

Transmission line refit projects



Powerlink Queensland is embarking on a phase of refit works on its high voltage electricity transmission towers in urban areas.

These works are necessary as some transmission towers are up to 50 years old and this targeted maintenance helps ensure continued safe, reliable and lowest cost supply of electricity to the community.

A refit project will generally not result in any boost to the capacity of the transmission line.

Access may be required to some properties crossed by Powerlink easements to carry out this work. If and when access is required, a Powerlink representative will contact landholders so we can discuss access or other considerations and provide detailed information about the scope and timing of the work.

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

Powerlink's transmission network transports high voltage electricity generated at major power stations, to the electricity distribution networks owned by Energex, Ergon Energy and Essential Energy (in northern New South Wales).

During the course of refit works, Powerlink will maintain a normal electricity supply to the distributors by utilising other parts of our network, therefore these works will not result in any planned electricity outages.

Overview of work

Refit activities extend the life of existing towers, avoiding or delaying the need for new infrastructure.

Refit activities for each tower can include:

- restoring access tracks
- minor tower foundation strengthening works where required
- checking and replacing steelwork and bolts
- reinstalling or upgrading earthing systems
- surface preparation and hand painting of towers
- replacing insulators or other transmission line hardware
- replacing tower signs and anti-climbing barriers.

Powerlink staff and contractors will generally take several days (weather permitting) to complete these tasks at each tower site.

To minimise any inconvenience to local residents and businesses, normal working hours will be restricted to 6.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday.

As appropriate, Powerlink contractors will establish traffic management plans around work sites at certain times to ensure safety and efficient traffic flows. We will ensure any traffic management is communicated to nearby residents and the broader community.

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



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.

A component of the project involves painting of 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 strict guidelines around its use and capture.

Most of the grit is contained and removed during the course of the work.

Following surface preparation, the towers will be painted by hand to reduce the likelihood of paint drifting from the immediate area.

Community members will notice work crews, machinery and vehicles near the towers to safely complete this work. There may also be increased noise levels from the equipment being used at the pre-painting and surface preparation stage.

Our environmental management requirements ensure this preparation only occurs in favourable weather conditions, is regularly monitored and the immediate area is protected.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Powerlink is committed to working proactively with the community to carry out these works and you can contact us on FREECALL 1800 635 369 (during business hours).

Further information about Powerlink and our projects can be downloaded from www.powerlink.com.au