

# Wandoan South to Eurombah Transmission Network Project

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



PROJECT NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER 2013

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

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### Final EIS now available

Copies of the report have been provided to landowners whose properties are directly-affected by the proposed transmission line, government agencies and other stakeholders. If you would like a copy of the report please:

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

Copies of the report can be viewed locally at Council libraries in Wandoan and Roma from Thursday, 14 November 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 other important 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 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 in to the proposed Yuleba North Substation.
- As part of the comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken for this project, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released for public comment in April 2013.
- All submissions on the Draft EIS have been reviewed, considered and addressed in the Final EIS which has now been published. Every submitter will receive a response to their submission.
- The alignment for the section of the proposed transmission line between Wandoan South and Dinoun South (approximately 28km) has been finalised through consultation with directly affected landowners. The Final EIS identifies the final alignment for this section of the line, which represents more than 75% of the total alignment (please refer to the map on pages 3 and 4).
- Landowner consultation and field investigations are ongoing for the proposed Yuleba North Substation (as the end point for this transmission line) and the short section of transmission line alignment (about 9km) between the proposed Dinoun South and Yuleba North substations. An addendum to this Final EIS will be released following finalisation of the location of this infrastructure.
- We thank landowners and stakeholders for their input into the project to date and will continue to work closely with affected landowners and stakeholders to minimise any inconvenience or impact from the project as it progresses. An overview of the project's next steps can be found on page 4.

## Final alignment identified

The Final EIS identifies the final alignment for the proposed 275kV transmission line between Powerlink's existing Wandoan South Substation and the proposed Dinoun South Substation – approximately 28km in length which accounts for more than 75% of the total alignment (refer to map on pages 3 and 4).

The alignment for the proposed transmission line extends generally west from the existing Wandoan South Substation to the proposed Dinoun South Substation and considers a range of landowner and environmental requirements.

Landowner consultation and field investigations are ongoing for the proposed Yuleba North Substation (as the end point for this transmission line). The finalisation of this substation will likely result in alignment changes between Yuleba North and Dinoun South (about 9km). When this occurs, an addendum to this EIS will be released. Finalising the location of the proposed Yuleba North Substation will not impact on the location of the transmission line between Wandoan South and Dinoun South, which is the focus of this EIS.

The Final EIS concludes that, provided Powerlink implements the recommendations outlined in the EIS report and the associated Final Environmental Management Plan (EMP), there are no social, environmental, or economic factors that would prevent the project from proceeding.



*The proposed Wandoan South to Yuleba North transmission line is expected to look similar to this steel tower transmission line located near Warra.*

## Landowners and community thanked for their input

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.

Community consultation was an important part of the process in preparing the Final EIS. Submissions were invited on the Draft EIS for a five week period during April and May 2013. The project's environmental specialist, GHD has comprehensively reviewed each submission received and details of how the submissions have been addressed are included in the Final EIS.

In addition, Powerlink's project team worked one-on-one with landowners to make further refinements to the proposed alignment including re-positioning of towers to minimise the overall impact including to farming operations, visual amenity and gas infrastructure.

Powerlink would like to thank those individuals and groups for their input.

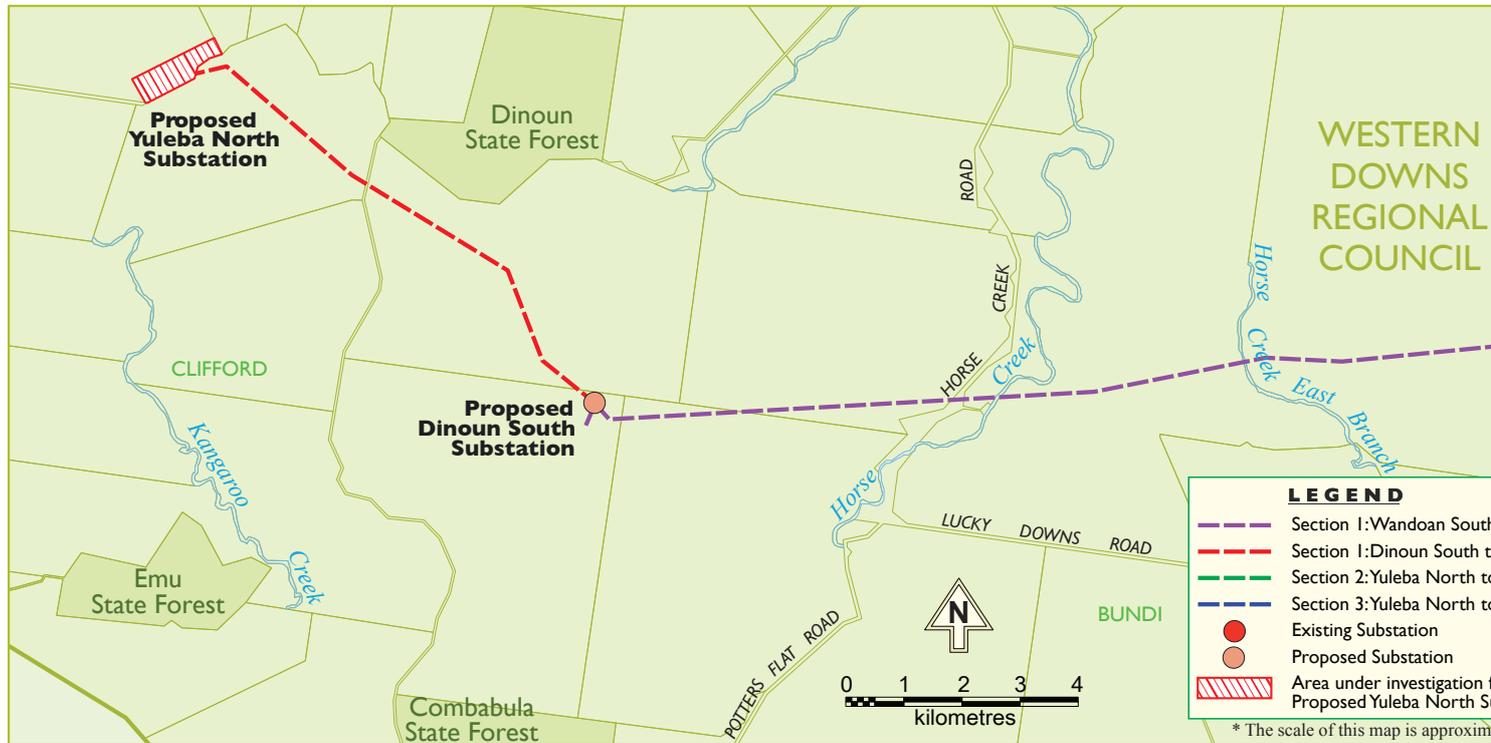
Since April 2012, consultation for the project has involved a range of activities including some that were implemented directly as result of landowner feedback:

- 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 a dedicated Local Relationship Manager who is 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 independent submission writer to support landowners
- providing timely information on the Powerlink and GHD websites
- advertising 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.

## Final alignment – Wandoan South to Dinoun South

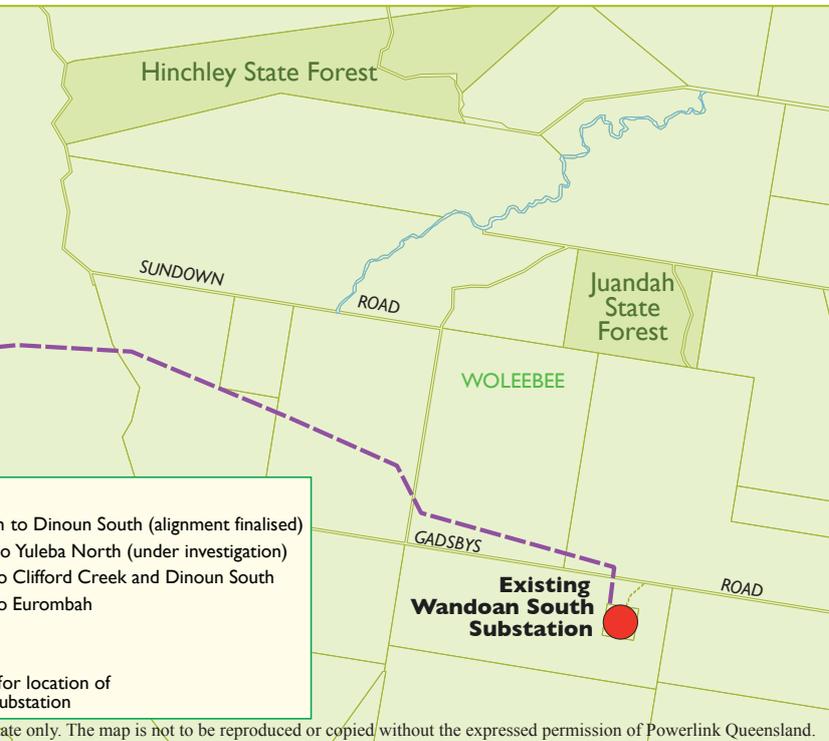
Please note: The 28km alignment from Wandoan South to Dinoun South is considered finalised. The 9km of alignment from Dinoun South to Yuleba North is currently being finalised.



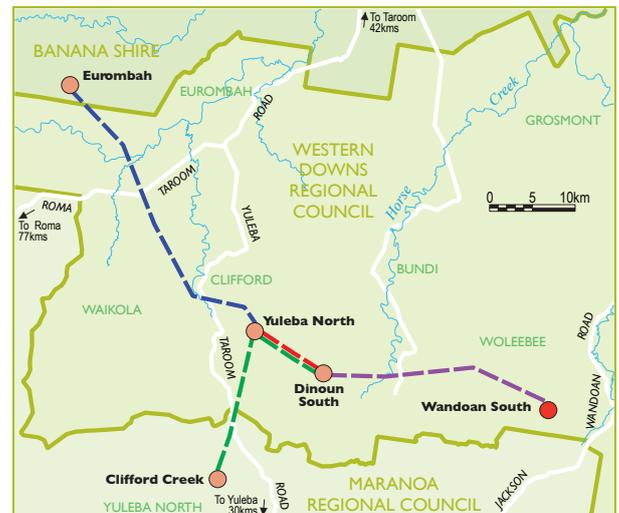
## Project timetable – Transmission line between Wandoan South to Dinoun South

Activity	Expected timing
EIA process commenced (includes consultation with landowners, stakeholders and the community)	April 2012
Draft EIS released for public comment	April 2013
Final EIS released	October 2013
Issue Notice of Proposed Designation (includes invitation for public submissions)	November 2013
Issue Notice of Intention to Resume (includes landowner submissions)	November 2013
Ministerial designation and resumption processes completed	Mid 2014
Compensation process underway	Mid 2014
Commence construction of transmission line	Mid 2014
New transmission line expected to be completed	Early 2015

Note: Completed activities are shown in grey.



## Broader project Wandoan South to Eurombah Transmission Network Project



## Next steps

The next step of the project (for the finalised section between Wandoan South and Dinoun South) is to apply for Ministerial 'community infrastructure' designation, which is a planning approval process under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.

Powerlink will also begin the process of land resumption in accordance with the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*. All landowners directly-affected by resumption will be entitled to claim compensation and Powerlink will continue discussions at this time.

For detailed information on how to make submissions on Powerlink's proposed designation, please see the enclosed fact sheet. Directly-affected landowners will also receive additional information about the resumption process.

Powerlink will shortly be contacting directly-affected landowners to discuss these processes, answer any questions, and provide support.

**Please note: Ministerial designation and resumption processes for the section of alignment between Dinoun South and Yuleba North will commence following the finalisation of the Yuleba North Substation Final EIS and alignments (expected to be late 2013).**

## Update on the broader project

The Wandoan South to Yuleba North Transmission Line Project is one section of a broader project to establish direct connections into the high voltage transmission network to supply power to APLNG's future gas facilities. The overall network extension involves about 100km of transmission line and four substations the area west of Wandoan, east of Injune and north of the Warrego Highway.

We recognise that what matters to landowners and other stakeholders within this broad geographic area will vary, which is why the overall network extension has been divided into three sections (as outlined in the map above). This approach ensures landowners and other stakeholders receive information in a manageable way, and can comment on matters that are most relevant to them which also assists in minimising the consultation fatigue being experienced by landowners in the region.

## Final EIS addresses matters of interest

An important part of finalising the EIS involves considering and addressing the submissions received on the Draft EIS. A selection of the matters raised in submissions and addressed in the Final EIS is provided below.

### 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 transmission lines and substations. The measures adopted on each Powerlink project includes appropriate low fire risk infrastructure design, developing project specific strategies throughout the EIA, and preparing ongoing operational and maintenance strategies.

For this project, the height of the conductors above the ground, the clearances maintained between the conductors and adjacent vegetation, and the selection of equipment are 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 and personnel are trained in the use of such equipment. Once the transmission line has been constructed, 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.

Powerlink has committed to working with landowners whose properties may be affected by more than one transmission line to support the development of an appropriate fire management plan in collaboration with an appropriate Natural Resource Management (NRM) group.

In addition, Powerlink recognises and understands interest from landowners in relation to smoking on their properties and if a landowner advises that smoking is not to occur on their property, measures will be implemented to ensure that all Powerlink personnel and representatives accessing the property are aware of this requirement.

### Weed management

Powerlink understands weed management is a high priority for landowners and the community. We share this focus and take our environmental obligations seriously. Under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, we have a duty to effectively manage and prevent the impacts of weeds in association with our activities. Our approach to declared plant (weed) management is guided by the *Queensland Energy Network Environment Forum (QENEF) Biosecurity Guidelines* which are based on current government agency regulatory requirements.

We value the input and local knowledge of landowners, which is why consultation with landowners is carried out as part of each stage of our approach to weed management. 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 environmental issue that Powerlink will manage throughout the lifecycle of the transmission line.

The EMP prepared for this project outlines particular measures to manage the introduction and spread of weeds throughout the project's lifecycle. Measures include:

- A vehicle hygiene program, such as mobile washdown facilities, at locations to be decided when access tracks, final alignments and weed extents have been confirmed.
- Management of information on weed locations and controls in a land information system.
- Weed audits prior and post construction to determine any impact of the project on weed dispersion and establishment, and the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures.
- Undertaking nationally recognised vehicle washdown training.
- In the event of a biosecurity outbreak, Powerlink will engage the relevant NRM group (e.g. QMDC) to investigate and recommend a suitable resolution.
- Preparation of individual property Weed Management Plans in consultation with landowners.
- Other measures as outlined in the Final EIS.

## Frequently asked questions?

*Why has the Final EIS been published now instead of when the Yuleba North Substation location is finalised?*

The proposed Wandoan South to Yuleba North Transmission Line Project involves the development of a transmission line between Wandoan South Substation and the proposed Yuleba North Substation (about 37km in length), which passes adjacent to the proposed Dinoun South Substation.

Consultation and investigations relating to the section of transmission line corridor between Wandoan South Substation and the proposed Dinoun South Substation have been completed. Consultation and investigations on the proposed Yuleba North Substation are ongoing and the separate EIS for this substation project is expected to be finalised in late 2013. The finalisation of the Yuleba North Substation EIS will likely result in alignment changes between Yuleba North and Dinoun South, when this occurs an addendum to this EIS will be released.

There are several reasons why Powerlink has taken this approach. This approach provides certainty to the large majority of landowners who are potentially affected by this proposed transmission line and who have worked with us to identify and confirm an alignment. It also provides for consultation to continue in relation to the proposed Yuleba North Substation and the short section of alignment from Dinoun South. Powerlink also has an agreement with APLNG to provide high voltage electricity connections to its gas facilities west of Wandoan and this approach enables us to deliver on these commitments.

*I am a landowner on the Dinoun South to Yuleba North alignment. What does this mean for me?*

Consultation and investigations on the proposed Yuleba North Substation (as the end point for this transmission line) are ongoing and the separate EIS for this substation project is expected to be finalised in late 2013. The finalisation of the Yuleba North Substation EIS will likely result in alignment changes between Dinoun South and Yuleba North (about 9km) and when this occurs, an addendum to this EIS will be released.

Following the addendum being published, Powerlink will commence with the Ministerial designation and resumption processes (expected to be early 2014). At this time, landowners affected by the alignment from Dinoun South to Yuleba North will receive detailed information from Powerlink about these notices and the next steps.

*What about compensation?*

Powerlink will soon arrange for a Powerlink valuer to visit each property and assess the impact of the proposed transmission line (between Wandoan South and Dinoun South). Powerlink will be making a written compensation offer to each landowner. Concurrently, landowners are 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 transmission line may begin before a compensation settlement is reached. Landowners will be paid interest on the compensation amount and interest will be calculated and paid from the date of gazettal.

## 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](mailto:mbrown@powerlink.com.au)

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[www.powerlink.com.au](http://www.powerlink.com.au)  
(go to 'Projects/Southern/Wandoan South to Eurombah Transmission Network Project/Section 1')

