The PPAA is assessed as described in the table below and is paid to eligible landholders who have cooperatively provided access and input during the EIA phase in two stages:

Allowance amount ¹	Timing of payment
Stage One	
Fixed allowance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a one-off payment of \$500	Paid on completion of discussion and agreement on the conditions under which Powerlink may access the property for EIA investigations.
Stage Two	
<i>For new transmission line easement projects:</i>	
Fixed plus variable allowance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a one-off payment of \$1500 plus <ul style="list-style-type: none">\$300 per kilometre of Preliminary Alignment² that traverses the property and is the focus of field work and investigations.	Paid when access to the property for all EIA phase field studies is complete, or once a formal land access agreement is reached between the landholder and Powerlink.
<i>For new substation site projects:</i>	
Typically Powerlink acquires land in freehold for substation sites prior to the EIA process. If it is necessary to engage with the landholder and access their property to acquire the site, then an allowance will be determined by Powerlink after considering the amount of land required, the size of the substation and the extent of access required.	Paid when access to the property for all EIA phase field studies is complete, or once a formal land access agreement is reached between the landholder and Powerlink.

¹ Amounts stated are GST exclusive. If applicable, GST will be paid in addition to the payment amount.

² A Preliminary Alignment is identified within the broader Study Corridor to use as the basis for further information gathering and consultation with potentially affected landholders, stakeholders and the local community.

How to apply for the PPAA

Powerlink's Landholders Relations representatives will discuss with landholders as part of the EIA consultation process whether they may be eligible for the PPAA.