

About Powerlink

Powerlink is a Queensland Government Owned Corporation playing a central role in the energy transition. We are a leading provider of electricity transmission services, delivering a safe, cost effective and reliable transmission network for Queenslanders.

We own, develop, operate and maintain the electricity transmission network in Queensland which extends 1,700 kilometres (km) from north of Cairns to the New South Wales border.

Our purpose is to connect the state 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.

About the project

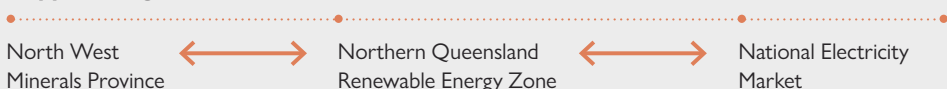
CopperString 2032, formerly known as the CopperString 2.0 project, will initially be approximately 840km of new electricity transmission line from Townsville to Mount Isa that will connect Queensland's North West Minerals Province (NWMP) to the national electricity grid.

The project includes:

- 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Townsville to Hughenden
- 330kV transmission line from Hughenden to Cloncurry
- 220kV transmission line from Cloncurry to Mount Isa
- up to six new substation sites.

Powerlink expects to progress early works on the project in late 2023 ahead of construction commencing in 2024. The project is expected to be completed by 2029.

CopperString 2032 connects



 **~840km**
from Townsville to Mount Isa



Up to **six**
new substation sites



Tower height
up to
80m



~75,000
tonnes of concrete



~75,000
tonnes of steel

(Sydney Harbour Bridge = 52,800 tonnes)



Approximately
2,200
tower structures



~800
direct jobs
supported during
construction with
ongoing jobs during
operations and
maintenance

CONDUCTORS
18,600km

OPGW
2,200km

KEY TOWNSHIPS

TOWNSVILLE | AYR | CHARTERS TOWERS | PENTLAND | HUGHENDEN
RICHMOND | JULIA CREEK | CLONCURRY | MOUNT ISA

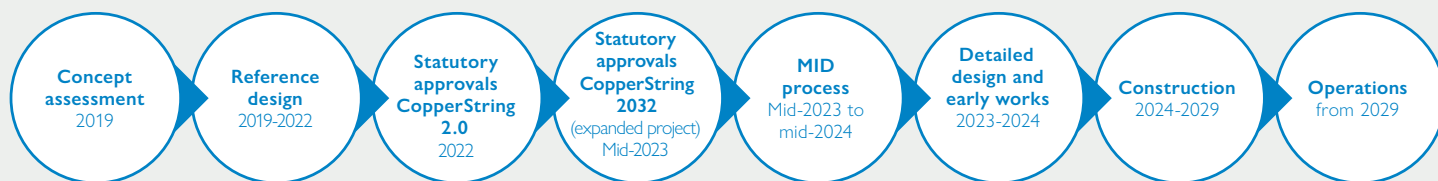
Subject to project finalisation

Who will build and own CopperString?

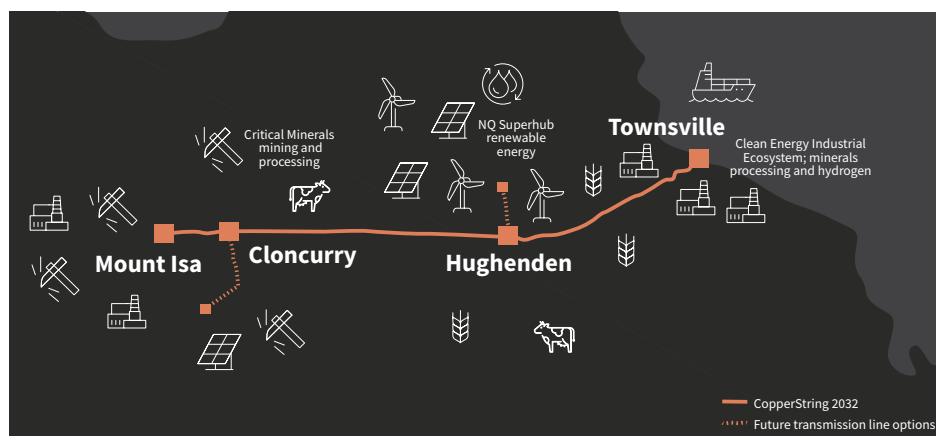
Powerlink will build and own CopperString 2032, delivering on the Queensland Government's commitments in the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

Powerlink took ownership of the project from Townsville-based CuString Pty Ltd in March 2023, and will now lead delivery of the project to completion.





Timeline is indicative and subject to change.



Why has the project expanded?

CopperString 2032 includes an increased transmission capacity of 500kV (from 330kV) for the section of line between Townsville and Hughenden to further unlock the renewable energy potential of the region.

It will connect the NWMP to the Northern Queensland Renewable Energy Zone, which has the potential to be the largest renewable energy zone in Australia.

This connection will form an essential part of the new Queensland SuperGrid transmission backbone to be delivered under the \$62 billion Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

CopperString 2032 is the largest ever economic development project in North Queensland, and one of the largest expansions to the power grid in Australia.

Project status

To date, work has focused on progressing the transmission line design, statutory approvals and engagement with landholders and other key stakeholders along the proposed alignment.

The project was declared a 'coordinated project' by the Queensland Coordinator-General in April 2019 and a controlled action under the Australian Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act) in May 2019.

An Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) contract for CopperString was awarded to CIMIC Group companies UGL and CPB Contractors in March 2021 following public consultation on the project's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) between December 2020 and February 2021.

The ECI phase of the project includes scoping, designing, site investigations and pricing.

The project's EIS was approved to proceed, with conditions, by the Queensland Coordinator-General in September 2022 and referred to the Australian Government for approval.

A delegate for the Australian Minister for the Environment and Water approved the 'CopperString Transmission Line Project' as a controlled action under the EPBC Act subject to conditions in November 2022.

Next steps

Powerlink is now working with Queensland Government agencies, including the Office of the Coordinator-General and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, to determine the next steps in the approvals process.

Following statutory approvals of the expanded 500kV section of the project, it is expected that additional planning and approvals for the delivery of CopperString 2032 will proceed via the Queensland Minister for Planning under the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) process. This process is managed by the department with input from other government agencies.

At the same time, work is continuing on geotechnical investigations, cultural heritage and ecological surveys, stakeholder engagement and landholder consultation.



Further information

Powerlink is committed to ongoing genuine and timely engagement to ensure we deliver positive outcomes for landholders, stakeholders, the environment and local communities where our transmission infrastructure is located.

To learn more about CopperString 2032, please contact the project team on **1800 635 369**. You can also use the QR code to access our project webpage.



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➔ Connect: