



POWERLINK QUEENSLAND MAINTAINING OUR NETWORK AND EASEMENTS

Maintenance keeps our network safe and reliable

Effective maintenance of our transmission lines, substations and easements is a key part of Powerlink Queensland's commitment to providing a safe and reliable supply of high voltage electricity. Maintenance activities are generally cyclical in nature. On transmission lines, routine inspections occur on an annual basis, while routine substation inspections usually take place every six months. General maintenance may occur throughout the year as required.

In addition to a routine maintenance inspection program, at times we undertake specific maintenance or refit activities, which may include replacing or repairing various components of a transmission line or substation.

Maintenance inspections and work can be carried out from the ground using 4WDs, at heights using Elevated Work Platforms (EWP), or from the air using helicopters. Depending on the location and type of work, it can be performed by Powerlink staff, Ergon Energy or other contractors.

At all times, we aim to conduct our maintenance activities with as little disruption as possible to landholders and their property.

Working with landholders

If you have a Powerlink transmission line or substation on your property, we will need to access your property to inspect, maintain or repair our high voltage network and easements.

If you have requested us to, we will notify you before accessing your property to undertake routine maintenance inspections. If as a result of a routine inspection we identify that work needs to be performed, we will notify you in advance of our need to access the easement for this purpose. In all cases, we will contact you and nearby impacted landholders in advance of any more significant planned refit works taking place. There may, however, be times when we are unable to provide advance notice, such as when unexpected electrical faults occur. This can often require after-hours access to manage emergency situations.

If you have any special requirements regarding access to an easement on your property, please contact us so we can record your request.

Ground patrols

4WD vehicles are used to conduct ground inspections to assess vegetation clearance from transmission lines, and the condition of transmission lines and access tracks.

Powerlink strives to minimise the impact on your property by leaving easements and access tracks as found, using existing access tracks instead of building new ones where possible, and minimising the use of heavy machinery.

Aerial patrols

Helicopters are used to conduct aerial inspections to assess the condition of transmission lines and easements, and identify if any corrective work is needed. Helicopters are an efficient and cost-effective method of monitoring our transmission lines – particularly lines which traverse long distances or are located in remote areas. Skilled external contractors undertake these helicopter patrols, and perform maintenance work as required. All aerial inspections comply with Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and other legal requirements.

If you require notice of the likely timeframes for aerial patrols over your property so you can relocate or manage your livestock, please contact us.

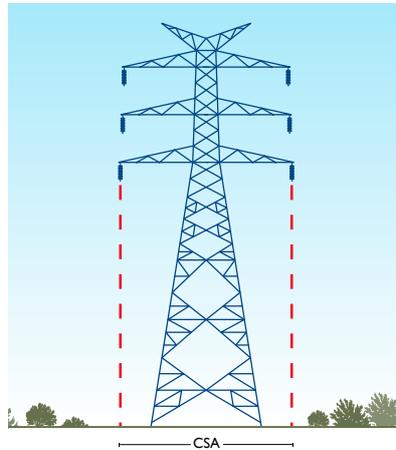
Landholder's rights and responsibilities

An easement gives Powerlink a legal right to access land and carry out work to build, operate and maintain our network, and to regulate certain activities on the easement area.

The landholder continues to retain all other rights and responsibilities of ownership, including land management and other general land maintenance activities on their property.

Maintaining land and vegetation

Powerlink needs clear access to and around our transmission lines and substations to ensure their safe and reliable operation, and to conduct essential maintenance work. A working area for maintenance activities of at least 20m from the outside extent of a transmission tower's footing (including foundations and anchor cables), and 5m either side of the Conductor Shadow Area (CSA) – the area on the ground directly below and between the overhead wires – needs to be kept clear of obstructions at all times, including incompatible vegetation. The illustration (*right*) depicts the CSA and associated vegetation heights.



In addition, Powerlink manages any incompatible vegetation on transmission line easements by selectively applying approved herbicides and removing or trimming these species. Where unsafe vegetation is identified beyond the easement, Powerlink will negotiate appropriate control measures with the landholder.

Vegetation around substation buffer zones and directly adjacent to security fencing is also kept to a minimum. Based on growth rates or special requirements, Powerlink contractors will remove unsafe vegetation as necessary. This can include the use of approved herbicides, plus removal or trimming of incompatible vegetation.

Within protected areas (e.g. national parks and forests) and World Heritage Wet Tropics Areas, Powerlink undertakes its easement maintenance in accordance with the relevant legislative requirements. These outline specific environmental performance standards to manage any potential impacts.

Maintaining access tracks

Powerlink will use existing tracks to access easements, transmission lines and substations where possible. If required, Powerlink will upgrade them, which may include grading the surface of the track.

Maintaining substation equipment

To ensure the safe and reliable operation of our substations, routine maintenance work is carried out on a regular basis. This involves inspecting and maintaining substation electrical components (e.g. circuit breakers) and oil sampling of transformers and other equipment. At times, highly specialised maintenance work may be conducted while electrical equipment remains fully energised or 'live'. Our live work specialists perform this work using insulating tools and Personal Protective Equipment in accordance with rigorous work procedures.

Maintaining biosecurity

Powerlink understands biosecurity management is a high priority for landholders and the community, and we take biosecurity matters seriously during our maintenance activities.

Our biosecurity practices comply with the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. We work closely with landholders to control the introduction or spread of identified weeds, pests or pathogens on easements and access tracks.

We will monitor biosecurity threats through regular easement inspections and ensure appropriate risk management strategies are applied.

Powerlink employees and contractors who may need to access your property for maintenance purposes will be made aware of any biosecurity management control measures in place and agreed with you. Where necessary, biosecurity management activities will be conducted in conjunction with surrounding landholders and other relevant regulatory bodies to maximise effectiveness. Strategies will be reviewed and updated as needed to ensure ongoing effectiveness.

We will liaise with landholders prior to using any chemicals and take any reasonable requirements into account when planning and conducting biosecurity management.

Who do I contact in an emergency?

If you notice an object caught in a transmission line, fires burning close to our infrastructure or anything else you believe to be a potential hazard, please stay clear and call our 24-hour emergency number on:

FRECALL 1800 353 031.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Powerlink Queensland owns, develops, operates and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission network in Queensland.

FRECALL 1800 635 369 (during business hours) | Email us at: website.enquiries@powerlink.com.au

Write to us at: Powerlink Queensland PO Box 1193 Virginia QLD 4014 | Visit our website: www.powerlink.com.au