

Proposed Genex Kidston Connection Project

Draft Environmental Assessment Report Release



SEPTEMBER 2018

About Powerlink

Powerlink is a leading provider of electricity transmission services, delivering safe, cost effective and reliable network 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 Renewable Energy Hub

Genex Power Limited (Genex) is developing the Kidston Renewable Energy Hub, a combination solar and hydro pump storage power generation facility at Kidston, approximately 270km north-west of Townsville. This facility is proposed to connect to the National Electricity Market via a new 275kV electricity transmission line and substations, collectively referred to as the Genex Kidston Connection Project. Powerlink is the proponent of this electrical infrastructure project.

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

Key points

- Powerlink has been engaged by Genex to prepare a Draft Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) for a proposed 275kV electricity transmission line connection and associated substations to support Genex's renewable energy generation project at Kidston. The Draft EAR is an important step in the detailed environmental assessment under the *Planning Act 2016*.
- Extensive consultation has been undertaken with all potentially affected landholders and stakeholders to provide an overview of the project, understand likely property impacts and identify measures to mitigate the impact of the project.
- Powerlink appreciates the cooperation from landholders to allow access to their properties for a range of environmental and technical assessments.
- From this engagement and research, a draft alignment for the transmission line and location for the two substations has been identified and is shown in the **Draft EAR which has now been publicly released.**
- **Submissions on the Draft EAR are invited by Friday 2 November 2018.**
- There are upcoming community information drop-in sessions about the Draft EAR.
- No final decisions have been made regarding future stages of Genex's renewable generation project. We are continuing to work alongside Genex to support their project planning activities. We expect more information to become available in the coming months and will continue to keep landholders informed.



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Draft EAR available for comment

The Draft EAR for the proposed Genex Kidston Connection Project is now available for review and public comment.

Electronic copies of the Draft EAR have been provided to potentially directly affected landholders and other stakeholders including key government, industry and peak bodies.

Hard copies of the report can also be viewed at the Greenvale Post Office, Hinchinbrook Shire Council's Customer Service Centre at Ingham, Charters Towers Regional Council's Administration Centre at Charters Towers, and Etheridge Shire Council's Shire Office at Georgetown.

To obtain a copy of the Draft EAR:

- visit the Powerlink website at www.powerlink.com.au/genex-kidston
- visit the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning website at <https://planning.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/id-consultations>
- if you prefer a USB electronic version or a hard copy please email us at pqenquiries@powerlink.com.au or phone FREECALL 1800 635 369.

Making a submission on the Draft EAR

Submissions on the Draft EAR are invited and must be received by the Planning Minister by Friday 2 November 2018.

Submissions must be lodged to the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning by:

- using the electronic form located at <https://planning.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/id-consultations>
- emailing to infrastructuredesignation@dsdmip.qld.gov.au or
- posting to PO Box 15009, City East, QLD, 4002.

About the Draft EAR

The Draft EAR has been prepared using information gathered from landholder and stakeholder engagement, research, investigations and field surveys.

The draft report identifies the draft alignment for the proposed transmission line and proposed location for the substation sites. This alignment is predominantly co-located with existing Ergon Energy powerlines where possible which minimises impacts to the environment and community.

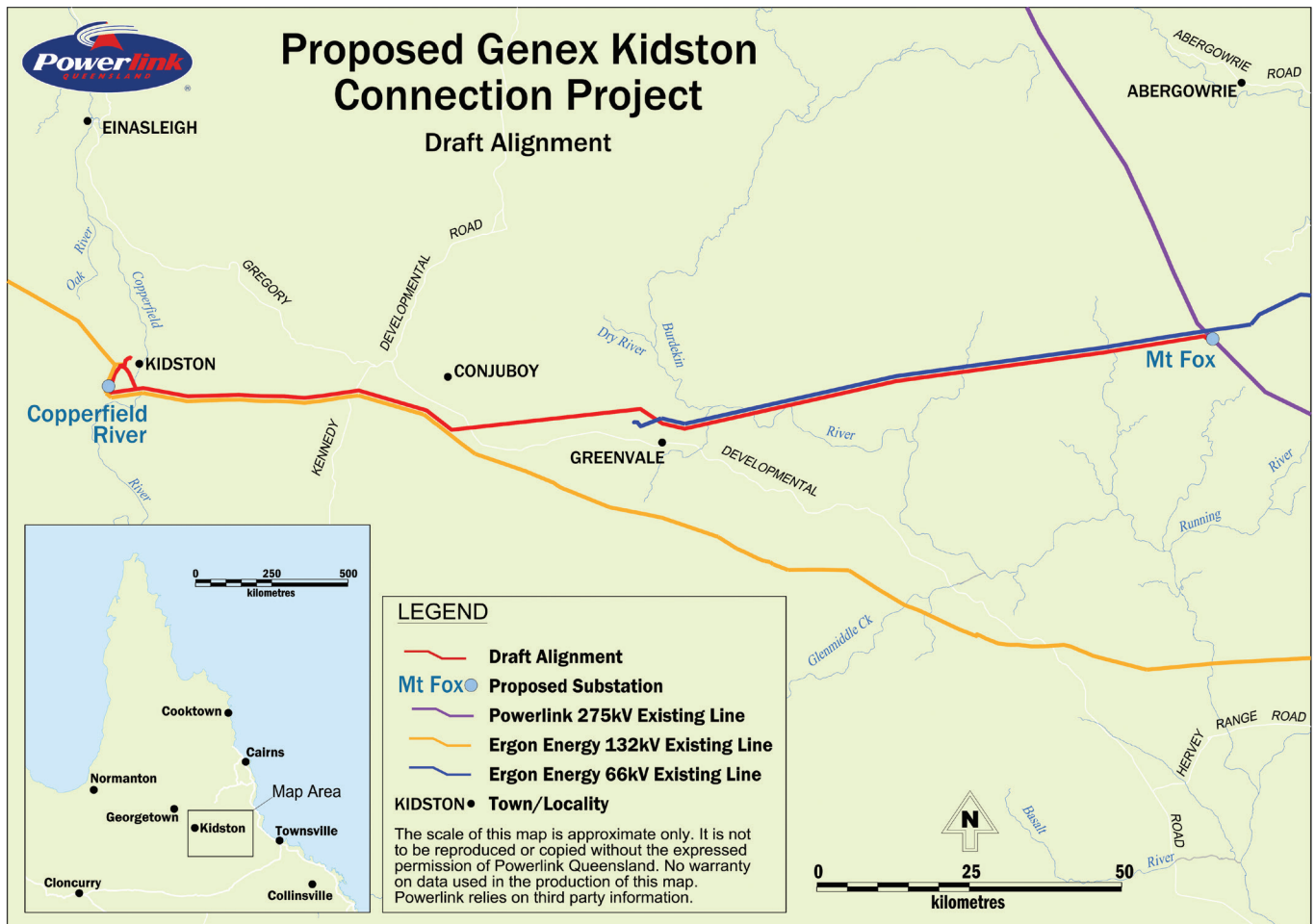
The Draft EAR assesses the potential social, environmental and economic impacts of the proposed transmission line and substations, and outlines how those impacts will be managed or mitigated. It concludes that, based on the studies undertaken to date, provided Powerlink implements the recommendations outlined in the Draft EAR and associated Draft Environmental Management Plans, there are no social, environmental or economic factors that would prevent the connection project from proceeding.

Writing a submission on the Draft EAR

Landholders and stakeholders are invited to make a submission on any of the topics in the Draft EAR that are of interest to them. As a guide, the table below lists the topics most often raised by landholders during engagement with Powerlink and where to find information about those topics in the Draft EAR.

Topics most frequently raised by landholders	Related sections of the Draft EAR
Potential impacts to property operations	Chapter 13
Biosecurity	Chapter 12
Compensation	Chapters 3, 15, 27
Existing infrastructure and topography	Chapters 3, 4, 14, 15, 20, 24
Co-location with Ergon Energy powerlines	Chapters 3, 13, 15, 20, 24, 25
Local benefits from the project	Chapter 15

Draft alignment



Community information drop-in sessions

Powerlink invites landholders, stakeholders and interested community members to discuss the Draft EAR and the proposed connection project at our community information drop-in sessions.

At these sessions, you can speak individually with our project team members, including staff from Powerlink and environmental specialist AECOM, who were engaged to prepare the EAR.

You can visit us at the following locations:

Date	Drop-in time	Venue and location
Tuesday 16 October 2018	9am – 12pm	Mount Fox Lions Club Camping area opposite Mount Fox State School. 2957 Mount Fox Road, Mount Fox.
Wednesday 17 October 2018	9am – 12pm	Powerlink Project Office, Greenvale Progress Association Building. 2 Acacia Drive, Greenvale.
Thursday 18 October 2018	9am – 12pm	Oasis Roadhouse, The Lynd. Kennedy Developmental Road, Conjuboy.

Next steps

- Submissions on the Draft EAR will be acknowledged by the Planning Minister and will be provided to Powerlink for consideration.
- Powerlink will provide an individual response to each submission on the Draft EAR.
- Powerlink will prepare a Final EAR, which will address the submissions on the Draft EAR. The Final EAR will then be submitted to the Planning Minister for final detailed assessment.
- Prior to making an Infrastructure Designation for the proposal, the Planning Minister will write to all directly affected landholders and local councils inviting submissions on the proposed Infrastructure Designation. The Minister will consider these submissions when making the decision to designate the land. The final decision is published on the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning website and in the Queensland Government Gazette and directly affected landholders, councils and Powerlink are notified.
- No decision will be made about the final route for the proposed transmission line and substation locations until an Infrastructure Designation is made by the Planning Minister.
- Powerlink will continue to keep landholders and stakeholders informed about the proposed connection project.
- If the proposed connection project proceeds, other activities such as easement acquisition, compensation negotiations and construction will include additional engagement and consultation opportunities for landholders and stakeholders.

Compensation

If the connection project proceeds, compensation will be payable to landholders whose properties are traversed by the transmission line easements. Powerlink provides compensation to directly affected landholders in accordance with the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*.

Powerlink will reimburse landholders for reasonable professional fees to access expert legal, valuation, tax and agronomy advice relating to compensation matters. Wherever possible, we seek to reach a voluntary negotiated settlement with each landholder and work closely with them to fully quantify the impacts of the connection project on their property and its operations.


In late 2018, we plan to contact directly affected landholders to arrange inspections of their property by a valuer and construction personnel. These inspections will be undertaken with the landholder and enable us to develop and present a compensation offer to each landholder with the aim of reaching voluntary settlements in early to mid 2019.



Further Information

For more information on the proposed Genex Kidston Connection Project, please contact:

Murray Abel
Manager Landholder Relations
Ph: (07) 3860 2377
Email: mabel@powerlink.com.au

 **FREECALL: 1800 635 369**
(business hours)

 pqenquiries@powerlink.com.au

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