

Transmission Easement Engagement Process



Powerlink exists to serve Queensland. Our transmission network delivers safe, reliable and cost-effective electricity to more than five million Queenslanders and 253,000 businesses.

We have a central role in the energy transformation, building the Queensland SuperGrid to transport renewable energy across the regions to power industry and households.

To develop, construct, operate and maintain our transmission network, we are dedicated to working respectfully with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders. Our Transmission Easement Engagement Process underpins our focus to engage early, genuinely and often as we work alongside communities to deliver the energy future.

Transmission lines and easements

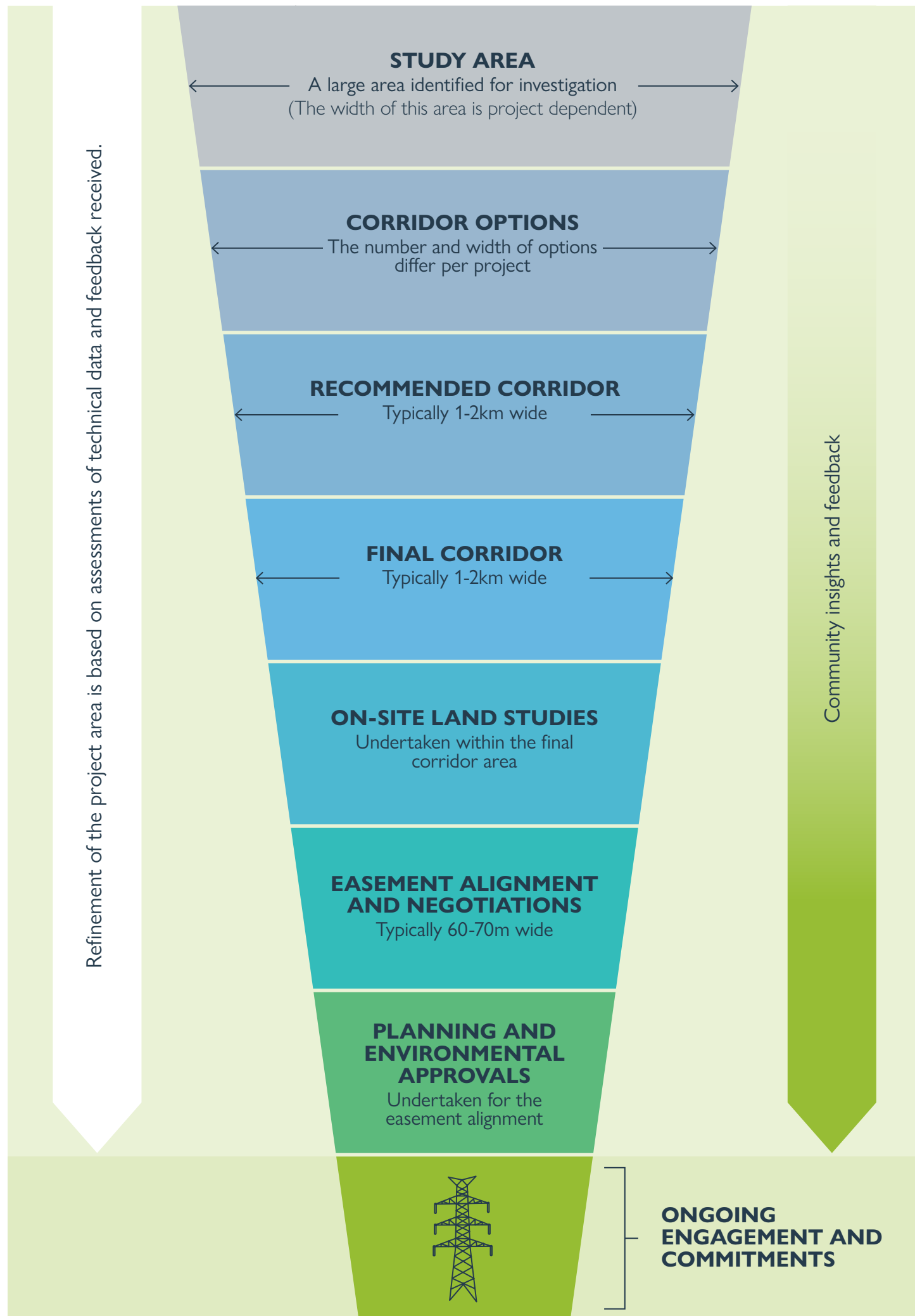
Transmission lines carry power from an energy source (such as coal-fired power stations, solar farms, wind farms, battery energy storage systems, and pumped hydro facilities) and transport it to a substation. The electricity is then converted to a lower voltage and distributed from the substation to homes and businesses via a local energy distributor such as Ergon Energy or Energex.

Transmission lines run across large distances, and in most cases, cross a number of land parcels. For Powerlink to build and operate transmission lines across these land parcels, we register easements over the portion of land required to locate a transmission line. While the landholder retains ownership and responsibility for the land, an easement grants rights to Powerlink for specific activities such as accessing, building and maintaining our lines safely and reliably.

Our commitment to meaningful, authentic and early engagement

Once a project need is identified, we will engage with the community throughout a number of stages as we work collaboratively to determine the most appropriate location for a new transmission line. Our process carefully assesses the potential social, environmental and economic considerations of a project.

This process is built on meaningful and early engagement practices with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders. This brochure explains these engagement opportunities, from the commencement of a project through to maintenance of the infrastructure.



Ongoing: Community insights and feedback

Understanding communities who host our infrastructure either now or in the future is very important to us. As part of our Transmission Easement Engagement Process, Powerlink will seek to better understand your community and values to help inform our engagement with you and our corridor selection processes. Through understanding our communities, we can enhance our communication and engagement about a project with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the wider community and other stakeholders.

Step 1: Study area

Community insights and technical analysis will help identify the high-level study area, where the transmission infrastructure could potentially be located within a region. We will seek community views on the high-level study area to gain better local knowledge on land uses, potential constraints and opportunities. This will enable communities to better consider and provide feedback on the various social, economic and environmental factors that relate to a project and the corridor selection process.

We will also seek community feedback on the criteria used to identify transmission corridor options.

Step 2: Corridor options

With information shared from early community feedback and engagement, as well as results from desktop technical and spatial analysis, Powerlink will develop corridor options. The information gathered is considered alongside the project objectives and criteria to identify the most suitable corridor options, based on what we know at this early stage in the project. The number and width of corridor options may vary from project to project to reflect specific comments.

A Corridor Options Report is prepared and shared with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the wider community and other stakeholders for feedback. Your input is invited and plays an important role to help determine a recommended corridor.

Step 3: Recommended corridor

Powerlink seeks to identify a corridor that on balance will have the least overall impact from a social, environmental and economic perspective. Based on feedback received from landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the wider community and other stakeholders on the Corridor Options Report, and continued technical investigations, we identify a single recommended corridor for community feedback.

Powerlink publishes a Recommended Corridor Report outlining the comparative analysis of the corridor options which has helped to influence our decision making. We value your input on the recommended corridor, with further refinements made based on feedback received.

If your property is located within the recommended corridor, you can receive a high-level compensation estimate to provide you with information on how our SuperGrid Landholder Payment Framework will be applied for the project.

Step 4: Final corridor

The feedback received from landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders on the recommended corridor is collated to identify property and land use constraints and opportunities, and adjustments are made to the recommended corridor where appropriate in response to community input.

On completion of this engagement period, we prepare a Final Corridor Report. This report demonstrates how community input received during engagement has informed our planning, alongside technical analysis undertaken to date.

Landholders within the final corridor are engaged to help shape the ultimate location of the transmission line, referred to as the easement alignment.

Step 5: On-site land studies

Landholders and Traditional Owner groups are engaged to gain important on-ground insights. A range of detailed studies are conducted within the final corridor to validate early technical analysis desktop findings, examining factors such as ecology, hydrology, land practices, terrain, flora and fauna, cultural values, visual amenity and social impacts. Many of these studies will need to be completed on-ground at the proposed project location so we will work with landholders and other stakeholders to ensure suitable land access agreements are established and agreed upon.

A Project Participation and Access Allowance is available to impacted landholders, to recognise their time and effort in attending meetings with us and granting access required to undertake these valuable on-site land studies.

Step 6: Easement alignment and negotiations

Building on information gathered as part of on-site studies, engagement continues with landholders and Traditional Owner groups to determine the proposed final alignment for the easement within the final corridor. Specific engagement with Traditional Owner groups takes place to address cultural heritage, traditional values and Native Title considerations.

Landholder payment negotiations with hosting landholders progress, and part payments may commence where option agreements are granted.

Depending on individual circumstances and to ensure the timely delivery of the project, Powerlink may also work with landholders to begin the relevant legislative process to acquire the easements necessary for the project at this stage.

Step 7: Planning and environmental approvals

We continue engaging to progress with planning and environmental approvals from the State Government, which are required before construction can begin. The planning approval pathway typically used by Powerlink for transmission infrastructure is the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation process, under the *Planning Act 2016*. This involves publishing a comprehensive Environmental Assessment Report which addresses potential impacts and mitigation measures for the project. This includes seeking input from landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders on the report.

In some circumstances, additional approval is required from the Federal Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). In conjunction with the Federal Government, we will engage with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders throughout this process.

If all required approvals are granted, landholders receive full payment upon registration of the easements. Neighbouring landholders located within a 1km radius of an overhead transmission line, but not hosting transmission infrastructure, will receive an adjacent landholder payment.

Powerlink can now commence engaging with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders regarding the start of construction works for the new transmission line.

Step 8: Ongoing engagement and commitments

Powerlink is committed to ongoing communication and engagement throughout the lifespan of our infrastructure.

In particular, we will continue engaging with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders about ongoing delivery of construction works, followed by operation and maintenance activities as needed. This includes working closely with landholders regarding access arrangements and property-specific requirements as well as agreements for ongoing maintenance reaching well into the future, once the construction phase is complete.

We value the community's open and honest engagement so we can develop and maintain cooperative, positive and respectful relationships with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the wider community and other stakeholders now and into the future.

Further information

How do I find out more about project approval processes?

Please refer to the following websites for more information on these project approval pathways:



[Ministerial Infrastructure Designations](#)



[Current projects | State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning](#)



[Referrals and environmental assessments under the EPBC Act](#)

Some common terms we use

Transmission line	A transmission line is a powerline capable of carrying large amounts of electricity at high voltages. Transmission lines are larger and taller than the everyday distribution powerlines that deliver electricity to homes and businesses. Transmission lines are normally built on steel lattice towers or concrete and steel poles.
Substation	A substation monitors and controls the flow, stability, quality and voltage of electricity on the transmission lines that are connected to an energy generator. Substation equipment transforms the voltage of electricity, protects the network, measures the flow of the electricity, and switches electricity between the different transmission lines and transformers on the grid.
Study area	A study area is a broad area between the proposed connection points for a transmission line. Potential corridor options are identified from within this area for further investigation.
Corridor Options Report	A Corridor Options Report outlines feedback from the community during study area engagement, as well as social, environmental and economic constraints and opportunities to develop the proposed corridor options.
Recommended Corridor Report	A Recommended Corridor Report provides a summary and analysis of all corridor options considered, the feedback received and how the feedback was considered to identify a single recommended corridor.
Final Corridor Report	A Final Corridor Report provides detail on the final corridor selected for the project. This report considers community feedback from the Recommended Corridor Report and any amendments to the recommended corridor, as well as social, environmental and economic constraints and opportunities.
Easement alignment	The easement alignment refers to the final location of a proposed new transmission line. The easement alignment is only determined after comprehensive engagement and consultation, and technical analysis.
Environmental Assessment Report	An Environmental Assessment Report is a comprehensive report produced by qualified specialists to determine and investigate the social, environmental and economic impacts of a project and associated mitigation measures.
Easement	An easement is a defined area that allows Powerlink to build and maintain transmission lines. While the easement is registered on the land title, the landholder continues to own the land over which the easement exists and retains most of the rights and responsibilities of ownership. To help ensure community safety and the security of electricity supply, there are some restrictions on the landholder's use of the land within the easement – these are known as the easement terms and conditions.
Project Participation and Access Allowance	The Project Participation and Access Allowance is a payment available to landholders to recognise their time and effort in attending meetings with Powerlink and granting access to their property for undertaking on-site studies.
Hosting landholder payment	A payment made to landholders whose properties are traversed by an easement to provide compensation in accordance with the <i>Acquisition of Land Act 1967</i> (ALA). In addition to the ALA framework, the hosting landholder payment will also include an incentive and accommodate an allowance for professional advice and services. Together these elements contribute to the total amount of compensation paid.
Adjacent landholder payment	A payment made to adjacent landholders within a 1km radius of a new overhead transmission line, which is calculated on the amount of land located within this 1km zone.

Who do I contact for more information?

If you have questions about our Transmission Easement Engagement Process, please contact us:

Phone FREECALL 1800 635 369 (during business hours)

Email pqenquiries@powerlink.com.au

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