

Banana Range Wind Farm Connection Project

Final Corridor Selection Report Summary



Powerlink has been engaged by EDF Renewables to consider options to connect their proposed Banana Range Wind Farm (BRWF), about 20km west of Biloela, to the electricity grid. As part of our planning to ensure a safe and reliable power supply into the future, we looked in detail at the existing transmission network in the local area and examined a range of options to connect the proposed wind farm. Based on the power proposed to be generated at the wind farm, we would need to build a new 275kV transmission line from the existing Calvale Substation to the proposed BRWF Substation.

Early engagement

Since June 2022, Powerlink has been engaging with landholders, the wider community and other stakeholders regarding a proposed 275kV transmission line connection between EDF Renewables' Banana Range Wind Farm and Powerlink's existing Calvale Substation. This early engagement process has sought to raise awareness about the proposed transmission line and provide several opportunities for stakeholders to provide local knowledge and input to help us with the assessment of corridor options.

Following feedback and input from this early engagement process and technical assessments of the project study area, three potential corridors – generally 1km wide – were identified and evaluated. These corridors were referred to as Northern Corridor 1, Northern Corridor 2 and Central Corridor.

Feedback and input was again collected from landholders, the wider community and other stakeholders and a comparative assessment of the environmental, social and economic impacts of each corridor was undertaken.

In November 2022, Powerlink released a Draft Corridor Selection Report (CSR) which included a recommended corridor – Northern Corridor 1. This report was shared with stakeholders for feedback and input.

During our early engagement from June to November 2022, the project team had the following touchpoints:

- 252 phone calls made/received
- 49 emails received and responded to
- 605 letters sent to landholders via email or post
- 33 meetings held with individual landholders
- 12 entries made on our interactive mapping engagement platform
- 73 landholders and community members attended our community information drop-in sessions (in July, September and November 2022).

Recommended final corridor – known as the 'study corridor'

Following the release of the Draft CSR in November 2022, Powerlink received nine submissions, mainly from landholders within the Northern Corridor 1, together with an electricity generator and a local elected official.

Key themes from submissions included:

- Interaction with infrastructure at Callide Power Station
- Potential impacts on high quality agricultural land
- Concerns of limited engagement between renewable energy sector and agricultural sector
- Further consideration of co-location options with existing transmission lines
- Impacts on food and fodder producers
- Perception of manipulated data used for corridor selection
- Inappropriate use of the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation process and compulsory easement acquisition process
- Landholders nominating appropriate areas for the proposed line
- Perception of poor consultation and communication
- Protection of endangered vegetation
- Project is a private nuisance and constitutes Assault by Force

We have reviewed and considered each submission to identify matters which materially impact the recommended corridor and determined that only minor changes were required to Northern Corridor 1, based on feedback and input received. The Northern Corridor 1 will now be referred to as the 'study corridor'.

Study corridor – Northern Corridor 1

The Northern Corridor 1 is located in the northern most section of the study area and seeks to reduce the level of interaction of the transmission line with high cultivation land. It also provides an opportunity to co-locate the proposed 275kV line with sections of the existing Calvale to Baralaba and Calvale to Moura 132kV lines and contains the lowest number of houses and other places of assembly.

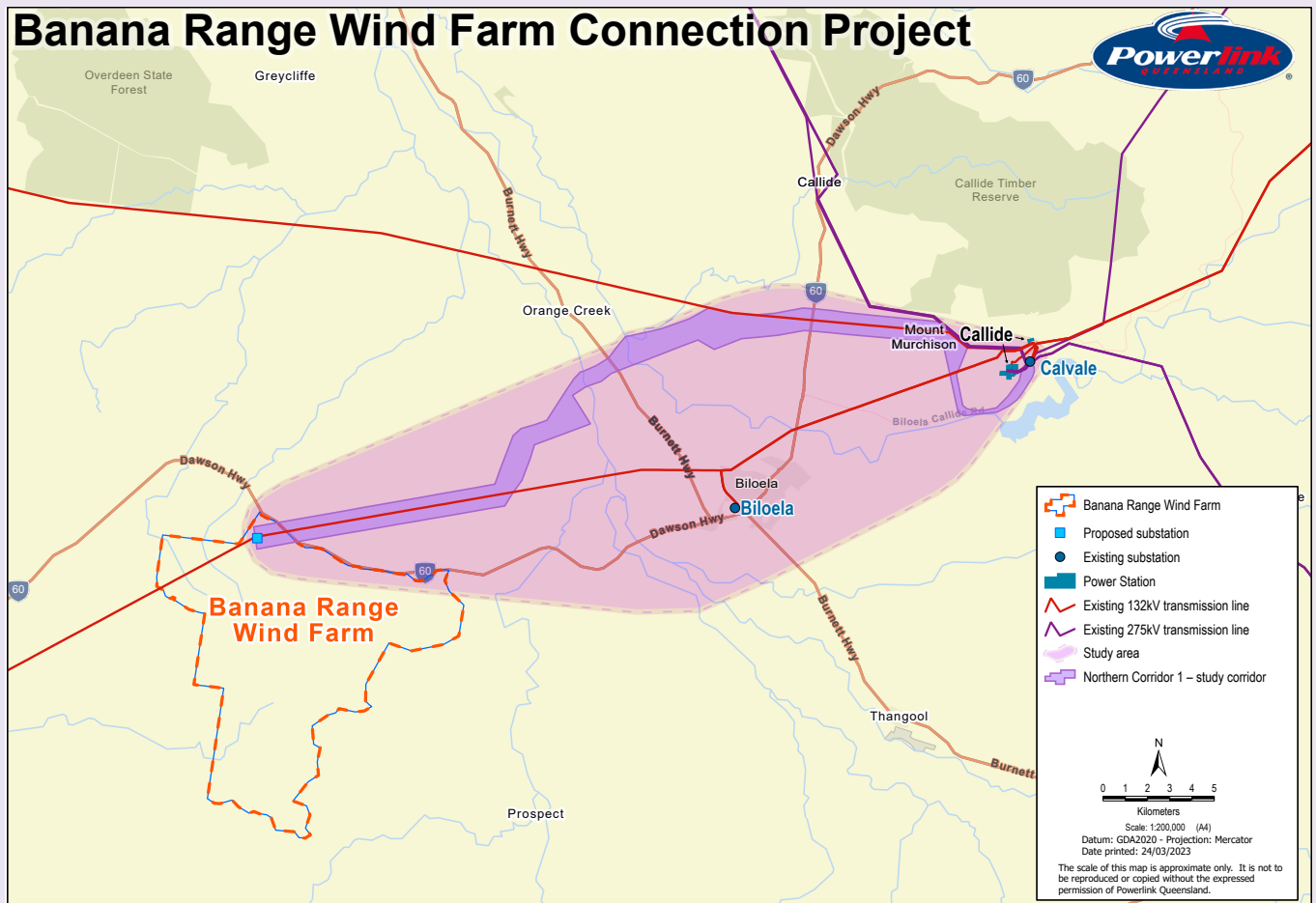
Upon review of submissions from landholders and other stakeholders, some minor changes have been made to the Northern Corridor 1 option. These include:

- Small reduction in corridor width west of Kroombit Creek to focus the corridor on alignment with a boundary in this location.
- Small increase in corridor width in the area near Dudarkos Road to provide additional alignment flexibility in this area.

Please note, these changes do not affect the comparative assessment of corridor options.

Key characteristics of the Northern Corridor 1

- Total length – 41km
- Opportunity to co-locate with the existing Calvale to Baralaba and Calvale to Moura 132kV lines
- From west of the power station to Kroombit Creek, land use comprises cultivation and grazing areas
- Less than 10 houses identified
- Larger land parcels
- Corridor includes higher proportion of grazing land which is generally compatible with a transmission line, with reduced impacts on cultivated land compared to other options
- Potential impact on remnant vegetation around creek lines.





Next steps

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. These conversations and assessments will help to find a suitable final alignment for the proposed transmission line that factors in property specific requirements and input from landholders.

Please note that no final decision on the transmission line's location will be made until all required approvals have been achieved. We will work with individual landholders so they are always informed about what we are doing and at times we will access properties in accordance with agreed access requirements and our Land Access Protocol. This document sets out the standards and conditions we need to meet when accessing a landholder's property and includes property specific requirements agreed with landholders.

Following additional project investigations, Powerlink will prepare and lodge the project's Environmental Assessment Report with the Queensland Planning Minister, requesting development approval for the project under the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation process. The Minister will write to local government stakeholders and all landholders directly affected by the project inviting them to make a submission regarding the suitability of the proposed designation.

Following development approval and easement acquisition for the proposed transmission line, construction is proposed to commence in 2024. We will continue to engage with landholders, the local community and other stakeholders as the project progresses.



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

Phone:

If you would like to discuss the Final CSR or the project more broadly, please contact our Landholder Relations Advisor, Bernie Jefferies on 0439 967 607

Email:

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Website:

Through our project webpage which is available at www.powerlink.com.au/bananarange



Use the QR code to access our project webpage.



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