

# Wambo Wind Farm Connection Project

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## About the project

Powerlink has been engaged by Stanwell and Cubico Sustainable Investments (Cubico) to connect the Wambo Wind Farm to Queensland's transmission network.

This will require construction of a double circuit 275kV transmission line between a new substation at Diamondy on the Wambo Wind Farm site tracking east for approximately 47km and connecting into Powerlink's existing Halys Substation (located 11km south-east of Kumbia township).

Find out more about Wambo Wind Farm at [wambowindfarm.com.au](http://wambowindfarm.com.au).

## Construction and project highlights

- Dismantling the existing 112 decommissioned 132kV transmission towers and line was completed in late January 2024.
- Works are progressing with more than 25% of the new transmission tower foundations completed along the transmission line alignment.
- Tower assembly works commenced with tower installation activities to start in early February.
- The new Diamondy Substation is progressing with site preparation and foundation works underway.
- Powerlink, alongside Stanwell and Cubico, hosted numerous community information drop-in sessions during 2023 in Kingaroy and Jandowae.
- Powerlink is supporting sustainable construction through a solar powered mobile concrete batching plant.
- In collaboration with Stanwell and Cubico, Powerlink co-sponsor the Taralga Retirement Village's new community van to provide transport for their residents.

*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.*

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[powerlink.com.au/wambo](http://powerlink.com.au/wambo)



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## Construction activity update



### Tower assembly and line stringing

Assembling and installing transmission towers is underway.

Steel for the towers is supplied to each location in bundles and assembled into tower sections on-site.

These sections are lifted by an all-terrain crane to form the completed tower.

The stringing of transmission line wires commences following the tower assembly.

A helicopter is used for this process to minimise the impact on land use, the environment and traffic.

The helicopter strings a draw wire through rollers attached to the tower cross-arms.

Winches then pull the aluminium conductors (wires) through the rollers.

Once the conductors are drawn through, work crews use fittings and hardware to tension and clamp the conductors onto each tower.



### Working sustainably

Powerlink's contractor Downer engaged Holcim and Blue Diamond Machinery who have successfully trialled a sustainable mobile concrete batching plant in the Bilboa yard.

During operation, the plant is predominately powered by a 90kVA solar battery and incorporates a backup generator to charge the battery on days when the sun isn't shining.

During the plant's first week using battery operation the generator running time was reduced by around 87%. Without a battery we would rely solely on using a 150kVA generator running continuously, consuming around 120 litres of diesel fuel. In comparison, using the battery and diesel back-up system requires approximately 15 litres of fuel.

This project is setting a new standard for sustainable construction practices and playing an important role in reducing greenhouse emissions.

## Biosecurity

We recognise the effective prevention and management of identified weeds, pathogens and pests is important to landholders. This is highlighted in our Land Access Protocol. Stringent measures have been put in place to manage and mitigate biosecurity risks, including:

- vehicle wash down procedures for vehicles accessing properties and construction areas
- identifying the origin of high risk construction machinery or equipment
- implementing weed monitoring during construction and operation to identify new incidences of weeds.

We appreciate the ongoing cooperation from landholders in working with us to identify relevant biosecurity matters.

For more information on our approach to biosecurity please visit our website:

[powerlink.com.au/reports/managing-biosecurity-your-property](https://powerlink.com.au/reports/managing-biosecurity-your-property).

## Project timeline

- April 2023**  
Preliminary works
- May 2023**  
Commence removal of decommissioned transmission towers
- August 2023**  
Ministerial Infrastructure Designation approval
- October 2023**  
Construction commences
- Late 2024**  
Project completion and line energisation

## Construction progress

### Transmission line

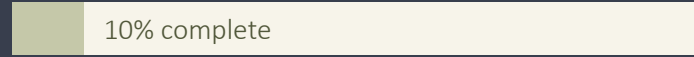
Dismantling of transmission towers:



Foundation works:



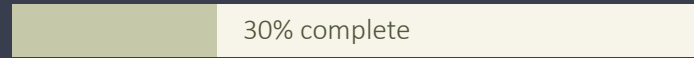
Tower assembly and installation:



Tower stringing:



Diamondy Substation:



## Working hours

As major construction progresses, community members may start to notice increased visits to nearby properties by construction crews working on the project. Our crews typically complete on-ground works between 6:30am and 6:30pm, Monday to Saturday. Should we need to undertake any activities outside the normal work hours, we will notify impacted landholders in advance.

We will always endeavour to work around landholders' farming activities and business operations. We will continue to keep landholders informed of planned construction activities and discuss timing of works on individual properties. All property access is in accordance with Powerlink's Land Access Protocol and the conditions agreed with the landholder.

Please direct any queries related to property access to Powerlink's Landholder Relations team. Contact details are included on the back page of this newsletter.

Diamondy Substation in progress





## Delivering for the community

Powerlink's community investment activities are aimed at supporting initiatives and projects that focus on creating sustainable communities, assist with economic development, enhance social capacity, build resilience and create positive legacies.

In collaboration with Stanwell and Cubico, we were excited to co-sponsor Taralga Retirement Village's new van to transport their residents and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) clients to medical, allied health and community access services in Jandowae, Dalby and much further afield as required.

The van arrived just at the right time as the previous vehicle was facing significant repairs travelling well over 400,000km and no longer meeting the needs of residents.

## About Powerlink Queensland

Powerlink is a Government Owned Corporation that owns, develops, operates and maintains the transmission network in Queensland.

We connect Queenslanders to a world-class energy future, providing electricity to more than five million Queenslanders and 253,000 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.

## Engaging with the community

We are committed to ongoing genuine and timely engagement with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, local communities and other stakeholders to support development and delivery of renewable energy projects.

In late 2023, Powerlink - in collaboration with Stanwell and Cubico - hosted numerous information drop-in sessions with the communities in Kingaroy and Jandowae. These sessions provided a great opportunity for us to meet local residents, business operators and landholders seeking to learn more about our activities, projects and future plans.

The first information session for 2024 is being held in February with more being planned for March and beyond. Details will be shared via the project webpage at [powerlink.com.au/wambo](https://powerlink.com.au/wambo).

### Next community catch-up

Friday 9 February 2024 - 8am to 11am

Wombat's Cafe & Grill, 48 High Street, Jandowae

## More information

To learn more about the Wambo Wind Farm Connection Project, please contact:

**Jane Walker**

**Landholder Relations Advisor**

**1800 635 369**

**[projects@powerlink.com.au](mailto:projects@powerlink.com.au)**



Use the QR code to access our project webpage or visit [powerlink.com.au/wambo](https://powerlink.com.au/wambo)