

Wandoan South to Eurombah Transmission Network Project

Wandoan South to Yuleba North Transmission Line Project (Dinoun South to Yuleba North)



PROJECT NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2014

This newsletter provides an update about the proposed transmission line in the area west of Wandoan and outlines the project's next steps.

CONTENTS

Final alignment identified	2
Project timetable	3
Landowners and community thanked for their input	4
The next steps	4
Project contact details	4

Accessing the Addendum and Final EIS

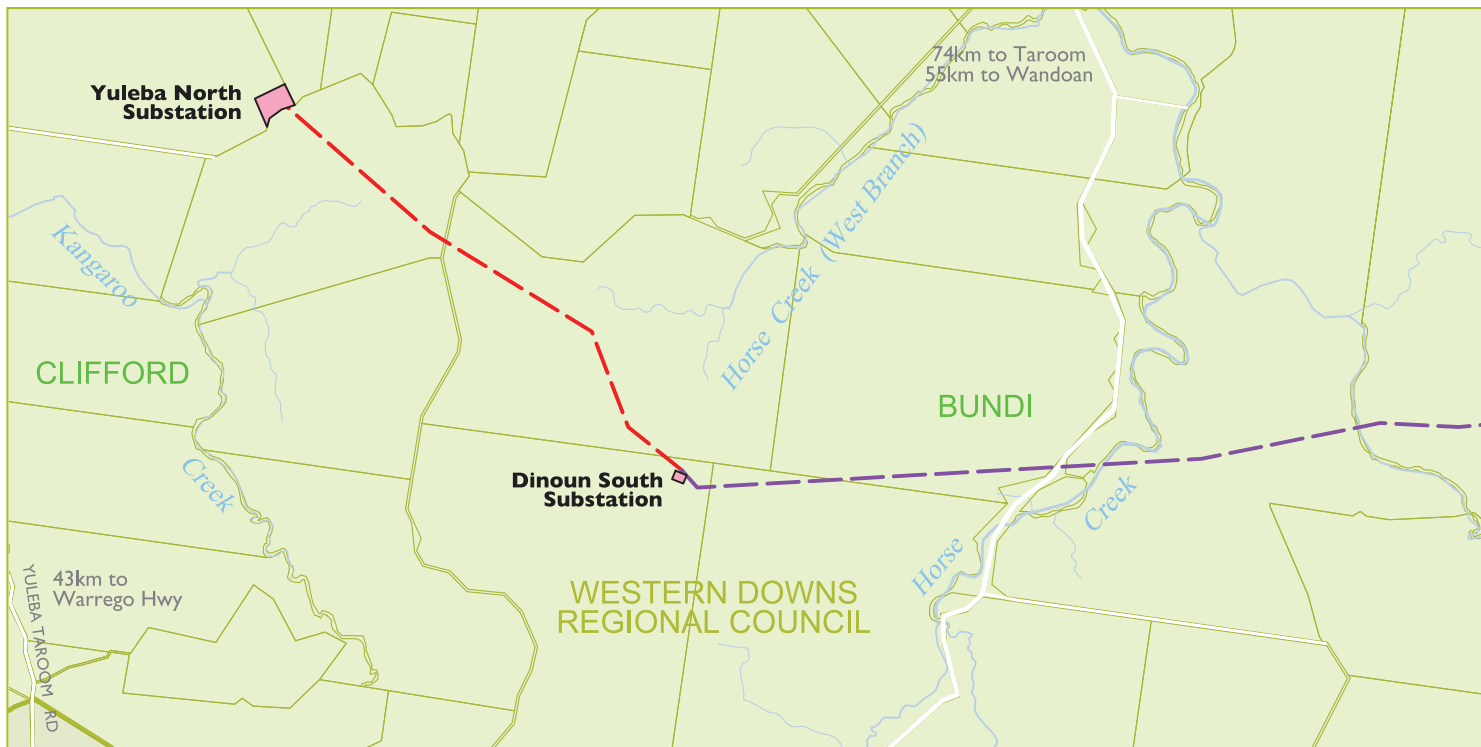
Copies of the Addendum Report have been provided to directly affected landowners, government agencies and other stakeholders. If you would like a copy of the report please:

- Visit GHD's website www.ghd.com/global/projects/wandoan-south-to-yuleba-north/
- 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 and Roma from Tuesday, 18 February 2014.

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 other important stakeholders, receive information and can provide comment on matters that are most relevant to them.
- Since April 2012, the project team including Powerlink staff and the project's environmental specialist GHD have been undertaking a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for section one of the proposed extension. This includes developing a 275kV transmission line about 37km in length – starting from the existing Wandoan South Substation and traversing generally west to the proposed Dinoun South Substation before connecting into the proposed Yuleba North Substation.
- In October 2013, Powerlink released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed transmission line. The EIS advised that the alignment between Wandoan South and Dinoun South (approximately 28km) had been finalised through consultation with directly affected landowners (which represents more than 75% of the alignment). The report also advised that consultation and field investigations were ongoing for the proposed Yuleba North Substation and this would likely result in alignment changes between Yuleba North and Dinoun South (about 9km). Once finalised, an addendum to the Final EIS would be released confirming the final alignment for this short section of the proposed transmission line.
- The Addendum Report has now been completed for the transmission line alignment between the proposed Dinoun South and Yuleba North substations.
- The final alignment presented in the Addendum Report is a result of ongoing engagement with landowners whose properties are potentially affected by the proposed transmission line, and the recently confirmed location of the Yuleba North Substation (5.1km east of the Clifford-Yuleba Road and 3.1km west of Dinoun State Forest).
- The Addendum Report (to be read in conjunction with the Final EIS for the Wandoan South to Yuleba North Transmission Line Project) concludes that, provided Powerlink implements the recommendations outlined in the EIS report and the associated Environmental Management Plan (EMP), there are no social, environmental or economic factors that would prevent the project from proceeding.



Final alignment identified

Following the release of the Final EIS for the Wandoan South to Yuleba North Transmission Project, Powerlink continued to liaise with directly affected landowners to finalise the location of the proposed Yuleba North Substation, and accommodate the connecting Dinoun South to Yuleba North component of the transmission line. The Environmental Impact Assessment relating to the Yuleba North Substation is covered in a separate report, with this Final EIS having been released on 23 December 2013.

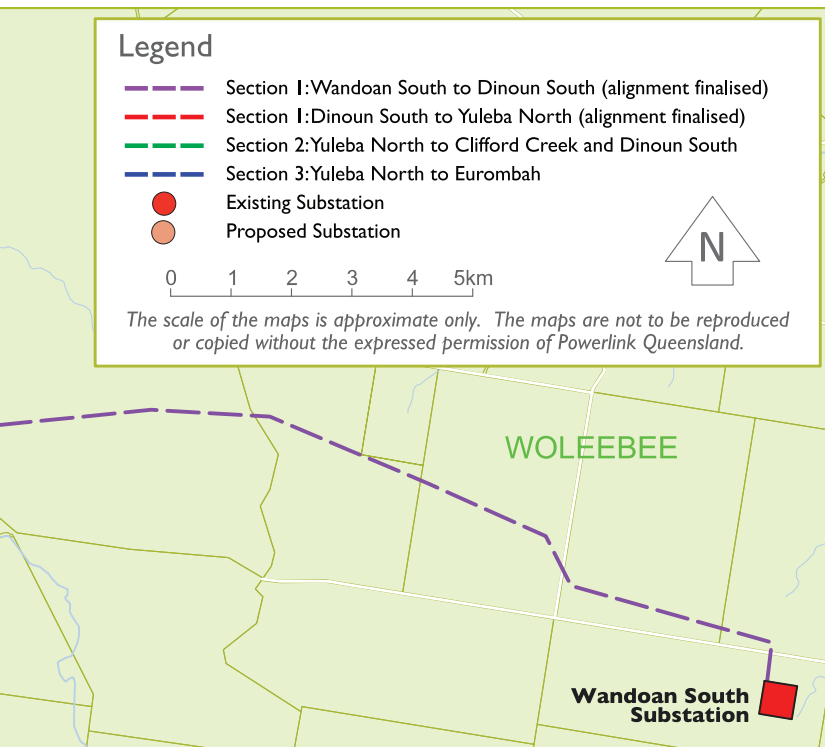
This has resulted in the relocation of the Yuleba North Substation approximately 800m north-east of the location shown in the Draft EIS. This has subsequently realigned the proposed transmission line between the Dinoun South and Yuleba North substations, in addition to minimising impacts to erosion prone areas, Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket (SEVT) and the location of farm and gas infrastructure.

In addition to the relocation of the proposed Yuleba North Substation, further consultation has been carried out with directly affected landowners to determine whether impacts on the dispersive soil/erosion prone areas, SEVT and the revised location of proposed gas infrastructure could be further minimised or avoided.

These ongoing investigations and further consultation has confirmed an alignment for this short section of the transmission line further to the north of the location presented in the Draft EIS released in April 2013.

In finalising the alignment, GHD carried out an assessment using 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 to determine the alignment which on balance has the lowest overall impact.

It was determined that moving the alignment to the north minimises social, environmental, and economic impacts, particularly in relation to SEVT, and farm and gas infrastructure.



Broader project Wandoan South to Eurombah Transmission Network Project



Project timetable – Transmission line between Dinoun South and Yuleba North substations

Activity	Expected timing
EIA process commenced	April 2012
Release Draft EIS for public comment	April 2013
Release Final EIS	October 2013
Release Addendum Report	February 2014
Survey activities	February 2014
Issue Notice of Proposed Designation (includes invitation for public submissions)	February 2014
Issue Notice of Intention to Resume (includes landowner objections)	March 2014
Compensation process underway	Mid 2014
Ministerial designation and resumption processes completed	Third quarter 2014
Commence construction of transmission line	Mid 2014
New transmission line expected to be completed	2015

Note: Completed activities are shown in grey.

Landowners and community thanked for their input

Powerlink would like to thank landowners, community members and other key stakeholders who assisted during this process and provided information which enabled the alignment to be finalised.

Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket

The protection of SEVT was identified as an area of importance for landowners and other key stakeholders during the EIA process.

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

For the transmission line alignment between Dinoun South and Yuleba North, SEVT has been specifically considered with amendments made where possible to avoid this important vegetation.

As such, investigations supported a move of the proposed transmission line to the north to ensure no areas of protected SEVT are impacted.

The next steps

With the Addendum Report for the Final EIS now completed, the next stage of the project (for the section between Dinoun South and Yuleba North) is for Powerlink to commence the Ministerial designation and resumption processes.

This process has already commenced for the Wandoan South to Dinoun South component of the project, in addition to the process of land resumption for the required land and easements in accordance with the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*.

The planning approval process, known as Ministerial designation, allows for infrastructure works to be built on specified land. This involves Powerlink asking the relevant State Government Minister (usually the Minister responsible for energy) to designate the land for 'community infrastructure' under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. To start this process, Powerlink will write to directly affected landowners and stakeholders this month advising of our intention to seek Ministerial designation. A public notice will also appear in local newspapers and invite submissions.

Landowners, community members and stakeholders will have an opportunity to make submissions on Powerlink's intention to apply for Ministerial designation. For detailed information on how to make a submission, please visit Powerlink's website www.powerlink.com.au – go to 'Projects/Southern/Wandoan South to Eurombah/Section I'.

Powerlink will shortly be contacting directly affected landowners to provide additional information about the resumption process.

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)

Email:
mbrown@powerlink.com.au

Website:
www.powerlink.com.au
(go to 'Projects/Southern/Wandoan South to Eurombah Transmission Network Project/Section I')

