

Wandoan South to Eurombah Transmission Network Project



PROJECT NEWSLETTER I
APRIL 2012

This newsletter provides information to landowners and the community about the Environmental Impact Assessment to be undertaken for the identification and acquisition of easements and land for a proposed transmission network project west of Wandoan.

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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 APLNG, who may approach Powerlink for a direct connection into the network. As a Transmission Network Service Provider in the National Electricity Market, Powerlink is required by the National Electricity Rules to provide non-discriminatory access to the high voltage network.

Project snapshot

- Powerlink Queensland has been requested by Australia Pacific LNG Pty Limited (APLNG) 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.
- To meet this request, Powerlink is proposing to establish about 100km of transmission line and four substations.
- Powerlink has commenced a project to identify and 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 as part of this project.
- The project has been divided into three stages to ensure landowners and other important stakeholders receive information, and can provide comment on, matters that are most relevant to them.
- While this project has been initiated to meet the connection request made by APLNG, another developer in the region is considering co-sharing the proposed infrastructure. As a result, additional capacity is being included to provide for potential customer connections in the future to ensure those requests can be met in a consolidated way. This would ultimately reduce the impact to landowners and the community by making sure that, where possible, our infrastructure footprint in the region is limited.
- Specialist environmental consultant, GHD has been appointed by Powerlink to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project which will identify any potential impacts and how these impacts will be mitigated and/or managed.
- As part of the EIA process, a Study Corridor has been identified for each stage of the 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 corridor 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 EIA and related consultation has been completed.
- We will be progressively contacting landowners whose properties may be affected to discuss the project and the EIA process.

Building for the future

About the project

- *Powerlink has commenced a project to identify and acquire easements and land for a proposed transmission network project west of Wandoan.*

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

To meet this request, Powerlink is proposing to establish about 100km of transmission line and four substations, and has commenced a project to identify and acquire the required easements and land.

While this project has been initiated to meet the connection request made by APLNG, another developer in the region is considering co-sharing the proposed infrastructure. As a result, additional capacity is being included to provide for potential customer connections in the future to ensure those requests can be met in a consolidated way. This would ultimately reduce the impact to landowners and the community by making sure that, where possible, our infrastructure footprint in the region is limited.

This project will be undertaken in three stages to ensure landowners and other important stakeholders receive information, and can provide comment on matters that are most relevant to them. Each stage of the project and the components of infrastructure (i.e. transmission line and/or substation) that are included, are outlined on the inside pages along with a map and the expected timings of key milestones.

A timeline showing the duration of the overall project appears below.

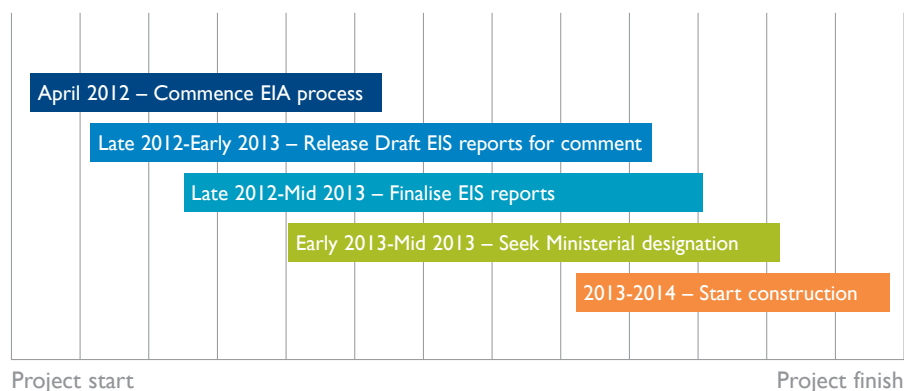
We will soon be commencing environmental investigations and consultation for the project to identify the best location for the proposed infrastructure.

A Study Corridor for each stage of the project has been identified 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 (as identified in the map on page 5). Further information about Study Corridors is provided on page 4.

Preliminary investigations have also identified potential sites for each of the four substations within the relevant corridor.

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

Overall project timeline



Related potential future activities

As outlined on the front of this newsletter, 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. Powerlink has been approached by industrial and commercial customers in the region about the potential need for future connections. If a customer request for a connection was subsequently 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 on this project throughout the EIA process.*

Powerlink has appointed specialist environmental consultant GHD to undertake a comprehensive EIA process for the project.

As a part of the EIA process, GHD will prepare separate Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for each project component 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 process 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 the relevant infrastructure.

The Study Corridor

- *Preliminary studies have been undertaken to identify a Study Corridor for each stage of the project within which the proposed infrastructure is to be located.*

The relevant Study Corridor will be used as a starting point for detailed investigations and discussions with potentially affected landowners. Each corridor 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, rail, powerlines, gas, water) was also taken into account as part of this process.

You may notice the map on page 5 shows that each corridor is much wider than the ultimate width required for a transmission line easement. For this project, easements are expected to be between 40m – 60m wide. There is a small area where two transmission lines may co-locate (between Yuleba North and Dinoun South) and for this section, 90m wide easements may be required.

The approach of having 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.

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

Powerlink pays compensation in accordance with the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*.

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 the project.

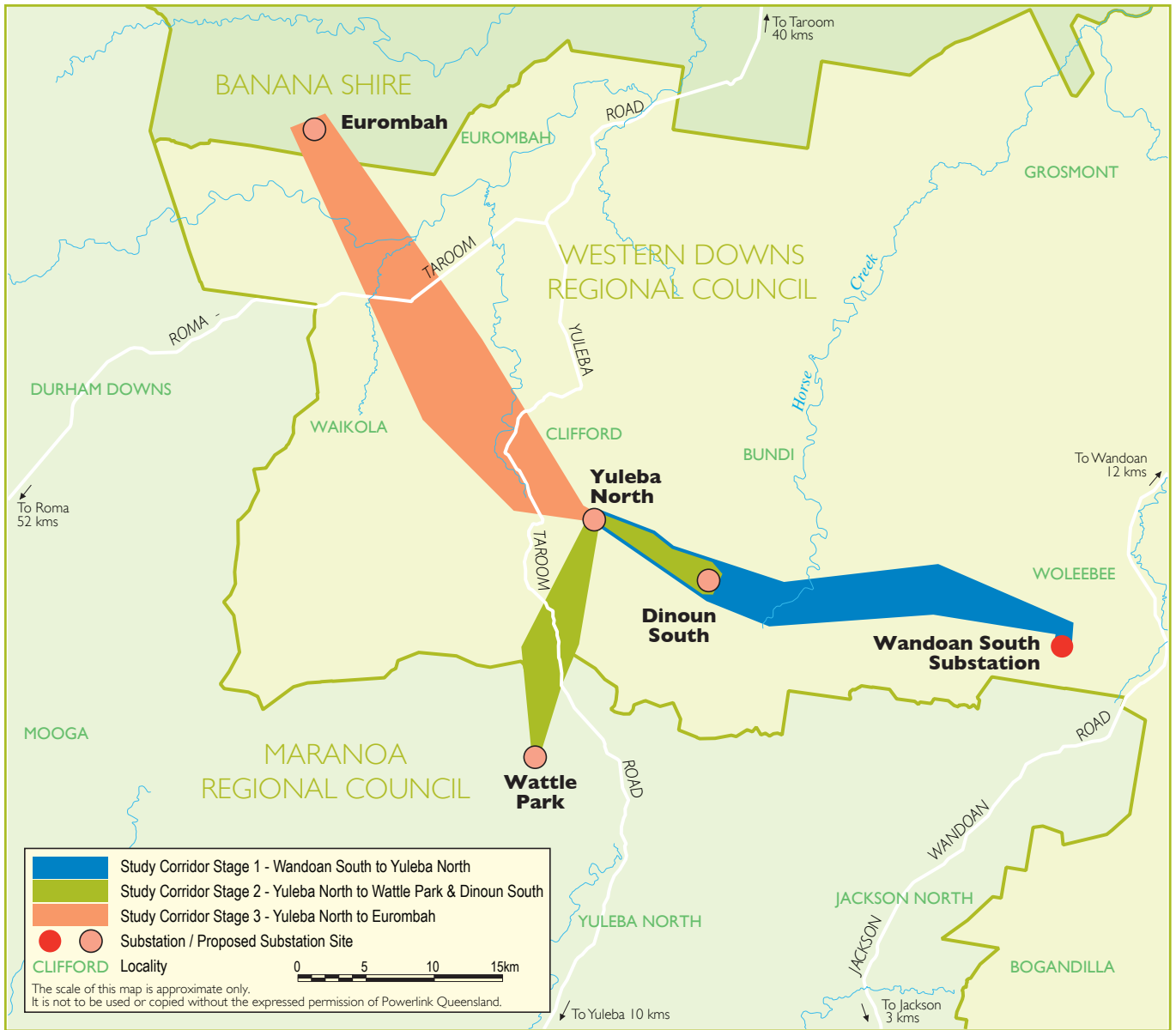
Powerlink will soon be contacting landowners whose properties may be affected by the proposed infrastructure, and will arrange meetings to discuss the project and the EIA process.

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

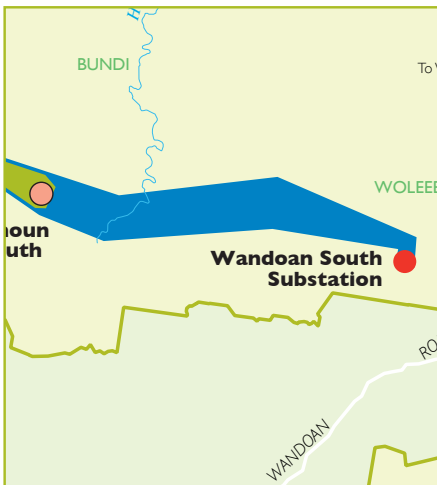
We will also keep you informed about the project's progress through:

- 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).





Stage 1



Stage 2



Stage 3



Stage 1

- This stage includes a 275kV transmission line from Powerlink's future Wandoan South Substation (south of Gadsby's Road) to a proposed substation to be known as Yuleba North (4km east of the Yuleba Taroom Road).*

Wandoan South to Yuleba North transmission line – Powerlink is proposing to acquire new easements for the proposed 275kV transmission line which is expected to be about 40km in length. The easements are anticipated to be 60m wide. There is a small section where part of the transmission line may co-locate with a 132kV transmission line included as part of Stage 2 (outlined below). To accommodate this, 90m wide easements may be required.

The transmission line for this stage of the project will be a double-circuit steel lattice tower design, and is anticipated to look similar to the existing transmission line that crosses the Warrego Highway near Warra (photo opposite).

Yuleba North Substation – Preliminary investigations have identified a potential site for the proposed substation on land about 4km east of the Yuleba Taroom Road west of Wandoan. The suitability of this site will be assessed as part of the EIA process.

Stage 2

- This stage includes a 132kV transmission line from the proposed Yuleba North Substation (4km east of the Yuleba Taroom Road) to a proposed substation at Wattle Park; and a 132kV transmission line from the proposed Yuleba North Substation to a proposed substation at Dinoun South.*

Yuleba North to Wattle Park and Yuleba North to Dinoun South transmission lines – New 40m wide easements will be required for the proposed 132kV transmission lines which will be largely double-circuit pole lines and are expected to look similar to the existing line shown opposite (located near the Warrego Highway between the Condamine Power Station and the Columboola Switching Station). There is a small section where the Dinoun South transmission line may co-locate with the Wandoan South to Yuleba transmission line (outlined in Stage 1). For this section, 90m wide easements may be required.

The transmission line to Wattle Park will be about 20km in length with the line to Dinoun South to be around 15km in length.

Wattle Park & Dinoun South substations – Initial studies have identified a potential site for each proposed substation. The potential site for the Wattle Park Substation is on land currently owned by APLNG adjacent to its future Reedy Creek gas processing facility. The potential site for the Dinoun South Substation is on land adjacent to APLNG's future Combabula gas processing facility. The suitability of each site will be assessed as part of the EIA process.

Stage 3

- This stage includes a 275kV transmission line from the proposed Yuleba North Substation (4km east of the Yuleba Taroom Road) to a proposed substation in the Eurombah area.*

Yuleba North to Eurombah transmission line – For this proposed 275kV transmission line, Powerlink is proposing to acquire new 60m wide easements. The line is expected to be about 35km in length and will be a double-circuit steel lattice tower (as pictured in Stage 1).

Eurombah Substation – Preliminary investigations have identified a potential site for the proposed substation on land currently owned by APLNG adjacent to its future Eurombah Creek gas processing facility. The suitability of this site will be assessed as part of the EIA process.



Timetable

Component	Activity	Expected timing
Transmission line	Release Draft EIS for public comment	Late 2012
	Finalise EIS	Late 2012
	Seek planning approval through Ministerial designation (includes invitation for public comment)	Early 2013
	Construction expected to commence	Mid 2013
	Transmission line expected to be completed	Late 2014
Substation	Release Draft EIS for public comment	Late 2012
	Finalise EIS	Late 2012
	Seek planning approval through Ministerial designation (includes invitation for public comment)	Early 2013
	Construction expected to commence	Late 2013
	Substation expected to be completed	Late 2014



Timetable

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Transmission lines	Release Draft EIS for public comment	Late 2012
	Finalise EIS	Late 2012
	Seek planning approval through Ministerial designation (includes invitation for public comment)	Early 2013
	Construction expected to commence	Late 2013
	Transmission lines expected to be completed	Late 2014
Substations	Release Draft EIS for public comment	Late 2012
	Finalise EIS	Late 2012
	Seek planning approval through Ministerial designation (includes invitation for public comment)	Early 2013
	Construction expected to commence	Late 2013
	Substations expected to be completed	Late 2014

Timetable

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

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 this project, 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 Wandoan South to Eurombah Transmission Network Project, please contact Grant Roberts, 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')

