

20 May 2024



# Addressing system strength requirements in Queensland from December 2025

Notice of extension – publication of Project Assessment Draft Report



**This Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T) update is to inform Registered Participants, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and interested parties of a change in the publication timing of Powerlink’s Project Assessment Draft Report (PADR) for the RIT-T to address system strength requirements in Queensland from December 2025.**

## Background

In March 2023, Powerlink commenced a RIT-T to address system strength requirements in Queensland from December 2025 (System Strength RIT-T) with publication of a Project Specification Consultation Report (PSCR). The PSCR invited submissions (by 21 July 2023) from proponents who considered they could offer a potential non-network option, which was technically and economically feasible, by 2030.

## Update

Under the National Electricity Rules, should a Network Service Provider wish to proceed with a RIT-T project, a PADR must be published within 12 months of the end date of the consultation period, or such longer time period as is agreed in writing by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER).<sup>1</sup>

In April 2024, Powerlink requested, and the AER agreed to, an extension of the date by which the PADR is to be published to **29 November 2024**. Key reasons for the extension include:

- The need to ensure thorough consideration of the large number of submissions received and the proposals for a range of non-network solutions, including those for which recent new information had resulted in a material change to the assessment of potential credible options.
- The need to refine our approach to the technical, commercial and economic assessment frameworks, including thorough testing of their implementation.
- The ability to minimise changes between the PADR and Project Assessment Conclusions Report by accounting for:
  - the final 2024 Integrated System Plan, due for release by AEMO in June 2024;
  - the Improving Security Frameworks for the Energy Transition Rule, particularly minimum/recommended system strength contracting requirements issued by AEMO in June 2024; and
  - AER guidance on incorporating emissions reduction as a market benefit.

As the System Strength Service Provider in Queensland, Powerlink remains focussed on making the required system strength services available to AEMO from December 2025<sup>2</sup>, while continuing to deliver transmission services to customers that are safe, economic and reliable.

---

<sup>1</sup> National Electricity Rules, clause 5.16.4(j).

<sup>2</sup> National Electricity Rules, clause S5.1.14.