Transmission network extension in North West Surat

PROJECT NEWSLETTER 1
JULY 2012

This newsletter provides information to landowners and the community about Environmental Impact Assessments to be undertaken for the identification and ultimate acquisition of easements and land for a proposed transmission network extension west of Wandoan and east of Injune.

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ABOUT POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

Powerlink is a State Government Owned Corporation that owns, develops and operates 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 the electricity distribution networks owned locally by Ergon Energy and Energex, and to large customers directly connected to the network.

In developing Queensland's high voltage network, we are committed to working with affected landowners, communities, environmental groups, Traditional Owners, government agencies and other key stakeholders. This commitment also applies to our work in responding to requests from large customers such as Santos GLNG, who may approach Powerlink for a direct connection into the network.

Project snapshot

- 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 is proposing to extend its network in the North West Surat via three projects:
  - **> Blythdale, Fairview and Fairview South Switching Stations Project**
  - **> Yuleba North to Blythdale Transmission Line Project**
  - **> Eurombah to Fairview Transmission Line Project.**
- This approach ensures landowners and other important stakeholders receive information, and can provide comment on matters that are most relevant to them.
- Powerlink has commenced activities to identify and ultimately acquire the necessary easements and land for the proposed infrastructure, and is committed to working closely with landowners, stakeholders and interested members of the community.
- Environmental specialist, GHD has been appointed by Powerlink to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) which will identify any potential impacts of the proposed infrastructure and how these impacts will be mitigated and/or managed.
- As part of Powerlink's *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*-approved process, a Study Corridor and potential switching station sites have been identified for each project within which the proposed infrastructure is to be located. They will be used as a starting point for detailed investigations and discussions with potentially affected landowners and stakeholders.
- Each Study Corridor and switching station site was identified following careful consideration of constraints such as land use (including farming operations), the location of existing houses, environmental sensitivity and visual impact.
- **No decision will be made regarding the final location of the proposed infrastructure until the relevant EIA and related consultation has been completed.**
- We will be progressively contacting landowners whose properties may be affected to discuss the proposed network extension and the EIA process.

About the project

- *Powerlink has commenced activities to identify and ultimately acquire easements and land for a proposed transmission network extension in the area between Wandoan and Injune.*

Santos GLNG has requested Powerlink establish direct connections into the high voltage transmission network to supply power to its future gas processing facilities in the area generally west of Wandoan, east of Injune and north of the Warrego Highway.

To meet this request, Powerlink is proposing to establish about 100km of transmission line and three switching stations, and has commenced work to identify and ultimately acquire the required easements and land.

This proposed network extension has been divided into three projects to ensure landowners and other important stakeholders receive information, and can provide comment on matters that are most relevant to them. Each project and the infrastructure that is included (i.e. transmission line and/or switching station) are outlined on page 6 along with a map and expected timings of key milestones.

- *We will soon be commencing environmental investigations and consultation to identify the best location for the proposed infrastructure.*

A Study Corridor has been identified for each project within which the proposed infrastructure is to be located (as identified in the map on page 5). They will be used as a starting point for detailed investigations and discussions with potentially affected landowners and stakeholders.

Further information about Study Corridors is provided on page 4.

No decision will be made regarding the final location of the proposed infrastructure until the relevant EIA and related consultation has been completed.

Related activities in the region

Powerlink is the owner and operator of Queensland's high voltage electricity network and has a legal obligation to provide non-discriminatory access to the network.

In the neighbouring area, Powerlink is undertaking a separate but related project following a request by Australia Pacific LNG Pty Ltd (APLNG) to establish direct connections into the network. This project is known as the *Wandoan South to Eurombah Transmission Network Project*. Some of the infrastructure proposed as part of that project will be shared with Santos GLNG as a way of reducing the overall impact to landowners and the community, while also reducing Powerlink's infrastructure footprint in the region. The map on page 5 shows how these two projects interlink.

Powerlink began consulting with local landowners and other key stakeholders on the APLNG project in April 2012. More information about this project is available on our website: www.powerlink.com.au (go to 'Projects/Southern').

In the future, Powerlink may be approached by other industrial and commercial customers about the potential need for connections. If such a request was formalised at any time, the project would be managed in accordance with Powerlink's comprehensive EIA process, including related consultation with landowners, stakeholders and interested members of the community.

About the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- *All potentially affected landowners, stakeholders and interested members of the community have the opportunity to provide formal comment throughout the EIA process.*

Powerlink has appointed environmental specialist GHD to undertake the EIA process for the proposed projects.

As a part of the EIA process, GHD will prepare separate Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for each project as outlined on page 7. These reports will identify and assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of the proposed infrastructure, and how any potential impacts will be mitigated and/or managed.

Consultation is an essential part of the EIA and will help ensure comprehensive and accurate EIS reports are prepared. Powerlink and GHD representatives will be talking with potentially affected landowners, stakeholders and interested members of the community to further understand the potential impacts of the proposed infrastructure, and how these impacts can be effectively mitigated and/or managed.

In accordance with Powerlink's *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*-approved process, public comment will be sought on key documents prepared as part of the EIA process, including the Draft EIS reports. We will write to all potentially affected landowners and stakeholders to advise them of the availability of the reports, and place advertisements in local newspapers to advise the broader community.

All comments received on the Draft EIS reports will be individually responded to and addressed in the Final EIS reports, and submitters will receive a formal response to any matters raised. The separate Final EIS reports will identify the final location of each component of infrastructure.

The Study Corridor

- *Preliminary studies have been undertaken to identify a Study Corridor and switching station sites for each project, within which the proposed infrastructure is to be located.*

The relevant Study Corridor and proposed switching station site will be used as a starting point for detailed investigations and discussions with potentially affected landowners. Each Study Corridor and site was identified following careful consideration of constraints such as land use (including farming operations), the location of existing houses, environmental sensitivity and visual impact. The opportunity to co-locate with other infrastructure in existing and proposed infrastructure corridors (e.g. roads, pipelines) was also taken into account as part of this process.

You may notice the map opposite shows that each Study Corridor is much wider than the ultimate width required for a transmission line easement. For these projects, the easements are expected to be 60m wide.

The approach of starting with Study Corridors much wider than what is actually needed provides some flexibility in narrowing down and identifying a route for a proposed transmission line which could help minimise its overall impact.

The compensation process

- *We aim to be transparent, fair and equitable through the process of acquiring easements.*

Powerlink is committed to meeting its obligations and paying fair compensation to landowners when it acquires transmission line easements. Compensation will be paid to landowners who have an easement placed over their property in accordance with the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*.

As the project progresses, further information about the compensation process will be provided to directly affected landowners.

Powerlink provides information about compensation in an Information Sheet available online (visit www.powerlink.com.au and go to 'About Powerlink/ Information Brochures').

An Information Sheet with key terms, project development information and details about other projects in the local area can be found in the insert provided.

Working with landowners and the community

- *We are committed to working closely with local communities and stakeholders.*

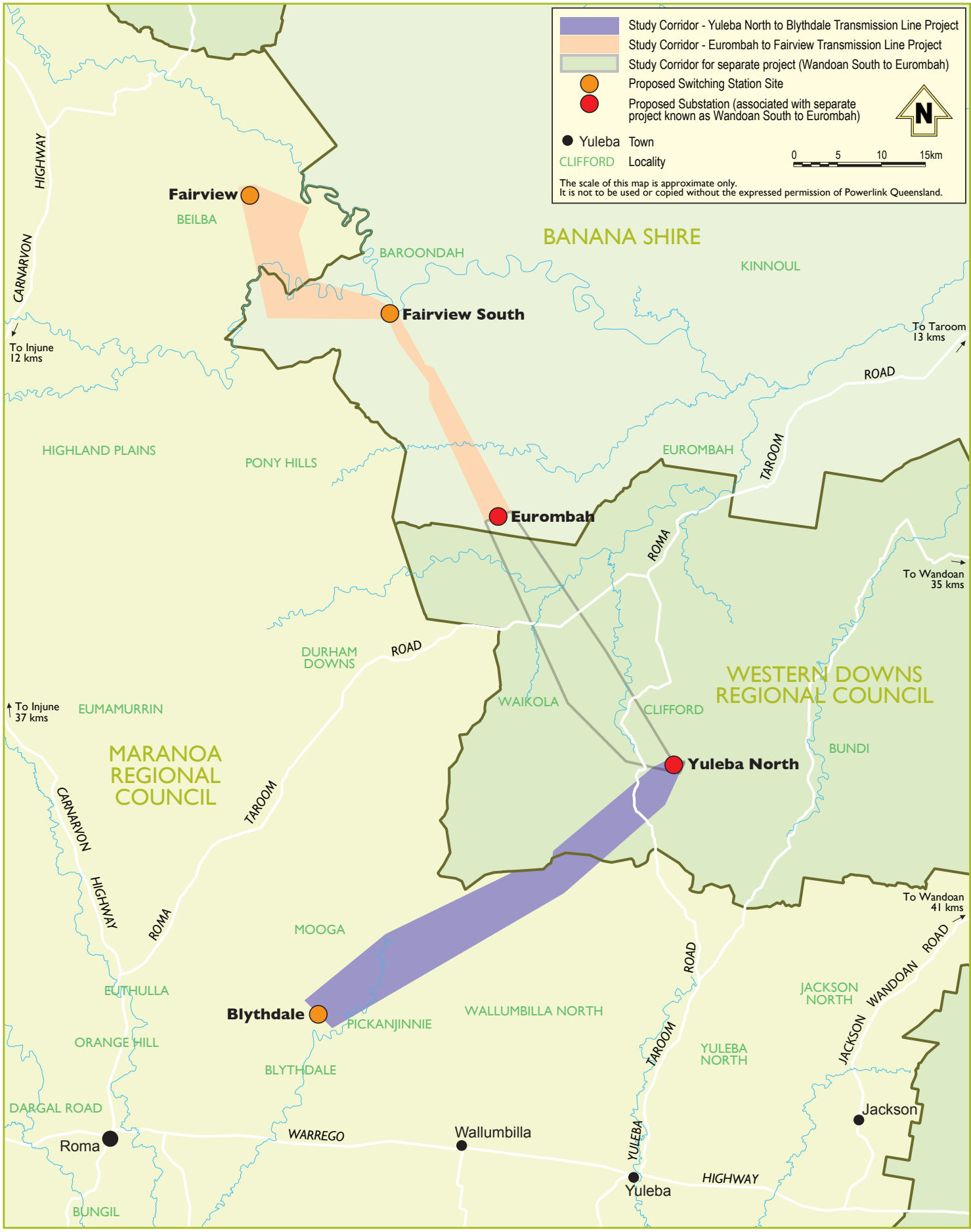
Powerlink and GHD representatives will be talking with potentially affected landowners, stakeholders and interested members of the community about each of the projects.

Powerlink will soon be contacting landowners whose properties may be affected by the proposed infrastructure, and will arrange meetings to discuss the projects and the EIA process.

Meetings will also be held with key local stakeholders, including State and Local Government representatives, agencies and departments, and community and environmental groups.

We will also keep you informed about the progress of the projects through:

- regular newsletters;
- newspaper advertisements and articles;
- community drop-in days;
- individual discussions and meetings;
- information on the Powerlink and GHD websites; and
- enquiry contact points such as email, fax and a FREECALL hotline: 1800 635 369.


Study Corridor - Yuleba North to Blythdale Transmission Line Project
Study Corridor - Eurombah to Fairview Transmission Line Project
Study Corridor for separate project (Wandoan South to Eurombah)
Proposed Switching Station Site
Proposed Substation (associated with separate project known as Wandoan South to Eurombah)
N
Yuleba Town
CLIFFORD Locality
0 5 10 15km
The scale of this map is approximate only.
It is not to be used or copied without the expressed permission of Powerlink Queensland.
Fairview
BEILBA
BANANA SHIRE
BAROONDAH
KINNOUL
Fairview South
To Injune
12 kms
To Taroom
13 kms
ROAD
HIGHLAND PLAINS
PONY HILLS
EUROMBAH
TAROOM
Eurombah
ROMA
To Wandoan
35 kms
DURHAM
DOWNS
ROAD
WESTERN DOWNS
REGIONAL COUNCIL
To Injune
37 kms
EUMAMURRIN
WAIKOLA
CLIFFORD
BUNDI
MARANOA
REGIONAL
COUNCIL
Yuleba North
CARNARVON
HIGHWAY
TAROOM
ROMA
To Wandoan
41 kms
MOOGA
ROAD
WANDOAN
ROAD
EUTHULLA
JACKSON
NORTH
Blythdale
WALLUMBILLA NORTH
PICKANJINNIE
JACKSON
ORANGE HILL
TAROOM
YULEBA
NORTH
BLYTHDALE
DARGAL ROAD
Jackson
Roma
WARREGO
Wallumbilla
YULEBA
HIGHWAY
Yuleba
BUNGIL

Blythdale, Fairview and Fairview South Switching Stations Project

- *This project includes three proposed 132kV switching stations to be known as Blythdale, Fairview and Fairview South. The switching stations are proposed to supply future gas compressor stations at Santos GLNG's Roma and Fairview gas fields.*

Blythdale Switching Station – Preliminary investigations have identified a potential site for the proposed switching station on land owned by Santos GLNG at the corner of Blythdale Road and The Bend Road about 25km north-east of Roma. The suitability of this site will be assessed as part of the EIA process.

Fairview Switching Station – A potential site for this proposed switching station has been identified on land currently owned by Santos GLNG adjacent to its future Fairview gas processing facility. The site is 1.2km north of Fairview Road, Beilba and the suitability of this site will be assessed as part of the EIA process.

Fairview South Switching Station – A proposed switching station site, located 1.6km west of Baroondah Road, north of Hallett State Forest and on land owned by Santos GLNG, has been identified through preliminary investigations. The EIA process will determine the suitability of the site.

Yuleba North to Blythdale Transmission Line Project

- *This project includes a 132/275kV transmission line to run south-west from the proposed Yuleba North Substation (4km east of the Yuleba – Taroom Road) to a proposed switching station at Blythdale (25km north-east of Roma).*

New 60m wide easements will be required for the proposed 132/275kV transmission line which is proposed to be a double-circuit steel lattice tower about 50km in length. The proposed line is anticipated to look similar to the existing transmission line that crosses the Warrego Highway near Warra (photo shown opposite).

Eurombah to Fairview Transmission Line Project

- *This project includes two transmission lines; a 132/275kV transmission line from Eurombah Substation to a proposed switching station at Fairview South, and a 132kV transmission line continuing north to the proposed Fairview Switching Station.*

Eurombah to Fairview South transmission line – For this proposed 132/275kV transmission line, Powerlink is planning to acquire new 60m wide easements between the Eurombah Substation and the proposed Fairview South Switching Station. The transmission line is expected to be about 27km in length.

Fairview South to Fairview transmission line – New 60m wide easements will be required for this proposed 132kV transmission line which will be about 25km in length.

Both proposed transmission lines will be largely double-circuit steel lattice towers and are expected to look similar to the transmission line shown in the photo above.

Timetable

Activity	Expected timing
Release Draft EIS for public comment	Third quarter 2012
Finalise EIS	Late 2012
Seek planning approval through Ministerial designation (includes invitation for public comment)	Third quarter 2013
Construction expected to commence	First quarter 2014
Switching stations expected to be completed	Second quarter 2015

Timetable

Activity	Expected timing
Release Draft EIS for public comment	Early 2013
Finalise EIS	Second quarter 2013
Seek planning approval through Ministerial designation (includes invitation for public comment)	Early 2014
Construction expected to commence	Second quarter 2014
Transmission line expected to be completed	Mid 2015

Timetable

Activity	Expected timing
Release Draft EIS for public comment	Early 2013
Finalise EIS	Second quarter 2013
Seek planning approval through Ministerial designation (includes invitation for public comment)	Early 2014
Construction expected to commence	Second quarter 2014
Transmission lines expected to be completed	Third quarter 2015

Frequently asked questions

What is an easement?

An easement provides a 'right of way' over a portion of land and allows Powerlink to construct and maintain transmission lines within the easement on a property. The landowner continues to own the land over which the easement is acquired and retains most of the rights and responsibilities of ownership. To help ensure community safety and the security of electricity supply, there are some restrictions on the owner's use of land within the easement area. These restrictions are detailed on the 'Easement Conditions' that are registered on the property title. When acquiring easements, Powerlink pays compensation in accordance with the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967.*

How is the final alignment of a transmission line chosen?

A number of factors are taken into account in determining the position of the final alignment for a transmission line:

- Social factors – such as minimising the number of homes near the alignment and impacts on current and future land use e.g. farming operations;
- Environmental factors – such as the location of regional ecosystems and rare and threatened species (if any);
- Visual factors – such as scenic amenity of the area, and road, creek and rail crossings; and
- Economic factors – such as costs associated with length of the line, type of structures, and number of line angles.

These factors are weighed up together to determine an alignment which on balance, has the lowest overall impact.

What effect might a transmission line have on farming operations?

Much of Powerlink's infrastructure crosses farmland and the two can safely and productively co-exist. Because transmission lines require only an easement, in most cases farming activities can continue largely unaffected by the addition of a transmission line, in consideration of the easement terms.

Local farmers and landowners potentially affected by a new transmission line can play an important role in helping to select an alignment of least overall impact as part of the EIA process. As part of the projects that comprise the proposed network extension in the North West Surat, we will be working closely with these groups and the community to determine an alignment for the proposed transmission lines of least overall impact.

We recognise the importance of cropping land and seek to ensure that our activities minimise impacts to farmland where practicable.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the proposed extension of the transmission network in the North West Surat, please contact Nicole Boulton, Powerlink Project Manager on:

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

Email:
website.enquiries@powerlink.com.au

Website:
www.powerlink.com.au
(Go to 'Projects/Southern')