

Foreword



Connecting Queenslanders to a world-class energy future

The electricity system is rapidly transforming and Powerlink, as the Jurisdictional Planning Body for Queensland, is committed to connecting Queenslanders to a world-class energy future.

Queensland is at the forefront globally with the rapid uptake of rooftop photovoltaic systems and has one of the highest per capita rates in the world. In this new energy world, as we experience unprecedented changes to electricity generation across the State, Powerlink is focussed on ensuring the transmission network is safe, reliable, fit-for-purpose, cost effective and strategically placed to enable the transformation to an energy system with much greater levels of Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) generation.

Queensland continues to be an attractive location for large VRE generation development projects with considerable interest from companies all over the world. Since publication of the 2020 Transmission Annual Planning Report (TAPR), Powerlink has completed five projects to connect new VRE and BESS developments which are expected to add 958MW of potential generation capacity. Powerlink has also received 23 formal applications for further connections.

In collaboration with the Queensland Government and industry, we are enabling the establishment of Queensland's first Renewable Energy Zone by the end of 2023 which will unlock up to 500MW of renewable capacity in northern Queensland. This will provide opportunities for both industry and local communities in the region, drive economic growth and support the Queensland Government's target of 50% renewable energy by 2030.

We are well prepared for the future. Powerlink has actively engaged with key stakeholders exploring new and alternate technologies, distributed energy resources and opportunities for battery storage to develop strategies which identify optimal electricity supply development pathways. This will help realise Queensland's untapped energy potential and drive positive outcomes for Queenslanders throughout the State.

Looking out over a 10-year period, the TAPR provides information on energy and demand forecasts, committed generation and current projects. It identifies key areas of possible future transmission network investments as well as potential non-network solution opportunities, which will guide and inform the development of Queensland's future transmission network topography.

As always, our focus remains on providing safe, reliable and cost effective electricity to five million Queenslanders and 238,000 businesses. I trust our 2021 TAPR provides you with useful information about Powerlink's transmission network and the potential opportunities that await as we shift to the new energy future.

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