

# Bayview Heights to Davies Creek Transmission Line Refit Project

## **Q. Why do you have to conduct work on an existing transmission line?**

A. A refit project is a reinvestment on an existing asset to help extend its operational life. Refitting is a cost-effective solution to ensure our transmission network continues to reliably support existing and future demand. The section of line requiring refit is approximately 16km in length, consisting of 37 towers – some of which are the tallest in Powerlink’s network at 85 metres, designed to sit above the forest canopy. It has been identified that 21 of the 37 towers along this stretch of line require refitting. These towers have deteriorated due to corrosion from extreme weather impacts and now require refitting and painting to ensure their long-term safety and reliability.

## **Q. When will work on these projects occur?**

A. Normal working hours will be 6.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Saturday.

## **Q. Is there an exclusion area around the towers for the project works?**

A. The safety of our people, contractors and the community is essential. During works, the area immediately around the tower will become a ‘construction site’ with restrictions in place to ensure everyone’s safety. Only authorised personnel will be able to enter the site at this time. There will be varying distances for these safety exclusion zones based on the area around a tower. A key consideration will be allowing enough distance for the safe and efficient operation of any equipment and appropriate access to the site.

## **Q. If a tower located on public land is being refitted, can I still use the community facilities around the site e.g. bikeways, parklands or sporting fields?**

A. In line with our commitment to safety, we will enact exclusion zones around towers being refitted, including those located in public or community spaces. We will endeavour to minimise disruption to the community’s use of nearby facilities. Restrictions to access or use these areas will be determined on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the tower’s location and potential safety risks associated with the recreational activities occurring near the site. Any local residents or members of the public in areas near the towers being refitted are required to observe all safety signage and temporary fencing to ensure their safety.

## **Q. I live near a tower being refitted, how much notice will I get before you start the works?**

A. We will provide affected landholders with as much notice as practically possible, typically 48 hours, before the commencement of the works.

**Q. If towers require painting, how are they being cleaned prior to applying paint?**

A. To ensure a clean surface for painting, the towers are prepared using a pressurised water stream with garnet to remove any rust and leave clean steel. Garnet is a natural and non-toxic material commonly used by the building, energy and maritime industries.

**Q. What controls do your projects have to avoid any waste coming near my property?**

A. Each project has tailored environmental management requirements that establish preventative control measures for project activities and outline how potential environmental and social impacts will be minimised and managed. On refit projects, these requirements stipulate that staff and contractors are appropriately trained to complete the works using industry-standard and well-maintained equipment. Drop sheets must be put in place to capture as much of the cleaning waste as possible for disposal. Additionally, monitoring systems must be used to track potential project impacts, for example using on-site weather monitoring equipment to ensure surface preparation activities do not occur in unfavourable weather conditions e.g. high winds.

**Q. Can my vehicle be near a tower while it is undergoing refit work?**

A. During refit work, the area immediately around a tower becomes a construction site to ensure the safety of all parties and restrictions are put in place while work is being completed. It is therefore advisable to move any unhoused vehicles well away from a tower before work gets underway and observe all safety signage and temporary fencing. Powerlink and our contractors are required to comply with all conditions set out in the comprehensive environmental management requirements with the aim to mitigate any potential environmental and social impacts as much as possible. We will consult with any potentially impacted landholders ahead of surface preparation work occurring to ensure residents are aware of possible dust around these locations.

**Q. Should I stay inside while work activities are underway?**

A. There is no requirement for you to stay indoors during refit project work. However, there will be increased noise levels during the tower painting surface preparation stage that you may wish to avoid.

**Q. How will construction noise be managed?**

A. As with all of our activities, care will be taken to minimise any disturbance resulting from this essential refit work. The high-pressure equipment used to wash the towers prior to painting will be the activity that creates the most noticeable noise. These noise levels will be higher the closer a person is to the tower. Powerlink will work closely with landholders near towers undergoing refit work, and where possible will schedule high-pressure cleaning activities during times which will reduce impacts on nearby residents. All work is required to be conducted in accordance with our environmental management requirements, including all relevant noise legislation, policies or standards that apply to refit projects.



**Q. What is the expected impact on traffic for towers being refitted that are situated along roads?**

- A. Powerlink and the relevant project contractors will work with the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Local Governments as appropriate to determine appropriate mitigation measures to undertake refit work safely and efficiently in areas close to roads. Comprehensive Traffic Management Plans will be developed for each project to ensure refit activities minimise impacts to local residents and surrounding motorists. Specific strategies will be adopted as required, for example scheduling works on particular days or times to avoid peak hour conditions, or instituting temporary lane closures. We will endeavour to communicate any impacts on nearby traffic flows to local residents and the broader community.

**Q. If I have any questions about the refit works, who should I contact?**

- A. Please contact Powerlink Landholder Relations Advisor Dave Hunter or Jarod Goudie for any concerns and feedback you may have on the refit activities. Their contact details are:

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