

CopperString 2032

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

Message from our Project Director

The start of the new calendar year has been tough for communities along the CopperString 2032 alignment, facing floods, a cyclone, and heat waves. This has brought home the challenges of construction in North and North West Queensland and makes us more determined than ever to deliver a project that leaves a positive legacy for these resilient communities.

Despite the challenges, we have hit the ground running in 2024, briefing local councils, attending the meetings of the Regional Reference Group and Mount Isa and Region Futures Advisory Committee and continuing to build our database of local suppliers. Where we can, we want to see the economic benefits of this project stay local.

Mid-year will see us breaking ground on CopperString 2032, focusing on building the workforce accommodation that is fit-for-purpose and shaped to meet the needs of the communities in which they are located.

We are also progressing work on our construction sequencing and approvals, with more information provided in this update.

Thank you for taking this journey with us, as we collaboratively deliver the largest single project in Australian transmission history.



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.

Freecall 1800 635 369
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Construction timing

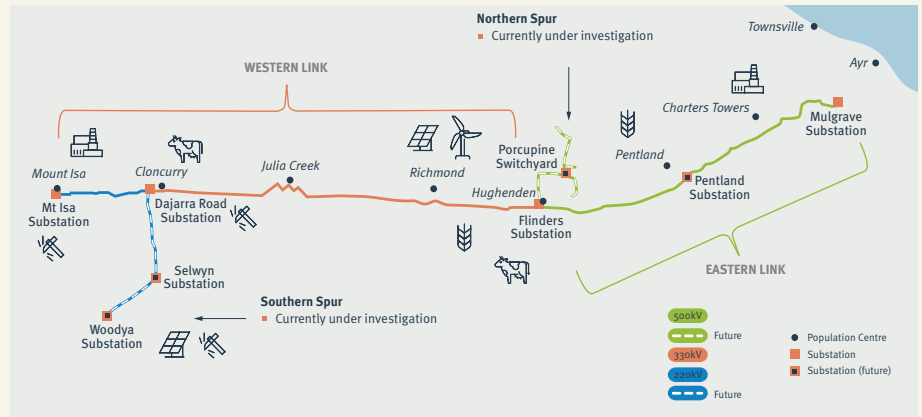
Workforce accommodation construction will begin mid-2024, in Hughenden, followed by accommodation in Richmond, Julia Creek, Mount Isa, Charters Towers and Pentland, with timing to be finalised as the project progresses.

The first section of new 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission line will be built

between Hughenden and Cloncurry and is expected to start construction in early to mid-2025.

The construction program will allow the team to focus initially on the shovel-ready sections of the project. Other sections, that may require further detailed design or approvals, will be built at later stages of the project.

We will share more information on the construction timing as detailed design progresses.



Three year look ahead

	2024	2025	2026
Stakeholder Engagement	Active Engagement and Community Support		
Workforce Accommodation Construction	Hughenden then Richmond, Julia Creek, Mount Isa, Charters Towers and Pentland (Timing TBC)		
Transmission Line Construction		330kV Hughenden to Cloncurry	220kV to Mount Isa 500kV to Mulgrave

Road trip

In January, the project team hit the road with Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs, Hon Mick de Brenni to drive the alignment and conduct meetings with key stakeholders. The team engaged with the Flinders, McKinlay, Richmond, Cloncurry and Mount Isa Councils as well as attended a meeting of the CopperString 2032 Regional Reference Group.

Topics of discussion included:

- job creation for locals
- housing
- water and energy security
- environmental approvals
- future mining and renewable energy



Since Powerlink took ownership of the project in March 2023, there has been a strong focus on information sharing and consultation. We are committed to delivering this project in a way that leaves a positive legacy, and these conversations give us insight into how we can best support the local communities for the longer term.



 Hughenden

CopperString Experience Centre

A state-of-the-art CopperString Experience Centre will be built in Townsville, to support the project and offer meaningful engagement with the community.

Located in Stanley Street in the Townsville CBD, the centre will offer an engaging hub for visitors of all ages, with interactive displays and hands-on activities that demonstrate technological innovation and future-focused education. The centre will showcase the role of the North West Minerals Province and the Renewable Energy Zones across north and north west Queensland.

The new location on Stanley Street compliments the existing digital window displays in Stokes Street, also in the Townsville CBD. The centre is expected to open in August this year.

Local employment opportunities

We are continuing to maximise local employment and procurement opportunities by encouraging local businesses to register their interest in providing goods and services for CopperString 2032.

A push in partnership with local stakeholders has seen an increase in 87 suppliers (taking the total to 572) who have expressed interest in the 50 works packages released. 185 of the registered suppliers are local, from eight local government areas along the alignment and 90 per cent have a Queensland office.

These registrations help us understand local capability and capacity to work on the project, when tendering opportunities become available in the future.

Delivering for the community and industry

CopperString 2032 is committed to investing in the local communities through sponsorship opportunities. We are proud to sponsor the **2024 Hughenden Show** and are a major festival partner for the **Hughenden Festival of Outback Skies**, 3-5 May 2024. The Festival of Outback Skies is a 3-day celebration of the outback, showcasing live music, art, workshops and events, against the backdrop of impressive outback skies. We are thrilled to support this event.

We will be hosting stalls at the **Meet the Buyers NQ Supply Chain** event in Townsville on 27 March and the **North West MPX mining conference** on 5-7 May 2024. We hope you can come and support these great events!



MAJOR FESTIVAL PARTNERS



Project approvals

We are working alongside the Queensland State Development and Infrastructure and Commonwealth Environment Departments to progress the approvals for the delivery of CopperString 2032. At the same time, work is continuing on field and geotechnical investigations, cultural heritage and ecological surveys, stakeholder engagement and landholder consultation.

Our focus is initially on the Hughenden and Richmond Camps, to ensure they meet all requirements to progress construction in mid-2024.

About the project

The Powerlink-led CopperString 2032 project, formerly known as CopperString 2.0, 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 to the National Electricity Market. Approximately 200km of additional transmission line will be required to connect new renewable generators to CopperString.

The overall expanded project has a budget of \$5 billion and includes:

- 500 kilovolt 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
- workforce accommodation and facilities in strategic locations along the corridor.

Powerlink progressed early works on the project in 2023 ahead of construction commencing in mid-2024. The project is expected to be completed by 2029.



Cloncurry

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, contact the project team on 1800 635 369 or copperstring2032@powerlink.com.au



Use the QR code to access our project webpage or visit powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032