

Refit of high voltage electricity transmission towers in your area

June 2016

Dear Resident,

I write to provide you with information regarding Powerlink Queensland's Runcorn to Belmont Transmission Line Refit Project, which will involve works on the existing high voltage electricity transmission towers between the Runcorn and Belmont substations (see attached map) between July and November 2016. **These activities will not result in any planned electricity outages.**

The towers, which were built in 1971, require this maintenance to ensure the safe, reliable and cost effective supply of high voltage electricity across the Brisbane metropolitan area. The line is a key part of our transmission network, which transports high voltage electricity generated at major power stations to Energex's distribution network.

As well as working closely with landholders nearest to the project, Powerlink is committed to providing broader community updates about the works.

Overview of work

A refit project extends the life of existing towers, avoiding or delaying the need for new infrastructure. Refitting towers is a cost-effective solution to ensure the network continues to reliably support existing and future network demand.

This project involves refitting 24 towers. Construction activities may include:

- minor foundation strengthening works where required
- checking and replacing any corroded nuts, bolts and steelwork
- re-installing or upgrading earthing systems
- cleaning, surface preparation and hand painting of towers
- replacing tower signs and anti-climbing barriers.

Powerlink staff and contractors will generally take up to six days to complete the tasks required at each tower. This work may be completed progressively over multiple visits to complete different construction activities. The project team will work in various locations along the transmission line between July and November 2016, weather permitting.

To minimise inconvenience to local residents and businesses, normal working hours will be restricted to 6.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Saturday. If we need to manage traffic flows near towers at certain times we will also communicate this to nearby residents.

Our Land Access Protocol (LAP) outlines the standards and commitments Powerlink and its representatives will adhere to when accessing properties to carry out our activities. The LAP can be viewed at www.powerlink.com.au (go to 'Landholders & Property').



Minimising potential impacts

Powerlink is committed to safely managing potential impacts associated with these works. All refit activities will be undertaken in accordance with rigorous environmental management requirements, which outline how potential environmental and social impacts will be minimised and managed.

As outlined, the project involves painting the towers. This requires the surface to be washed with high pressure water to remove any debris and salt. Where the surface has degraded, a garnet grit is included in the water jet to remove rust and leave clean steel.

The garnet is a natural, non-toxic and safe material (commonly used by the building, energy and maritime industries) and there are guidelines around its use and capture that Powerlink will adhere to. Tower painting is done by hand to reduce the likelihood of paint drifting from the immediate area.

You will notice work crews, machinery and vehicles near our towers to safely complete this work. There will also be increased noise levels from the equipment being used at the pre-painting and surface preparation stage. As with all of our activities, care will be taken to minimise any disturbance. Where possible, we will schedule high-pressure cleaning activities during times which will reduce on nearby residents. Our environmental management requirements will ensure this preparation only occurs in favourable weather conditions, is regularly monitored and the immediate area is protected.

Further information

If you would like more information about this project, please contact the Powerlink representative listed below or alternatively visit our website at www.powerlink.com.au (go to 'Projects' > 'South East').

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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').