

Transmission network extension in North West Surat Basin Blythdale, Fairview and Fairview South Substations Project



PROJECT NEWSLETTER
JULY 2013

This newsletter provides an update on the status of a substation component of the project following the recent issue to directly-affected landowners of the Notice of Intention to Resume (NIR) and the Notice of Proposed Designation (NPD).

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. This network transports high voltage electricity from generators to electricity distribution networks owned by Ergon Energy and Energex, and to large customers connected directly to the network such as mining proponents.

Project overview

- Powerlink Queensland has been requested by Santos GLNG to establish direct connections into the high voltage transmission network to supply power to its future gas processing facilities in the area west of Wandoan and east of Injune.
- To meet this request, Powerlink has commenced three projects to identify and acquire the necessary easements and land for the proposed infrastructure.
- The substation component of the project includes three proposed 132kV switching stations to be known as Blythdale, Fairview and Fairview South.
- A comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed in July 2013 which included the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being published.
- In June and July 2013, directly-affected landowners were issued with a Notice of Intention to Resume (NIR) and a Notice of Proposed Designation (NPD).
- We will continue to work closely with affected landowners and stakeholders to minimise any inconvenience or impact from the project as it progresses.

What's the next step?

As outlined above, directly-affected landowners will have recently received a *Notice of Intention to Resume (NIR)* and a *Notice of Proposed Designation (NPD)*. The processes associated with these notices are explained in more detail below, including further information about compensation.

Designation process (Notice of Proposed Designation)

The planning approval process for all transmission infrastructure, known as Ministerial designation, involves Powerlink applying to the State Government for approval through the Community Infrastructure Designation process under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.

In July 2013, directly-affected landowners and stakeholders received a Notice of Proposed Ministerial Designation (NPD), advising of Powerlink's intention to seek Ministerial designation. Submissions on the designation application are invited by Friday, 9 August 2013.

As part of the designation process, all submissions are considered by Powerlink and we respond in writing to each submission individually. Each submission and our response are then provided to the relevant State Government Minister (usually the Minister for Energy) with our application for designation.

Landowners will be advised about the completion of the Ministerial designation process, which is expected to occur in January/February 2014.

Resumption process (Notice of Intention to Resume)

As a constructing authority under the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*, Powerlink has the ability to resume land (easements or blocks of land) for electricity purposes.

As part of the resumption process, Powerlink issues a *Notice of Intention to Resume (NIR)* to directly-affected landowners. The NIR contains a description of the land proposed to be resumed and the rights of landowners to make a submission on the resumption. A Background Information Sheet on the project is also provided, together with the easement terms and conditions, and a survey plan.

Following completion of the submission period, Powerlink applies to the State Government for resumption of the land. Should the State Government resume the land, a formal notification is provided in the Queensland Government Gazette (known as gazettal) and the block of land is then registered on the property title.

Directly-affected landowners for the Blythdale and Fairview Substations were issued with an NIR for this project in June 2013 with submissions invited by Monday, 5 August 2013.

The directly-affected landowner for the Fairview South Substation was issued with an NIR for this project in July 2013 with submissions invited by Thursday, 8 August 2013.

Landowners will also be advised about the completion of the resumption process, expected to be in January/February 2014.

Compensation process

Powerlink has recently introduced a new component to its compensation process for its projects in the North West Surat Basin that involves landowners accessing expert advice on compensation matters earlier in the process than normal. Landowners are encouraged to obtain independent valuation and legal advice on compensation matters and Powerlink will reimburse reasonable costs for this advice. Powerlink representatives will contact affected landowners to discuss this support. If landowners choose not to seek advice at this earlier stage, they will still be able to later in the process.

Following completion of the resumption process (outlined above), Powerlink valuers will contact directly-affected landowners to discuss compensation. At this time a Powerlink valuer will visit each property to assess the impact of the proposed project. Powerlink will then make a written compensation offer to the landowner.

The process for compensation is completely independent of the process for construction, and a landowner's right to compensation is guaranteed by law. Therefore, construction may begin before a compensation settlement has been reached between the landowner and Powerlink. Landowners will be paid interest on the compensation amount and interest will be calculated and paid from the date of gazettal. This guarantees that landowners will not be disadvantaged should it take some time for compensation to be settled.

Construction of the substations is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2014.

Project timetable – substation component

| Activity | Expected timing |
|--|------------------------|
| EIA process commences | July 2012 |
| Release Draft EIS for public comment | 29 November 2012 |
| Release Final EIS | July 2013 |
| Cultural Heritage surveys | April/March 2013 |
| Surveys | June 2013 |
| Issue Notice of Intention to Resume (includes invitation for comment) | June/July 2013 |
| Issue Notice of Proposed Designation (includes invitation for comment) | July 2013 |
| Ministerial designation and resumption process completed | January/February 2014 |
| Compensation process commences | January/February 2014 |
| Commence construction of substations | First quarter of 2014 |
| New substations expected to be completed | First half of 2015 |

Note: Completed activities are shown in grey.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the Blythdale, Fairview and Fairview South Substation Project, please contact Nicole Boulton, Powerlink Project Manager on:

FREECALL: 1800 635 369
(business hours)

Email:
website.enquiries@powerlink.com.au

Or visit our website:
www.powerlink.com.au
(Go to 'Projects/Southern/
Transmission network extension
in North West Surat')