

# Network Development Process



## About this brochure

This brochure provides an outline of our landholder engagement and planning approval process. We undertake extensive consultation with affected landholders and other stakeholders to ensure we have considered all relevant matters in determining the most appropriate location for the proposed infrastructure.

Alternative approval pathways may be followed (for example development application) where a customer assumes responsibility for the planning and development of transmission infrastructure.

## Landholder engagement and planning approval process

Much like obtaining approval to build a house, we seek town planning and environmental approvals prior to constructing new electricity infrastructure. Given the nature of this infrastructure, we typically seek approvals at the State and Federal Government level.

The landholder engagement and planning approval steps that we follow for large projects are outlined below and are in accordance with the Infrastructure Designation process in the Queensland Government's *Planning Act 2016*.

Our Landholder Relations team will take you through the process and are happy to assist with any queries you may have throughout the process.

## Infrastructure Designation Process

### STEP 1

Introduce the project to landholders and other stakeholders

*Opportunity for landholders and other stakeholders to provide preliminary input*

We contact potentially affected landholders and other stakeholders to provide an overview of the project. Matters discussed typically include:

- project needs
- timeframes
- approval requirements and processes
- management of property impacts
- construction activities
- operation and maintenance
- land acquisition and compensation process.

### STEP 2

Understand and incorporate landholder and other stakeholders requirements

*Opportunity for landholders and other stakeholders to provide continual input*

Our team works closely with potentially affected landholders and other stakeholders to understand and address matters of importance to them.

### STEP 3

Initial field assessments

With landholder approval, we undertake initial on-ground assessments to understand environmental, social, physical and economic aspects of the proposed project.

### STEP 4

Corridor Selection Report

*Opportunity for landholders and other stakeholders to provide input*

Information gathered from Steps 1-3 forms the basis of the Draft Corridor Selection Report. This document outlines the assessments undertaken so far and compares potential transmission line corridors. From this analysis, a study corridor is recommended within which the transmission line will potentially be located. The study corridor can be several kilometres wide to allow flexibility in the final location of the transmission line based on ongoing engagement and further detailed studies.

Landholders and other stakeholders are provided with a copy of the Draft Corridor Selection Report and invited to make comment on the suitability of its findings.

All submissions are considered by us and further consultation may be undertaken with submitters to better understand and address any matters raised.

The Corridor Selection Report is then finalised and released to landholders and other stakeholders. It is also available publicly on our website.

## STEP 5

Prepare draft environmental assessment report

*Opportunity for landholders and other stakeholders to provide formal comment*

We work closely with landholders within the study corridor to identify a suitable alignment for the proposed transmission line. A range of detailed on-ground assessments are also undertaken.

A draft environmental assessment report is then prepared which examines the environmental, social, physical and economic aspects of the study corridor. The report considers these factors together to identify a draft alignment for the proposed transmission line and/or draft location for a substation which on balance has the lowest overall impact.

Copies of the draft report are provided to directly affected landholders and other stakeholders including key government, industry and peak bodies. Public submissions on the report are assessed by the Queensland Government. Powerlink also reviews each submission and provides a response explaining how each matter has been considered.

## STEP 6

Finalise the environmental report

We prepare the final environmental assessment report addressing matters raised in submissions and any other matters raised in the consultation process.

Then we submit the final environmental assessment report and other supporting documents to the State Government requesting designation of the land required for the proposed works.

## STEP 7

State Government Approval

*Opportunity for affected parties to provide formal comment*

The State Government assesses the final environmental assessment report and invites directly affected landholders and local governments to make a submission on our proposal.

All submissions are considered. If the State Government decides to approve the project, the decision is published in the Queensland Government Gazette. Relevant local governments, directly affected landholders and Powerlink are notified.

## STEP 8

Easement Acquisition

It is our standard practice to negotiate with landholders regarding compensation to acquire the land and easements required for new transmission infrastructure. These negotiations typically commence once the environmental assessment report has been finalised (Step 6). If negotiations reach a mutually acceptable outcome, formal documentation will be signed and compensation will be paid.

Depending on the individual circumstances and to ensure the timely delivery of the project, prior to negotiations concluding, Powerlink may also begin the relevant legislative process to resume the land necessary for the project.

## STEP 9

Construction

We are committed to ongoing communication and engagement with landholders and other stakeholders throughout the construction phase.

We contact landholders to provide details about proposed construction works, confirm access arrangements and property-specific issues, and discuss planning to reduce impacts.

## STEP 10

Operation and Maintenance

Access for maintenance activities is undertaken in accordance with agreed property specific requirements.

## Contact Us

Further information about Powerlink and our projects can be downloaded from [www.powerlink.com.au](http://www.powerlink.com.au)

General Enquiries FREECALL 1800 635 369 (during business hours) and ask for Property Services

In case of emergency FREECALL 1800 353 031 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

Email [Property@powerlink.com.au](mailto:Property@powerlink.com.au)

[www.powerlink.com.au](http://www.powerlink.com.au) | [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [v](#)



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