About Powerlink

Powerlink is a leading Australian provider of high voltage electricity transmission services. We have a strong history of connecting customers and generators, providing electricity to almost four million people and large energy users.

Our extensive experience has delivered more than 30 large and complex connections for major energy users and producers in the past 15 years. We combine innovation with insight to deliver safe, cost effective and reliable solutions.

Our expert teams have experience connecting all types of generators, including solar, wind, thermal, gas and hydro electric, as well as large loads. Helping the energy system as it transitions to a lower carbon future is a key focus for Powerlink.

Indicative Connection Voltages

Connection voltage level is guided by the intended scale of operation and network location. Specific sites may vary.

**Distribution Network Service Provider**
(DNSP - Ergon Energy, Energex and Essential Energy)

- **<50MW**
  - 11kV, 33kV and 66kV connections

- **50MW–150MW**
  - 110kV and 132kV connections

- **>150MW**
  - 275kV and 330kV connections

**Transmission Network Service Provider**
(TNSP - Powerlink)

- **Powerlink transmission network**
- **Ergon Energy distribution network**
- **Energex distribution network**
- **Essential Energy distribution network**
- **Locality**
Network connection process overview

The following flowchart provides an overview of the steps for progressing a potential network connection. Depending on location and the status of the project, it may take up to 18 months for a standard wind or solar farm to be connected from enquiry stage to final commissioning (not including any land acquisition).

**Indicative timeframes**

- Concept stage: as needed
- Connection enquiry stage: 2-6 months
- Application to connect stage: 6-18 months
- Connection acceptance stage: 1-3 months
- Construct and commission stage: 9-24 months

**Indicative costs to customer**

- No cost to customer
- $10-50k determined by customer requirement
- $80k

**Rules/Laws**

- No NER
- NER 5.3.2
- NER 5.3.4
- NER 5.3.6
- NER 5.8

**Customer actions**

- Contacts Powerlink to discuss options
- Makes a connection enquiry
- Makes an application to connect
- Enters into a Connection and Access Agreement with Powerlink
- Coordination delivery with Powerlink
- Issues Offer Letter and executes Connection and Access Agreement
- 1. Delivers the connection
- 2. Commencement of connection charges

**Powerlink actions**

- 1. Early technical engagement
- 2. High level scope and process overview
- 1. Confirm correct network service provider connection
- 2. Scopes refinement
- 1. Estimating
- 2. Assess performance standards
- 3. Integrate Connection and Access Agreement
- 4. Assess land and approval requirements
- 1-3 months
- 9-24 months
- Connection charges**
- Customer provides financial security
- NER 5.3.6
- NER 5.8

**Typical network connection configuration and services**

- **Powerlink site** (substation)
- **Customer site** (e.g. wind/solar farm)

  - **Prescribed**
    - Existing regulated network paid for by all consumers (excluding generators).
  - **Negotiated**
    - Asset is exclusively for the customer connection and is supplied and installed by Powerlink. The customer pays this cost.
  - **Non-regulated**
    - Asset is contestable and can be built by an appropriately qualified provider.

**Notes:**

- * Application fee in accordance with NER 5.2.4.
- ** Includes repayment of capital, operation, maintenance and refurbishment of assets.

Connections Expertise

Having delivered more network connections on a commercial basis than any other transmission company in Australia, we have the industry intelligence and business acumen to deliver strategic advice and practical connection solutions.

We provide our customers with advice early-on regarding potential connection options, to efficiently and confidently progress projects with certainty. Our expertise continues throughout all project phases to effectively manage and deliver design, construction, testing, commissioning and handover of high voltage transmission line, substation and telecommunications network assets.

We provide:

- Flexibility, certainty and solutions, delivered on time
- Technical expertise at the right price
Confidentiality

Powerlink respects the confidentiality associated with prospective network connections, in accordance with the National Electricity Rules (NER 5.3.8).

Delivering innovative solutions for our customers

In addition to network connection expertise, Powerlink has strong experience across the full spectrum of electricity transmission and associated services. This underpins our ability to efficiently and consistently deliver successful results for our customers.

For further information on these services, please view Powerlink’s ‘Our Services’ brochure, available on our website: www.powerlink.com.au.

Contact Powerlink

Please contact us for more information on Powerlink’s services:

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Relevant links

To further assist with your understanding of our connections process, please visit these websites:

- Registration information for the Australian Energy Market Operator (including guidelines, forms and the Performance Standards Template) – www.aemo.com.au