

WAMBO WIND FARM CONNECTION PROJECT

Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Proposal Summary



March 2023

About Powerlink

Powerlink Queensland is a Government Owned Corporation that owns, develops, operates and maintains the electricity transmission network in Queensland. We connect Queenslanders to a world-class energy future, providing electricity to more than five million Queenslanders and 238,000 businesses. We are also responsible for connecting large-scale renewable energy developments, including wind and solar, and providing electricity to large industrial customers in the rail, mining and LNG sectors.

About the Wambo Wind Farm

The Wambo Wind Farm is a proposed renewable development located near Jandowae, in the Western Downs, which received Queensland Government development approval in October 2020.

When fully operational, the wind farm will have the capacity to produce enough clean energy to power around 170,500 houses annually. Visit www.wambowindfarm.com.au for more project information.

About the Wambo Wind Farm Connection Project

Powerlink has been engaged by the Wambo Wind Farm developers, Cubico Sustainable Investments and Stanwell Corporation, to connect the proposed development to our transmission network.

This will require construction of a double circuit 275kV transmission line between a proposed substation at Diamondy on the Wambo Wind Farm site and Powerlink's existing Halys Substation (located 11km south east of Kumbia township).

Acknowledgement

Powerlink acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands and waters of Queensland and in particular, the lands on which we operate. We pay our respect to their Ancestors, Elders and knowledge holders and recognise their deep history and ongoing connection to Country.

Engagement to date

Since late 2021, Powerlink has been engaging with landholders on a 50km section of the transmission line corridor between our existing Halys Substation and Diamondy to gain local insights and understand how individual properties are managed and operated. We have also engaged with relevant state and local government officials in the region, Traditional Owner representatives, community leaders, local business groups and other stakeholders to get their input.

In March 2022, Powerlink released a Draft Corridor Selection Report (CSR) which considered potential social, physical and environmental factors for the proposed connection project, as well as input from landholders, the community and other stakeholders. The Draft CSR identified Powerlink's existing Tarong to Chinchilla 132kV transmission line as the preferred corridor and recommended the existing easement be widened by 10 metres for the proposed 275kV transmission line. Following our review of two submissions received on the Draft CSR, the Final CSR was released in May 2022, which confirmed the proposed transmission line location.

Powerlink and a team of specialists have since undertaken comprehensive work, including environmental and technical assessments, which together with landholder and other stakeholder feedback has assisted in our decision-making process.

Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Proposal now available for comment

The Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) Proposal for the Wambo Wind Farm Connection Project is now available for public review and comment. The MID Proposal has been submitted to the Queensland Government Planning Minister for planning approval under the *Planning Act 2016*.

The MID Proposal was prepared by environmental specialists and has been informed by extensive environmental and technical research, and engagement with landholders, the community and other stakeholders.

The document can be accessed in several ways:

- downloading a full copy (chapter-by-chapter) from Powerlink's website at www.powerlink.com.au/wambo
- viewing printed copies at Jandowae and Kingaroy libraries
- contacting us to request a USB or printed copy by email at wambo@powerlink.com.au or calling 1800 635 369.

Making a submission on the MID Proposal

Formal submissions on the MID Proposal are now invited and must be received in writing by close of business on Wednesday 29 March 2023 by the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Team, located within the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. Submissions can be lodged in several ways:

- online: www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/mid-consultations
- email: infrastructuredesignation@dSDLGP.qld.gov.au
- post: PO Box 15009, City East, QLD, 4002.

What's in the MID Proposal

The MID Proposal identifies the preferred alignment for the new transmission line which uses the existing 132kV Tarong to Chinchilla transmission line easement for around 45km. To accommodate the new line, the existing easement will be widened by 10 metres. At Ellesmere, the preferred alignment diverts south of the Tarong to Chinchilla easement for 2km to Halys Substation.

The MID Proposal identifies the environmental, social, technical and economic aspects of the project in detail, and how any potential impacts can be managed or mitigated. The report outlines that using the existing transmission line easement significantly reduces the overall impacts. It also identifies a range of social, economic and environmental benefits from the project including the creation of more than 100 jobs during construction and operation.

The table below lists key topics of interest and where to find information on these in the report.

Topics	Related sections of the MID Proposal
Aboriginal cultural heritage	Section 6.2.1
Agriculture and property operations	Section 6.4
Bushfires	Section 6.6
Biosecurity	Section 6.11
Construction activities	Section 3.2
Consultation with landholders and other stakeholders	Section 7
Flooding and hydrology	Section 6.5
Flora and fauna biodiversity	Section 6.1
Jobs and local economic benefits	Section 6.3
Traffic and transport	Section 6.7
Visual amenity	Section 6.8

Next steps

Current activity:

- Formal consultation on the MID Proposal is being undertaken by the Planning Minister. Powerlink is also inviting submissions from anyone with an interest in the project.
- Powerlink is working directly with each of the Traditional Owner groups in the project area to seek feedback and input on project planning and the MID Proposal.
- Powerlink is continuing to engage with directly affected landholders to provide information on the planning approval process and seek their further input.

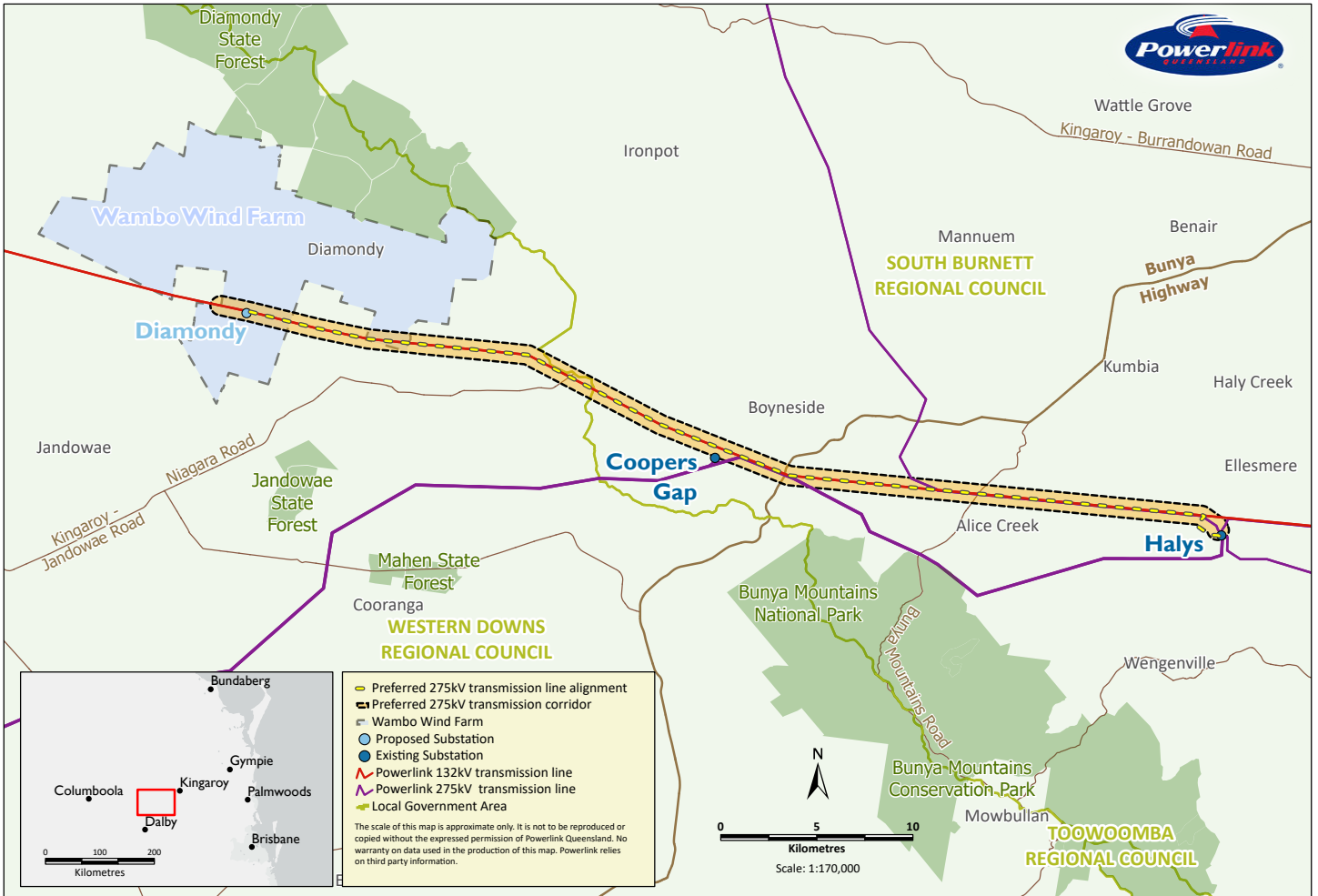
Upcoming activities:

- The Planning Minister will review all submissions received on the MID Proposal and provide Powerlink with information about matters raised. Powerlink will review this information, undertake any required additional investigations and respond by outlining any changes made.
- The Planning Minister will assess the MID Proposal and consider all submissions. If approval is granted, the decision will be published in the Queensland Government Gazette and notification will be provided to directly affected landholders, relevant local governments and Powerlink.
- Powerlink will work with directly affected landholders to negotiate compensation as part of widening easements for the transmission line. We will work closely with landholders to ensure fair, transparent and equitable outcomes from the land acquisition and compensation process.
- Powerlink will engage with landholders ahead of construction works starting and explain how property-specific impacts will be minimised or managed. Understanding how land is used and managed by landholders is an important part of this engagement.

Meet our team

Powerlink will be attending a **Public Information Forum** about the Wambo Wind Farm hosted by Cubico and Stanwell at the Jandowae Memorial Hall (38 George Street, Jandowae) on **Wednesday 8 March 2023**, from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Our team will also be attending a **local supplier information session** being hosted by Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise at the Windsor Hotel Dalby (32 Patrick Street, Dalby) on **Thursday 9 March 2023**, from 11am to 2pm. You are invited to attend these sessions to learn more about the Wambo Wind Farm Project and provide feedback on Powerlink’s MID Proposal for the connection project.

Project map

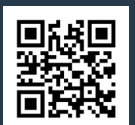


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