

## About Powerlink

Powerlink is a Queensland Government Owned Corporation playing a central role in the energy transformation. 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 Queensland 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.

## 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.

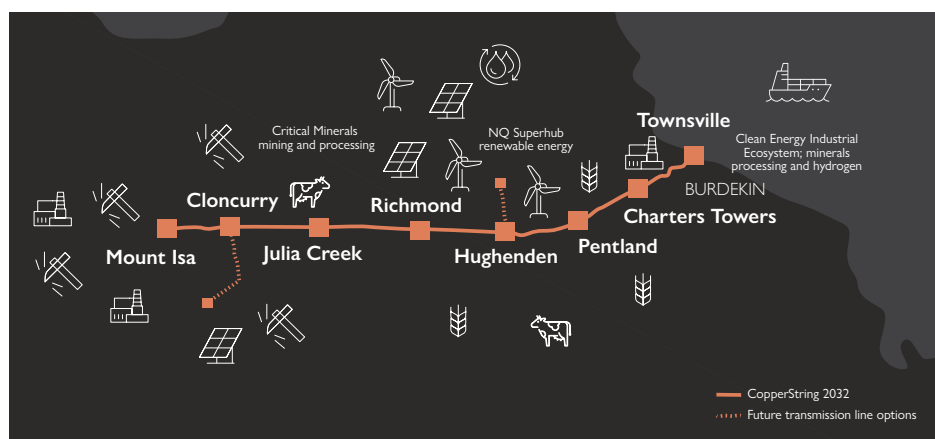
## About CopperString 2032

The Powerlink-led CopperString 2032 project, formerly known as CopperString 2.0, initially involves building 840km of electricity transmission line from just south of Townsville in the Burdekin region to Mount Isa that will connect Queensland's North West Minerals Province (NWMP) to the National Electricity Market.

The overall expanded project has a budget of \$5 billion and includes:

- 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from just south of 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 is progressing early works on the project in 2023 ahead of construction commencing in 2024 following final project approvals. The project is expected to be completed by 2029.



## Changes to the project

CopperString 2032 includes an expanded transmission capacity of 500kV for the section of line from just south of Townsville in the Burdekin region and Hughenden to further unlock the renewable energy potential of the region.

It will connect the NWMP to the Flinders Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), which has the potential to be one of the largest renewable energy zones 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.

## What is a REZ and why are they important?

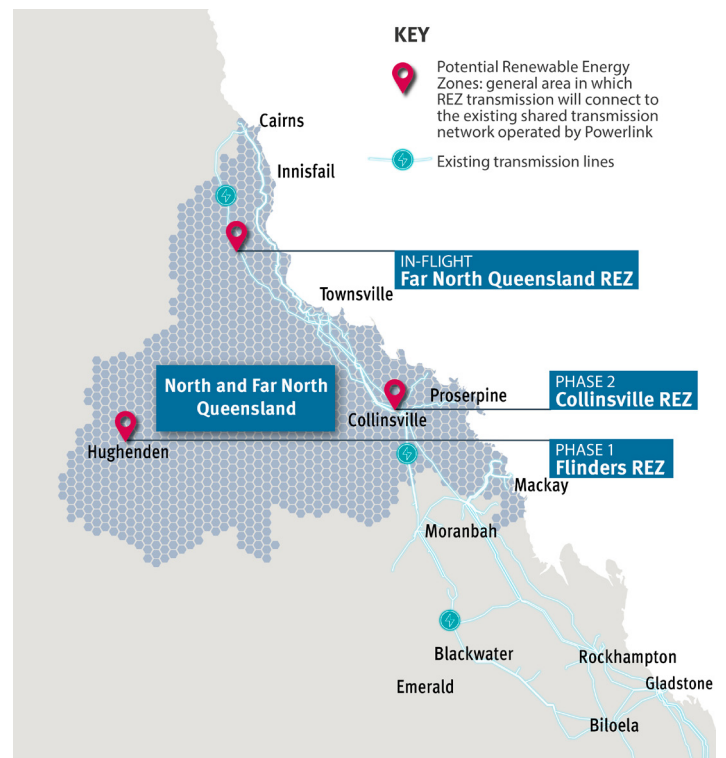
Queensland is on track to become a renewable energy powerhouse.

The Queensland Government has identified the North and Far North Queensland REZ which spans from Cairns in the north to Mackay in the south, and west to Hughenden. This region offers rich renewable energy resources, with the potential to help Queensland reduce its emissions and continue to protect our natural environment.

REZs will help to coordinate development in areas of high renewable potential, maximising benefits for regional communities. Powerlink and the Queensland Government have identified three potential REZs in the North and Far North Queensland REZ. There is an in-flight\* REZ underway and two potential future REZs to be developed.

Up to 5,100 megawatts (MW) of expected new renewable generation will be installed in REZs in North and Far North Queensland. Projects within these REZs are expected to be connected incrementally, meaning workers will have sustainable employment opportunities across multiple projects, over a number of years.

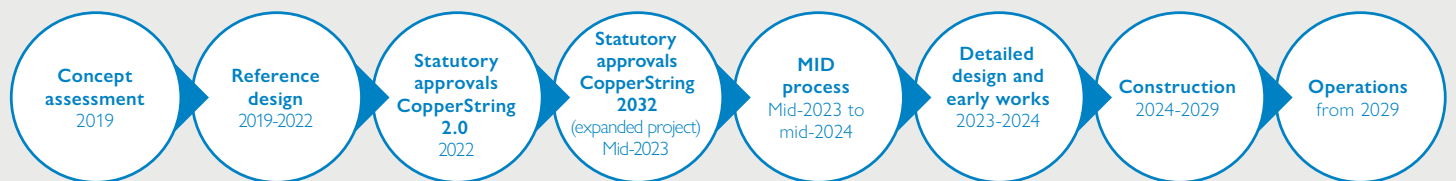
For more information on Powerlink's role in developing Queensland's REZs, visit [www.powerlink.com.au/queensland-renewable-energy-zones](http://www.powerlink.com.au/queensland-renewable-energy-zones).



\*In-flight REZs are renewable energy developments that are already progressing under the existing National Electricity Rules with some degree of coordination and may be converted to a declared REZ in the future.

## Project status and next steps

To date, the project has focused on progressing transmission line design, statutory environmental approvals and engagement with landholders, communities and other key stakeholders along the proposed corridor.



Timeline is indicative and subject to change.

## What existing approvals are in place?

The project has received the following environmental approvals from the State and Federal governments.

- The Queensland Office of the Coordinator-General accepted the project's revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as the Final EIS on 28 February 2022.
- The Queensland Coordinator-General released the project's evaluation report and approval of the Final EIS under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* on 28 September 2022.
- The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEE) approved the project as a 'controlled action' under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on 11 November 2022.

## What additional approvals are required?

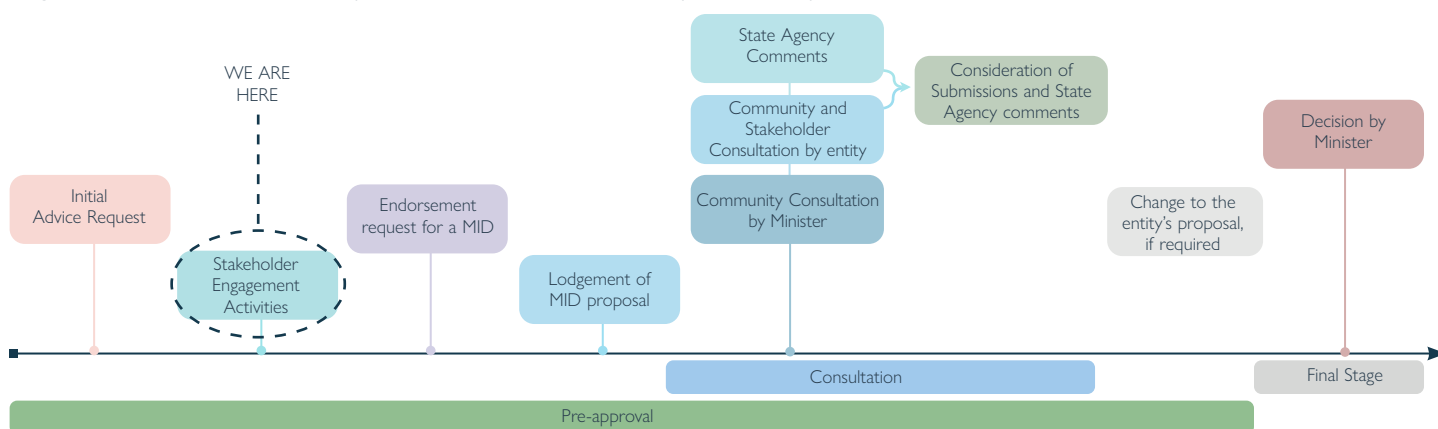
Expanding the project's transmission line capacity from 330kV to 500kV between just south of Townsville and Hughenden means we need to prepare and submit additional information to support the project's EIS and EPBC Act referral.

These changes will then be assessed and updated approvals will be issued if the State and Federal governments accept the changes. CopperString 2032 can then progress land use planning approval through the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) process.

## What is a MID?

A MID helps support the delivery of community infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, emergency services stations, powerlines, sporting facilities, water supply infrastructure and sewerage treatment plants.

The MID process provides an alternative to lodging a development application with local government and is managed by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP) with input from other government agencies. The diagram below outlines the MID process and where we currently are in the process.



## How is a MID different from an EIS?

An EIS considers project impacts to determine if environmental conditions are required for the project to proceed. A MID is an alternative process for land use planning approval. Where necessary, the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the Minister) can impose requirements on a MID to ensure the adequate provision of services and that certain outcomes or impacts are addressed.

The Minister is responsible for making all decisions relating to a MID proposal and, under the *Planning Act 2016*, can make, amend, extend or repeal a MID. However, assessment advice is also obtained from other state agencies.

## Why is Powerlink seeking a MID?

CopperString 2032 crosses seven local government areas each with its own set of planning regulations.

The MID process simplifies planning and approvals by allowing the project to be assessed at a whole-of-government level by a single assessment manager who all landholders and other key stakeholders can engage with and provide feedback to.

Conditions of the project's EIS cannot be changed and additional conditions may be imposed through the MID process as part of the planning assessment.

## How will the MID process run?

Due to the size and scope of CopperString 2032, the project will be broken down into work fronts with construction occurring in multiple locations at the same time to ensure safe travel distances for workers and timely project delivery.

As such, we expect to lodge several MID proposals and are currently undertaking preliminary engagement with impacted landholders, communities and other stakeholders to ensure anyone with an interest in the project has an opportunity to provide initial feedback before proposals are lodged.

We anticipate that each MID work front will start and end at either a road or on the boundary of a lot/plan. This may mean that some stakeholders including landholders, Traditional Owners and local governments will be impacted by more than one MID.

## How will information about the MID process be shared?

Landholders will receive formal notification of any MID that directly impacts them. The MID process also includes statutory requirements for a public notice and invites feedback from the wider public.

While landholders may receive formal notification of more than one MID if they are impacted by more than one MID, they – and the wider community – are also welcome to provide a submission on any MID submitted for the project.

Once the formal application process for a MID starts, there is a 20 day statutory period to provide your submission to the Minister via the DSDILGP website: <https://planning.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/planning-framework/infrastructure-planning/ministerial-infrastructure-designations>.

During this time, Powerlink will also undertake public consultation with landholders, community members and other key stakeholders to share project information and how to make a submission to DSDILGP.

## Project snapshot

### CopperString 2032 connects

North West Minerals Province ↔ Flinders Renewable Energy Zone ↔ National Electricity Market



Subject to project finalisation

## Early works underway

Powerlink has signed off on a \$20 million early works package with CIMIC Group companies UGL and CPB Contractors to progress the project towards target construction in 2024. The early works package includes:

- geotechnical and geophysical field investigations along the transmission line alignment
- design of construction camps
- development of stormwater and traffic management plans, including traffic impact assessments, and road use management
- studies to inform the design of transmission towers, locations of towers and substation pad levels.

We will continue to work with impacted landholders and other key stakeholders to inform them of works ahead of time. For more information on activities underway, please check the community notices in the 'resources' section on the right hand side of our project webpage at [www.powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032](http://www.powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032).

## Meet Colin Langton – Director of Operations CopperString

Colin has been out and about in communities to meet key stakeholders along the transmission line corridor since Powerlink took ownership of CopperString 2032 project delivery earlier this year.

With more than 30 years' industry experience, he's passionate about delivering community infrastructure that enables the transition to sustainable energy production and consumption.

"I believe that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our generation," Colin said.

"The delivery of CopperString 2032 is set to enable access to affordable, clean and reliable energy across North and North West Queensland, and I'm truly excited to be leading the delivery of this landmark project."



## Upcoming activities

### Meet our team at a community information drop-in session

Our project team is hosting a number of community information drop-in sessions during August 2023. Come along to learn more about the project, next steps and how you can provide feedback.

Please note each session runs for a couple of hours so you can drop in at a time that's convenient for you.

**Monday 7 August** | 4pm-6.30pm  
Diggers Entertainment Centre | 21 Brodie Street, Hughenden

**Tuesday 8 August** | 9am-11.30am  
Pentland Soldiers Memorial Hall | Gilmore Street, Pentland

**Tuesday 8 August** | 4pm-6.30pm  
Arthur Titley Centre | 101 Mosman Street, Charters Towers

**Wednesday 9 August** | 10am-12.30pm  
Ayr Showgrounds Hall | Cnr Bruce Highway and Craig Street, Ayr

**Thursday 10 August** | 9am-11.30am  
Hotel Grand Chancellor | 334 Flinders Street, Townsville

**Tuesday 15 August** | 9am-11.30am  
Mount Isa Civic Centre | 23 West Street, Mount Isa

**Tuesday 15 August** | 4pm-6.30pm  
Allan Vickers Outdoor Theatre | Cnr King and Daintree Streets, Cloncurry

**Wednesday 16 August** | 9am-11.30am  
Father Bill Busuttin Community Centre | Church Lane, Julia Creek

**Wednesday 16 August** | 4pm-6.30pm  
Richmond Shire Council Civic Centre | 50 Goldring Street, Richmond

If you're unable to come in person, please visit our project page at [www.powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032](http://www.powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032) for more information, to provide feedback, and for details on how to contact our team.

### Local supplier opportunities

We're working with the UGL CPB Contractors Joint Venture to maximise local employment and procurement opportunities wherever possible for CopperString 2032. Subcontracting, supply and plant hire opportunities on the project may include clearing works, earthworks for access roads and pad construction, foundation works, high voltage tower construction, and substation works.

Local businesses seeking to register their interest are encouraged to contact our project team in the first instance via [copperstring2032@powerlink.com.au](mailto:copperstring2032@powerlink.com.au). Further advice regarding project procurement will be added to our project webpage shortly.

Be sure to keep an eye out for information on local industry participation forums along the corridor in the coming months. We'll also share details via our project webpage, project newsletter and social media channels.

## Working with Traditional Owners

CopperString 2032 is on the traditional lands of the Yulluna People, Birriah People, Mitakoodi People, Kalkadoon People, Wanamara People, Yirendali People and Jangga People.

We pay our respect to ancestors, and elders past and present, and acknowledge their deep and continuing connection to Country.

To date, the project has worked closely with Traditional Owner groups along the proposed alignment. This consultation and collaboration will continue as project planning progresses under the direction of Powerlink.

## Your feedback is important

We invite you to contact us for more information or to share your feedback on CopperString 2032 at any time.

- Call our project team on **1800 635 369**
- Email us at [copperstring2032@powerlink.com.au](mailto:copperstring2032@powerlink.com.au)
- Visit our project webpage at [www.powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032](http://www.powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032)
- Visit us at a community information drop-in session in your local area
- Submit your feedback via the project's online feedback form at <https://forms.office.com/r/GCxuNMpii7> or via the QR code to the right.

Please note, any information you submit will be provided to relevant State Government departments to help with their assessment of the project.

