



Alternative site – Seven Trees

During consultation on the Draft EIS, submissions were received requesting that the proposed substation be relocated to an alternative property known as Seven Trees. Seven Trees is owned by APLNG and is situated approximately 10km south of the Yuleba North site.

Following this feedback from landowners, a comparative assessment of the substation as shown in the Draft EIS, with a substation located at Seven Trees was undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. At a high level, the assessment considered social, economic and environmental factors. In order to undertake a comparative assessment of the sites on each property, the overall impacts of the substation site itself, as well as the connecting transmission line corridors were included as part of the assessment.

The findings of this assessment can be summarised as:

- Social – the substation social impact assessment favours the Seven Trees option as the site is owned by APLNG. However, the social impacts of the connecting transmission lines were assessed as marginally higher for a substation at Seven Trees.
- Environmental – the transmission lines associated with the Yuleba North option show significant environmental benefit over the transmission lines associated with the Seven Trees option.
- Economic – the Yuleba North option shows material cost benefit over the Seven Trees option.

In conclusion, it has been determined that, based on an assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts associated with both substation sites and the connecting transmission lines, the Yuleba North location has - on balance - a lower overall impact than the Seven Trees option. This analysis is detailed in the EIS and the full report can be found as an Appendix to the EIS.

Following the assessment, Powerlink has consulted further with the directly affected landowner and refined the location of the substation within their property in consideration of minimising potential impacts to existing farming practices.

Project timetable – substation

Activity	Expected timing
EIA process commenced	April 2012
Release Draft EIS for public comment	March 2013
Release Final EIS	December 2013
Survey activities	Early 2014
Issue Notice of Proposed Designation (includes submission period)	Early 2014
Issue Notice of Intention to Resume (includes objection period)	Early 2014
Compensation process under way	First half 2014
Ministerial designation and resumption processes completed	Mid 2014
Commence construction of substation	Mid 2014
Substation expected to be completed	Mid to late 2015

Note: Completed activities are shown in grey.

The next steps

Given the Final EIS has been completed, the next stage of the project is for Powerlink to commence the Ministerial designation and resumption processes in early 2014.

Ministerial designation is a planning approval process that allows for infrastructure works to be built on specified land. This requires Powerlink to apply to the State Government for approval through the Community Infrastructure Designation process under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.

As part of this process, Powerlink will write to all directly-affected landowners advising of our intention to seek Ministerial designation. A public notice will also appear in local newspapers.

Landowners, community members and stakeholders will have an opportunity to make submissions on our proposal to seek Ministerial designation.

Powerlink can offer landowners support to help prepare a submission on the proposed designation – such as providing the services of an external submission writer. If you would like this support, please contact Michael Brown, Powerlink Project Manager (see contact details opposite).

Resumption (acquisition) will also commence in the New Year. As a constructing authority under the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*, Powerlink has the ability to resume land (easements or blocks of land) for electricity purposes.

To initiate this process, Powerlink issues a Notice of Intention to Resume (NIR) to all those entitled to claim compensation, including the landowner and other interest holders (e.g. mortgagees). Those who receive a NIR can choose to make a submission, known as an 'objection', to the proposed resumption. Powerlink will write directly to landowners and stakeholders in the New Year with further information about how they can be involved.

What about compensation?

Powerlink will arrange for a Powerlink valuer to visit the directly affected property and assess the impact of the proposed substation. Powerlink will be making a written compensation offer to the landowner. Concurrently, the landowner is encouraged to obtain independent valuation and legal advice about compensation and Powerlink will reimburse reasonable costs for this advice.

Powerlink will seek to resolve compensation ahead of construction commencing. However, as a landowner's right to compensation is guaranteed by law and given the process for compensation is completely independent of the process for construction, construction of the substation may begin before a compensation settlement is reached. The landowner will be paid interest on the compensation amount and interest will be calculated and paid from the date of gazettal.

This newsletter provides an update on the status of a substation component of the project following the recent release of the Final EIS.

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.

This network transports high voltage electricity from generators to electricity distribution networks owned by Ergon Energy and Energex, and to large customers connected directly to the network such as mining proponents.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the Wandoan South to Eurombah Transmission Network Project, please contact Michael Brown, Powerlink Project Manager on:

FREECALL: 1800 635 369
 (business hours)

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Accessing the Final EIS

Copies of the report have been provided to the directly affected landowner, government agencies and other stakeholders. If you would like a copy of the report please:

- Visit GHD's website www.ghd.com/global/projects/yuleba-north-substation/
- Visit Powerlink's website www.powerlink.com.au – go to 'Projects/Southern/Wandoan South to Eurombah/Section 1'
- Phone Powerlink on FREECALL 1800 635 369 (during business hours).

Copies of the report can also be viewed locally at Council libraries in Wandoan, Taroom and Roma from Monday, 23 December 2013.

Project overview

- 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. The proposed network extension has been divided into three sections to ensure landowners and stakeholders receive information, and can provide comment on, matters that are most relevant to them.
- Section one of the proposed network extension involves developing a 275/132kV substation in the Clifford locality known as the Yuleba North Substation.
- A comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed in December 2013 for the proposed substation. Environmental specialist, GHD has now completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project, following input from landowners, community members and stakeholders.
- The Final EIS identifies the final location for the proposed substation and includes the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), which documents the actions that Powerlink will take to manage any potential impacts that might result from the design, construction and operation of the substation.
- Following engagement with landowners the Final EIS concludes that, provided Powerlink implements the recommendations outlined in the report and the associated EMP, there are no social, environmental or economic factors that would prevent the project from proceeding in the location identified.
- Early next year, Powerlink will begin the next stage of the project approvals process, which is to notify landowners, community members and stakeholders of Powerlink's intention to seek Ministerial designation (planning approval) under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.
- Powerlink will also begin the process of land resumption in early 2014. This process involves acquiring the site for the substation and will occur in accordance with the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*.
- We will continue to work closely with affected landowners and stakeholders to minimise any inconvenience or impact from the proposed substation as the project progresses. We thank landowners, community members and stakeholders for their important input into the project so far.



Final substation site identified

Following the release of the Draft EIS in March 2013 and subsequent feedback, Powerlink continued to liaise with the directly affected landowner to finalise the location of the proposed substation with a focus on further minimising impacts to existing farming practices. As a result of this consultation and the assessment undertaken by GHD, a revised site within the landowner's property has been identified for the proposed Yuleba North Substation (indicated on the map below).

Project map – Yuleba North Substation



In finalising the substation site location, GHD carried out an assessment against a range of criteria including visual amenity, vegetation and habitat, topography, property boundaries, land use, existing and potential infrastructure, the location of existing homes, and economic factors.

The site is located approximately 5.1km east of the Clifford-Yuleba Road and 3.1km west of Dinoun State Forest. Access to the substation will be from the Kewpie Lane road reserve, which Powerlink will upgrade as part of its work.

Community consultation

Powerlink is committed to consulting with landowners, community members and stakeholders with an interest in this project and has worked proactively with these groups throughout the EIA process.

Since the start of the project in April 2012, consultation activities for the project have included:

- engaging with landowners and stakeholders, and responding to enquiries via face-to-face meetings, letters, emails and phone calls through the Powerlink FREECALL 1800 number
- appointing dedicated Local Relationship Managers who are based in the Roma area several days a week to ensure timely, personalised consultation with landowners
- hosting advertised Landowner and Community Information Sessions and expanding the content of these sessions to provide attendees with the opportunity to ask questions of and provide feedback to various 'area experts' and members of the project team
- offering the services of an external submission writer to support landowners
- providing timely information on the Powerlink and GHD websites
- placing advertisements in local media to inform the community about the project.

Powerlink will continue to consult with landowners, community members and stakeholders throughout the remaining stages of the project to minimise any inconvenience or impact from the project as it progresses.

Landowners and community thanked for their input

Community consultation was an important part of the process in preparing the Final EIS. In addition to the activities outlined above, submissions were invited on the Draft EIS for a five week period during March, April and May 2013, in accordance with Powerlink's approved process under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.

Powerlink would like to thank those individuals and groups who made submissions on the Draft EIS.

GHD has comprehensively reviewed each submission received and details of how the submissions have been addressed are included in the Final EIS. A selection of matters raised in submissions is outlined below.

Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket

The protection of Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket (SEVT) was identified as an area of interest for landowners and stakeholders during the EIA process.

SEVT is an important ecological community that provides niche habitats for a range of flora and fauna species (pictured right). The Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) identifies SEVT as a Threatened Ecological Community.

The proposed Yuleba North Substation site does not contain any remnant SEVT and as a result, no direct impacts to SEVT will occur. Indirect impacts, such as lights and noise during construction, may result in some temporary and reversible impacts (including temporary local migration of some species further away from the substation).

For the transmission lines that are proposed to connect to the Yuleba North Substation, SEVT has been specifically considered in the alignment selection process and amendments to Study Alignments have been made during the EIA process to avoid SEVT. In general, across Powerlink's project in the North West Surat Basin, GHD and Powerlink have been identifying ways to ensure that no areas of SEVT will be cleared. This will be achieved using various strategies including spanning the vegetation, careful placement of structures, raising the height of the proposed transmission lines, and adjusting access track locations.



It was evident during initial GHD investigations that the actual extent of SEVT was greater than that identified by the formal *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VMA) mapping. This has been acknowledged in the Final EIS and the actual SEVT as mapped and ground-truthed by GHD botanists has been used to finalise alignments for proposed transmission lines connecting to the proposed Yuleba North Substation.

Weed management

We understand the management of weeds is a priority for landowners and the wider community, and we take our environmental obligations seriously.

GHD's environmental assessment identified that the proposed substation site is generally free of infestations of declared weeds. Ensuring that other weed species, that are known to occur in the local government area, are not introduced through movement of machinery and personnel is a key focus of Powerlink throughout the lifecycle of the substation.

Our approach to biosecurity management is guided by the *Queensland Energy Network Environment Forum (QENEF) Biosecurity Guidelines* and we have biosecurity management processes in place that comply with relevant legislation. After feedback from landowners, Powerlink updated these processes to take a more collaborative approach with landowners during the planning phase of a project when information about weed locations is being established and additional management strategies may be required to minimise any potential biosecurity risks.

Particular measures that will be adopted to manage the introduction and spread of weeds to the substation site and surrounding areas include:

- A vehicle hygiene program, such as washdown facilities, at locations to be decided when access tracks, final alignments and weed extents have been confirmed.
- Weed audits prior and post construction to determine any impact of the project on weed dispersion and establishment and mitigation measures, if required, are rapidly implemented.
- Powerlink staff and contractors will undertake the only nationally recognised vehicle washdown training to ensure Powerlink can maintain standards during all phases of the substation's life.
- Ongoing monitoring and auditing of compliance with the identified control measures.
- Other measures as outlined in the Final EIS.

Fire safety

The safety of the community, our people and our contractors is essential and we proactively develop measures to manage any potential risk of fire near our substations and transmission lines.

The measures adopted on each of our projects include appropriate low fire risk infrastructure design, developing project specific strategies throughout the EIA stage, and preparing ongoing operational and maintenance strategies.

Clearances are maintained between our sites and adjacent vegetation, and the selection of equipment is all considered as part of our fire safety strategy. In addition, all Powerlink transmission structures are earthed against lightning strikes and meet statutory requirements under the *Electrical Safety Act 2002*.

During the construction phase, fire fighting equipment is kept on site at all times and personnel are trained in the use of such equipment. Once construction of the substation has been completed, routine inspections occur to gather data and understand surrounding vegetation levels. The potential risk of bushfire is assessed and maintenance is conducted as necessary.

Powerlink also consults with regional and rural fire brigades, regional committees, and local fire management groups to ensure appropriate processes are in place and training is current and relevant. In addition, Powerlink recognises and understands concerns from landowners in relation to smoking on their properties. If a landowner advises that smoking is not to occur on their property, measures will be implemented by Powerlink to ensure that all personnel accessing the property are aware of this specific requirement.

Powerlink has undertaken discussions with the Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFS) in Toowoomba, which has regional responsibility for the Clifford locality. The RFS has advised that additional slip-on units would greatly benefit brigades in the local area, in particular Kiah, Sollow, and Bartons Creek. Powerlink is currently finalising an agreement to provide four units for the current fire season.

It is expected these units will be available to the RFS for delivery during January 2014. The RFS advises that the individual brigades will determine the locations to which the units will be assigned. In addition, we are considering other opportunities to work with landowners and the local community in regards to fire management.