



Summary

November 2022

TRANSMISSION

NETWORK FORUM

Powerlink hosted its annual Transmission Network Forum on Friday 4 November 2022. The forum was held as a hybrid event, allowing more regional and interstate stakeholders to join along with in-person attendees.

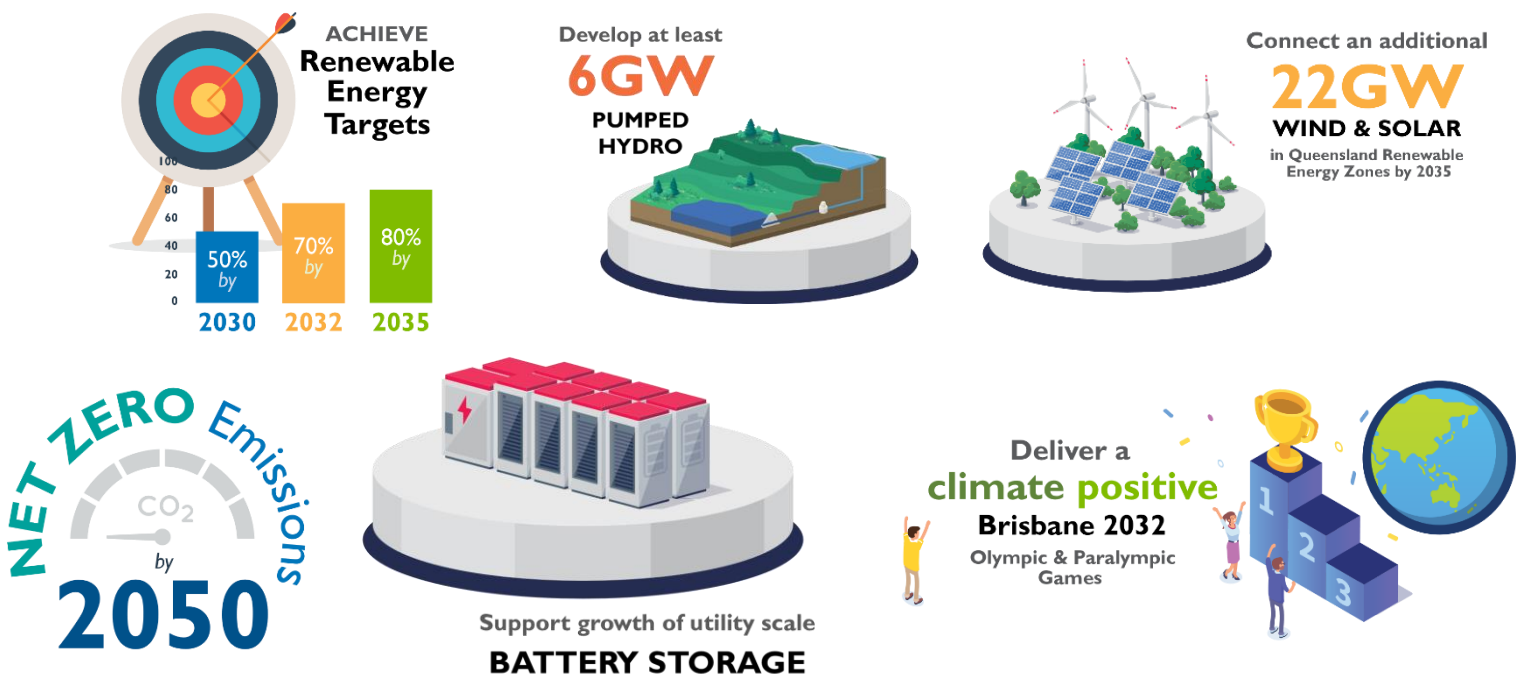
The record attendance of more than 450 registered participants reinforced the important role the transmission network will play in the future of energy in Queensland and the wider National Electricity Market.



This year's forum had a firm focus on Powerlink's response to the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (QEJP) released by the Queensland Government in September 2022.

The QEJP applies a whole-of-system planning approach, setting out the pathways and targets (as shown below) that will facilitate a low carbon economy in the future and ensure an orderly, least-cost transformation of Queensland's power system.

The forum included a video address from Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement the Hon. Mick de Brenni MP. The Minister provided an update on the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan and the delivery of nation building infrastructure in terms of transmission network.



“*There’s never been a more exciting time to be a part of Queensland’s Energy Future.*”

Paul Simshauser, CE, Powerlink



Powerlink Chief Executive Paul Simshauser delivered a 'State of the Network' address, sharing insights into the key challenges and opportunities for Queensland’s transmission network, including firming supply to meet demand and the importance of storage and scale on a largely renewable-based grid.

View the video from this session on our website: powerlink.com.au/2022-transmission-network-forum

Based on feedback from previous forums, we included an Industry Panel this year, providing an opportunity for our stakeholders to hear from key experts from across the industry.

INDUSTRY PANEL

The industry panel was moderated by Powerlink's Jacqui Bridge, Executive General Manager Energy Futures, and provided great insights on aspects of the QEJP from a range of different perspectives.

Panel members included:

- Lynne Gallagher – Chief Executive Officer, Energy Consumers Australia
- Andrew Bray – National Director, RE-Alliance
- Andrew Richards – Chief Executive Officer, Energy Users Association of Australia





From their perspective, each panel member shared the most important aspect to get right in the delivery of the Plan:

- Pricing and cost efficiency
- Transparency and accountability
- Allocation of costs and need to be flexible and agile
- The need for strong positive community engagement

ADDITIONAL PANEL THEMES INCLUDED

- Working on the community and stakeholder engagement aspects now
- The importance of engagement at local levels in impacted communities
- Tapping into people's sense of place and connection to land
- Uplifts in compensation for impacted landholders
- Having a coordinated approach to timelines and delivery

The industry panel perspectives combined with key themes in the CE's presentation showed a strong alignment in focus and priorities.

View the video from this session on our website: powerlink.com.au/2022-transmission-network-forum

“Deliberative and collaborative conversation during early engagement with communities is critical”

Andrew Bray, National Director, RE-Alliance

“Social licence can derail the process”

Andrew Richards, CEO,
Energy Users Association of Australia


“We need to do more to empower customers”

Lynne Gallagher, CEO
Energy Consumers Australia

“Building and maintaining trust with our customers and regional communities is going to be critical”

Jacqui Bridge, EGM Energy Futures, Powerlink





**ACTIONING
THE QUEENSLAND
ENERGY AND
JOBS PLAN
CONNECTING QUEENSLAND'S
ENERGY FUTURE**

Gathering stakeholder input is important to our decision-making and planning, so the forum included an investigative workshop, which focused on three key areas:

- Delivering the future transmission network
- Developing Renewable Energy Zones
- Engaging with Queensland communities

Each session posed a question to forum participants to gain further insights.

View the video from this session on our website: powerlink.com.au/2022-transmission-network-forum



Daniel Andersen General Manager Energy Markets presented Powerlink’s plans to deliver the future transmission network and posed the question:

HOW CAN POWERLINK BEST PLAN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS NETWORK TO ENSURE AN INTEGRATED APPROACH THE DELIVERS WHOLE-OF-SYSTEM BENEFITS?

Key themes of feedback received:

- Need to provide clarity and certainty for developers – network capacity and project timeframes
- Need to answer the question – who pays?
- The market should lead network development, align with generation and load investment
- Flexibility in planning decisions is important, must have ability to pivot
- Need to engage across range of stakeholders, including developers and community
- Ensure you are appropriately resourced to deal with what’s coming
- Use technology to optimise the headroom of transmission lines
- Provide clarity on role of Commonwealth Government
- Need to work closely with Energy Queensland

Mahesh Narotam, Powerlink's Project Director Renewable Energy Zones and Leanne Caelers, Department of Energy and Public Works' Executive Director Transmission and Transformation, shared information on developing Renewable Energy Zones and posed the question:

HOW CAN POWERLINK BEST DELIVER REZs TO PROVIDE INVESTMENT CERTAINTY AND SPEED-TO-MARKET FOR RENEWABLE DEVELOPERS?

Key themes of feedback received:

- Avoid the REZ process used in NSW
- Social licence to operate is a big risk for a market-led model. Key role for Queensland Government and Powerlink to play in upfront community engagement on REZs. Communities shouldn't hear from a developer first.
- Need to further streamline the connection process, goal should be to make it easier to connect in Queensland than anywhere else, guarantee connection timeframes
- Remove barriers around system strength, voltage stability and GPS requirements to create more certainty
- Can Government Owned Corporations provide a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) floor price to give more certainty to developers?
- Provide a 'price book' for security in cost for connection
- Use foundation customer and then increase capacity from there



Gerard Reilly, Powerlink's Communications, Customer and Engagement General Manager presented on the importance of getting engagement and community benefits programs right and posed the question:

WHAT ARE THE KEY AREAS THAT POWERLINK NEEDS TO FOCUS ON TO IMPROVE THE WAY OUR INFRASTRUCTURE CO-EXISTS WITH QUEENSLAND COMMUNITIES?

Key themes of feedback received:

- Engagement needs to be authentic, early and tailored to suit needs of community
- Powerlink needs to have a presence in the community, need to understand the fabric of local community
- Education is vital – need to clearly communicate so that communities understand about renewable development, why it is needed and potential impacts
- Demonstrate commitment to ongoing relationship, not just during planning and construction, but over whole of asset life
- Powerlink could coordinate community investment programs on behalf of developers
- Compensation models need to be flexible. Should look at neighbour payments
- Need to maximise opportunities for Indigenous and local businesses
- Look at undergrounding and alternate tower designs to reduce visual impact
- Improve telecommunication services and reduce price of electricity in communities impacted by development
- New South Wales Strategic Benefits Payment Scheme sets a benchmark

View the video from this session on our website: powerlink.com.au/2022-transmission-network-forum



SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

The stakeholder feedback from the interactive workshops at the forum will influence Powerlink's ongoing network planning and decision making.

Meeting the needs of Queenslanders is critical to Powerlink's success. We will rely on input from customers, communities and other stakeholders as we progress our plans to deliver Powerlink's elements of the QEJP.

We want to hear your views to guide the development of Powerlink's response. Many customers and stakeholders will have a strong interest in the power system transformation and an interest in how the QEJP and Blueprint will be delivered. Your input will help us expand our understanding and improve our decision-making as we progress our plans.

We invite you to respond to these questions or raise other matters. Our planning is underway, so your feedback will be appreciated. Please reach out to us, we value your input –

qldenergyfuture@powerlink.com.au.



TRANSMISSION ANNUAL PLANNING REPORT TECHNICAL SESSION



This year's forum also included a technical session on the 2022 Transmission Annual Planning Report (TAPR) which was delivered by Stewart Bell, Executive General Manager Network and Business Development and Paul Ascione, General Manager Asset Strategies and Planning. Their presentation outlined key aspects of the report including the energy and demand forecasts, generation outlook and network performance.

This session was followed by a panel of Powerlink's experts who shared insights on the TAPR and key aspects of our forecasts.

PANEL MEMBERS INCLUDED

- Enrique Montiel, Principal Engineer Network Planning
- Monan Higgs, Business Development Manager
- Peta Starkey, Senior Market Specialist
- Sachin Goyal, Manager Power System Performance & Connections



KEY THEMES

- Non-network solutions, the reduction in network augmentation and how Powerlink is working on this
- Key barriers to connections by generators over the next 15 years – technical and commercial side
- Industrial customer loads and their roles in decarbonising their load – understanding the regulatory and load flexibility to assist the grid
- Plans in place if big ticket projects (eg: 500kv and pumped hydro) do not come together – review timelines every two years of the staged plans
- Network constraints on new network
- Rule changes and forecasting revenue streams for solutions to grid forming

The full report can be read on our website: <http://www.powerlink.com.au/tapr2022>

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