

Proposed Genex Kidston Connection Project

Preparation of the Draft Environmental Assessment Report



MAY 2018

About Powerlink

Powerlink is a leading Australian provider of high voltage electricity transmission network services, delivering safe, cost effective and reliable solutions. Our transmission network extends 1,700 kilometres from north of Cairns to the New South Wales border.

Enabling a renewable energy economy is a key focus for Powerlink. Transmission networks will play a vital role in facilitating new, large-scale renewable and low emissions generation. Powerlink is well placed to support the development of renewable energy sources and deliver efficient connections for large-scale renewable generators to the National Electricity Market.

About the Kidston Hydro-Solar Project

Genex Power's proposed Kidston Hydro-Solar Project is a renewable energy generation project comprising pumped hydro and solar, with the capacity to generate up to 520 megawatts of energy. The project site is located at the former Kidston Gold Mine, about 270 kilometres north-west of Townsville.

For more information on the project, visit www.genexpower.com.au.

Key points

- Since late 2016, Powerlink has been undertaking a range of activities to investigate the development of a 275kV electricity transmission line and associated substations to connect Genex Power's (Genex's) renewable energy generation project at Kidston to the National Electricity Market.
- These activities include engaging with landholders and stakeholders about the project, the location of proposed infrastructure and completing preliminary environmental and technical assessments.
- We would like to thank landholders and stakeholders for continuing to work constructively with Powerlink.
- Powerlink has now been engaged by Genex to commence preparing an Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) for the proposed project. This newsletter provides further information about this important step, including the opportunity for landholders and stakeholders to provide input on the Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the report – with submissions due to Powerlink by 5pm Friday 25 May 2018.
- Although these activities are progressing, it is important to note that no final decisions have been made regarding future stages of the project. We expect more information to become available in the coming months and will continue to keep you informed.
- If the project proceeds, other activities such as planning approval (under the Infrastructure Designation process outlined in the *Planning Act 2016*), easement negotiation and acquisition, and construction will involve additional engagement and consultation opportunities for landholders and stakeholders.

Current status

- Powerlink has met with all landholders affected by the proposed transmission line and substation locations to understand their property operations and matters of importance, and seek their input to refine the potential location of this infrastructure.
- Following our engagement activities, a number of amendments have been made to the location of the proposed infrastructure. Landholders and stakeholders have indicated their support for co-locating the proposed transmission line with the existing Ergon Energy 66kV powerline to Greenvale and 132kV powerline to Kidston. This co-location approach was confirmed within Powerlink's Final Corridor Selection Report, which was finalised in February 2017 and is available on Powerlink's website www.powerlink.com.au.



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Current status (continued)

- Powerlink has recently engaged a cadastral surveyor to undertake preliminary work to install survey control points and identify property boundaries. This initial survey work allows Powerlink to prepare accurate property maps to facilitate future survey of the transmission line easement and future compensation discussions, if the project progresses.
- Over the coming months, Powerlink will require access to properties to finalise the environmental, cultural heritage and technical assessments to inform development of the Draft EAR. Our project team is progressively contacting landholders to arrange access and will also be present at these site visits to ensure compliance with property access conditions. We appreciate landholders' continued cooperation in working alongside Powerlink to complete these important assessments.

Preparing the Draft EAR

Powerlink has been engaged by Genex to prepare a Draft EAR for the project. The Draft EAR will examine the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the proposed infrastructure and outline the actions required to manage and/or mitigate these impacts. The report will consider these factors together to identify a draft alignment for the proposed transmission line and draft locations for the substations which on balance have the lowest overall impact.

Have your say on the Draft ToR

To guide development of the Draft EAR, Powerlink has prepared a Draft ToR and invites landholders and stakeholders to provide comment.

The Draft ToR outlines the potential environmental, social and economic matters that will be examined in the environmental report. We recognise there may be matters of particular importance to landholders and stakeholders. To ensure these matters are considered in the Draft EAR, we invite you to have your say on the Draft ToR. Please let us know if you have any feedback on the document.

The Draft ToR is attached to this newsletter and can also be obtained from Powerlink's website (www.powerlink.com.au). Submissions on the Draft ToR should be received by Powerlink by **5pm on Friday 25 May 2018** and can be emailed or posted to:

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All comments will be considered by Powerlink when preparing the Final ToR. We will provide a response to any feedback received and the Final ToR will form part of the Draft EAR.

Future step – Consulting on the Draft EAR

Powerlink expects to release the Draft EAR as part of the broader Infrastructure Designation process as the project progresses over the next few months. The report will be provided to all affected landholders and stakeholders who will be invited to make a formal submission. It will also be advertised in local newspapers, available on the Powerlink website and accessible at Community Information Drop-In Sessions that will be conducted throughout the project area.


Once finalised and subject to the project proceeding, the report will be submitted to the Queensland Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning for consideration and approval by the Minister under the Infrastructure Designation provisions of the *Planning Act 2016*.



Further information

For further information on the Proposed Genex Kidston Connection Project, please contact:

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