

Banana Range Wind Farm Connection Project

Engagement and approvals pathway

Have your say

We are at the very start of a comprehensive engagement process with landholders, community members and other stakeholders. Our aim is to provide you with regular opportunities to have your say in the development of this proposed project.

About the project

Powerlink has been engaged by EDF Renewables to consider options to connect their proposed Banana Range Wind Farm, about 20km west of Biloela, to the electricity grid.

We have an existing transmission line that runs from Calvale Substation (near Callide Power Station), to just north of Biloela township where it connects into our Biloela substation, and continues on to our Moura Substation.

Based on the energy proposed to be generated at the wind farm, we would need to build a new, additional transmission line to connect the wind farm into the transmission network.

The transmission infrastructure proposed for the connection project includes one new substation on the wind farm site and a new 275kV transmission line to be located between our existing Calvale Substation and the wind farm site.

Landholder and community engagement starts (From June 2022)

We make contact with landholders within a study area to introduce our team and the project. At this very early stage, we are interested in hearing from landholders about what's important to them - what we need to consider and understand, information about how landholders manage their property and business operations, and any other feedback that's relevant. The input received is very important to our planning.

Our community information sessions in July and September 2022 are held exactly for that reason. This will give landholders and the wider community an opportunity to meet with the project team, share their insights and ask questions.

The information gathered will allow us to identify potential transmission line corridors and we'll share that with landholders and the wider community in the community information sessions to be held in September 2022.

These potential transmission line corridors will be assessed and refined in a Draft Corridor Selection Report.

Engagement on the Draft Corridor Selection Report (CSR) (November-December 2022)

In November 2022, we will publicly release the Draft CSR which factors in all the social, economic, physical and environmental considerations within a broad study area, as well as incorporates feedback and input from landholders, the local community and other stakeholders.

Within the Draft CSR, a number of transmission line corridors will be comparatively assessed to identify a corridor that on balance has the lowest overall adverse environmental, social and economic impacts to landholders and the wider community. This is known as the recommended corridor.

During this time, landholders and the wider community will be able to comment on the content and findings in the Draft CSR. We will provide feedback to all comments and undertake further engagement on any new matters raised by landholders and the wider community that have not been assessed in the report.

Release of Final Corridor Selection Report (CSR) We are here

(April 2023)

In February 2023, we expect to release the Final CSR, which is also made publicly available to share a final decision on the recommended corridor for the proposed transmission line. This is known as the study corridor which may be up to a kilometre or more wide in some places.

At this stage, there are still no decisions about the exact location of the proposed transmission line within that corridor.

Detailed engagement with landholders in the study corridor will continue and on-ground assessments will commence to help guide further planning.

Landholder engagement and technical studies within the study corridor (Q1-Q3 2023)

Our Landholder Relations Team will make contact with landholders within the study corridor and commence detailed engagement. We will also look to access individual properties to undertake a range of field studies and on-ground assessments. We understand that coordinating these inspections may take landholders away from the running their business and we offer a Project Participation and Access Allowance in recognition of this.

Throughout this period we will work with landholders so they are always informed about what we are doing and at all times we will access properties in accordance with agreed access requirements and our Land Access Protocol, which sets out the standards and conditions we need to meet.

From this engagement and assessment process, we will determine a suitable final route for the proposed transmission line and outline the findings in the project's Environmental Assessment Report.

Formal consultation on the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) (Q3 2023)

In Q3 2023, we plan to lodge the EAR with the Queensland Planning Minister requesting development approval for the project under the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation process. This report comprehensively identifies the social, economic, physical and environmental factors associated with the proposed transmission infrastructure. This process means we will undertake formal consultation with affected landholders and the wider community to understand and address any additional matters that are raised. During this time, the Minister will also seek submissions from landholders, local and state government and the wider community on the project.

Decision from Queensland Planning Minister (Q1 2024)

Following a comprehensive review of all relevant documents, submissions and responses to submissions, the Queensland Planning Minister will decide whether to designate an easement for the proposed project. This is similar to a development approval.

Working together with landholders on easement compensation (Q3 2023 - Q1 2024)

With the insights from ongoing engagement with landholders in the study corridor and results from technical assessments that have been completed, a proposed location for the 60 metre wide easement is determined. Working with landholders through this process means that if an easement corridor is required, they will know as soon as practicable and will be assisted with the easement process and compensation arrangements. We will pay compensation under the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967* and will also include a payment to landholders to cover reasonable costs for relevant and appropriately qualified expert and professional services as part of this process.

About Powerlink

Powerlink is a Government Owned Corporation that owns, develops, operates and maintains the transmission network in Queensland. We connect Queenslanders to a world-class energy future, providing electricity to 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.

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.



To learn more about the Banana Range Wind Farm Connection Project we encourage you to contact us.

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