

## 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 Queensland 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, initially involves building 840km of new 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 grid. Approximately 200km of additional transmission line will also be required to connect new renewable generators to CopperString 2032.

The project 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.

## CopperString 2032 connects

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

**~840km** of transmission line from just south of Townsville in the Burdekin region to Mount Isa



**~200km** of additional transmission line to connect new renewable generators



**>800** direct jobs supported during construction with ongoing jobs during operations and maintenance



Approximately **2,200** tower structures



Tower height approximately **80m**



**~75,000** tonnes of steel  
(Sydney Harbour Bridge = 52,800 tonnes)



Up to **six** new substation sites



**~75,000** tonnes of concrete

**CONDUCTORS 18,600km**

**OPGW 2,200km**



**KEY TOWNSHIPS**

**TOWNSVILLE**

**CHARTERS TOWERS**

**PENTLAND**

**HUGHENDEN**

**RICHMOND**

**JULIA CREEK**

**CLONCURRY**

**MOUNT ISA**

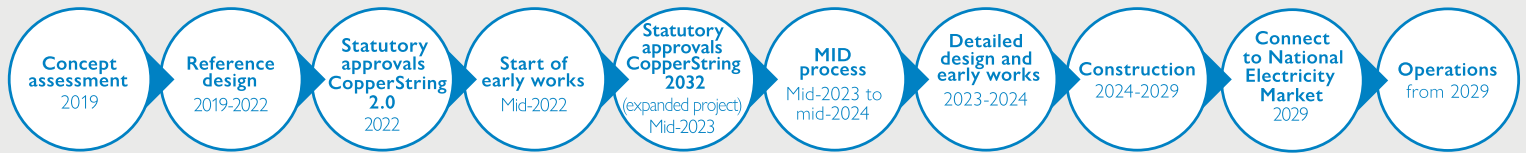
Subject to project finalisation

## Who will build and own CopperString?

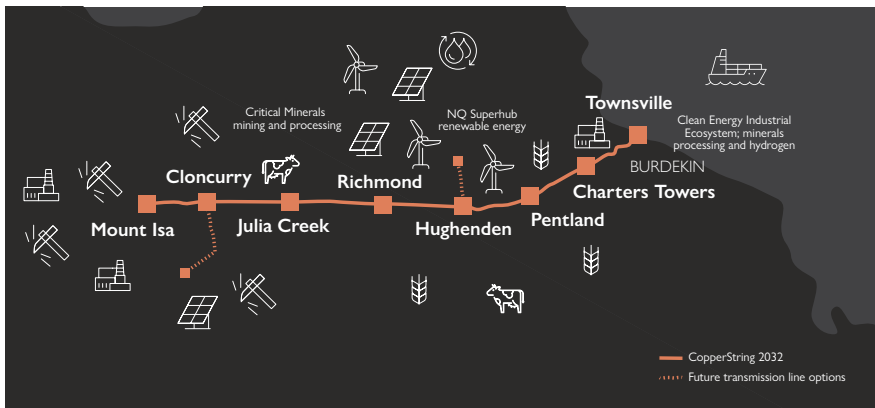
Powerlink will build and own CopperString 2032, delivering on the Queensland Government's commitments in the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

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 from just south of Townsville to Hughenden to further unlock the renewable energy potential of the region.

It will connect the NWMP to the Flinders Renewable Energy Zone, 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.

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 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 under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SDPWO Act) in April 2019 and a controlled action under the Australian Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (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 working with Queensland Government agencies, including the Office of the Coordinator-General and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP), 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 Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning under the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) process. This process is managed by DSDILGP with input from other government agencies.

At the same time, work is continuing on field 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 our project team on **1800 635 369**. You can also use the QR code to access our project webpage.



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