

Working with Powerlink to determine easement alignments



About this brochure

With the release of a final corridor, a series of important assessments and access requirements come into play. These assessments are essential to help refine and identify an easement alignment. This fact sheet outlines the various types of assessments and investigations that a landholder might expect during this phase including the purpose, personnel involved, and equipment used for these activities. It also highlights Powerlink's commitment to respecting and adhering to agreed access arrangements developed in consultation with landholders.

What happens if access to my land is required?

If we need to access your property, we will always seek your permission first. Before undertaking any assessments and investigations on your property, your Landholder Relations Advisor will work with you to understand your requirements and confirm them in writing. You will be provided a map which indicates the area of your property that will be assessed, and investigations will only be conducted within this area. We will always contact you prior to entering your property to confirm you agree for the assessments to go ahead and to provide an opportunity for you to advise us if conditions (e.g. due to recent wet weather) have changed.

How will you manage biosecurity on my land?

We want to work with you to protect your land from any biosecurity risks, such as weeds, pathogens and pests. Like all Queenslanders, Powerlink has a general biosecurity obligation under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* to ensure we do not spread a pest, disease or a contaminant and take reasonable steps to avoid spreading or introducing biosecurity matter when our staff, consultants or contractors undertake activities.

Our Land Access Protocol explains how we do this and what standards and conditions we follow when we access your property. This document also helps us co-exist and communicates any specific information, rules and entry conditions that you have for your property.

Is there a landholder payment for this work?

We appreciate the cooperation of landholders in providing valuable information about their properties, as well as facilitating our access to gather on-ground information. In recognition of this, we provide a Project Participation and Access Allowance (PPAA) to eligible landholders.

The PPAA recognises the time and effort of landholders in providing input and facilitating access to their property for field investigations for high voltage transmission lines and substations.

The allowance is separate and in addition to compensation paid under the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967* and is not linked to whether an easement or site is ultimately acquired (i.e. the PPAA is a payment for accessing land. Powerlink may access land that ultimately does not host a transmission line).

Communication and supervision

Your designated Landholder Relations Advisor will continue to be your key contact relating to assessments and investigations.

The Landholder Relations Advisor or another Powerlink representative will be in attendance whenever property access is required. This will assist with biosecurity arrangements, familiarisation with your property and efficiency of the works undertaken.

Requesting access for assessments and investigations

Assessments and investigations are conducted along the final corridor to help inform the transmission line location and design including tower placements and spanning between towers, with investigations taking place on both public and private land. These surveys include:

Purpose	Description
<p>Ecology – these surveys are used to confirm existing vegetation types and animal and plant species. They are completed each season to coincide with high activity periods of certain species, for example when flowering occurs or during breeding season.</p>	<p>People: usually two to three Vehicles: usually one vehicle Equipment: laptops, tablets, cameras Time on site: most properties one day – may require additional visits What you see: vehicle driving to the approximate location of the proposed easement alignment, people walking the alignment inspecting flora and fauna and taking records, photos and marking up maps.</p>
<p>Geotechnical investigations – we need to understand local ground conditions to help inform tower design and placement. Soil and rock samples will be collected using methods such as borehole drilling and cone penetration tests.</p>	<p>People: normally a crew of two to four Vehicles: normally one tilt tray truck carrying a boring rig or a smaller rig on a 4WD ute, plus a support vehicle carrying water and equipment Equipment: boring rig, bore tubes, water and storage for core samples Time on site: about four hours per tower site – depending on topography and other factors What you see: vehicles and equipment travelling to test bore sites, drill bore, people collecting samples for analysis.</p>
<p>Cultural Heritage – these surveys help identify or confirm sites and items which have heritage significance. This may include built structures, gravesites or sacred sites relevant to Aboriginal people or those who have since settled in the area. These surveys are typically carried out on foot.</p>	<p>People: normally three to six representatives of the Traditional Owner group together with an archaeologist and Powerlink representative Vehicles: normally two to three vehicles Equipment: Powerlink staff and the archaeologist will keep records using laptops, tablets, GPS and cameras Time on site: most properties one day – may need multiple visits depending on length of corridor What you see: a group coming to site then walking the length of the corridor to identify and map any sites or items of cultural significance e.g. areas of cultural significance or artefacts.</p>
<p>Transmission line design investigation – Powerlink and our contracted specialists will inspect the corridor with a focus on design impacts in particular for transmission tower placement, access for construction, vegetation clearance requirements, and avoidance of watercourses and other natural and man-made features. All of these inputs are required to determine the easement alignment.</p>	<p>People: normally one to two engineers, an environmental and construction representative Vehicles: normally one vehicle Equipment: laptops, tablets and cameras Time on site: most properties one day – may need repeat visits What you see: vehicle driving to site then people walking in the corridor inspecting access tracks and potential tower locations.</p>
<p>Surveyors – will check property boundaries and map key property features and tower locations to inform Powerlink line design team as part of tower design and access track placement.</p>	<p>People: normally one surveyor plus one field support Vehicles: normally one vehicle Equipment: GPS equipment plus tablets and/or laptop or field book for records Time on site: most properties one day – may need repeat visits What you see: vehicle coming to site then people walking in the corridor doing inspection work and taking measurements.</p>

We greatly appreciate your involvement and support in completing these important investigation works to help further inform our projects as they progress. Please contact your Powerlink Landholder Relations Advisor if you have any questions or would like further information.

Contact Us

Further information about Powerlink and our projects can be downloaded from www.powerlink.com.au

General Enquiries FREECALL 1800 635 369 (during business hours) and ask for Landholder Relations

In case of emergency FREECALL 1800 353 031 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

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