

Bayview Heights to White Rock Project

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

About the Project

Powerlink owns and operates 275kV underground high voltage transmission cables that run between the Bayview Heights and White Rock transition stations in Cairns.

Installed in 1997, the 2.7km of underground cables is critical to maintaining a reliable and secure power supply for residents and businesses in Cairns and the Far North Queensland region.

Powerlink maintains an easement along the length of the underground cables so we can safely operate and maintain the transmission cables.

Since the underground cables were installed, there has been significant development in the Mount Sheridan area, including the residential Forest Gardens Estate. Over time, vegetation has grown around the underground cables and easement.

Planning is underway for essential works to ensure the continued secure supply of power. Works are required along sections of the underground cables and easement located in Mount Sheridan's Forest Gardens Estate and include:

- vegetation management along the easement, including selected removal of approximately 385 trees identified as being a high or future risk to the underground cables
- easement restoration, including replanting with compatible vegetation
- refurbishment works at two joint bay sites located near Alpinia Terrace and Amazon Close.

We are targeting commencement of these essential works in late July 2024 and activities will be delivered over an approximate three to four year period, due to the wet season and extent of works required.

We will minimise impacts wherever possible, and keep residents and the community updated on start and finish dates for all planned works.



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.



powerlink.com.au/bayviewheightswhiterock



SAFE FOR LIFE
Everyone. Everywhere. Everyday.

Vegetation management

Powerlink undertakes regular inspections of our transmission network to monitor its condition and identify issues such as vegetation that can impact the reliability of power supply.

If not managed appropriately, some vegetation can be a hazard to our network and damage critical infrastructure, affect power supply and impact easement clearance zones.

Inspections of the underground cable, easement and neighbouring Bayview Heights Transition Station have identified significant issues with the surrounding vegetation. This includes species with intrusive root systems encroaching on the underground cables.

A local, qualified arborist and Powerlink electrical engineers have assessed the vegetation within a 10m zone either side of the underground cables.

The assessments considered:

- species type
- tree trunk diameter
- if the species have intrusive root systems able to cause damage to our critical infrastructure
- tree protection zones
- easement clearance zones.

It has been determined that selected tree removal and vegetation management is required along the easement to manage risks to the underground cables and ensure the continued secure supply of power to the Cairns region.

Due to the extent of vegetation along the easement and its social and environmental value, a site-specific clearing approach has been developed for the project. The approach involves keeping as much existing vegetation as possible, while managing risks to the underground cables.

Distance from the centre of the two underground cables	Vegetation to be removed
Within 3m	All woody vegetation (plants with hard, woody stems like trees and shrubs)
3m- 10m	Trees with intrusive root systems that have been identified as posing a high or future risk to the underground cables

The vegetation management works are scheduled to occur in the 2024 and 2025 dry seasons.

An arborist and fauna spotter will be on-site prior to and during the tree felling works. The arborist will ensure compliance with the clearing plans and the fauna spotter will remove and manage any potentially impacted fauna from the site to a safe, nearby habitat outside of the clearing limits.

Maintenance requirements

Essential cable joint refurbishment works are needed at two joint bay sites located within Powerlink’s easement, adjacent to Alpinia Terrace and Amazon Close in the Forest Gardens Estate.

The refurbishment works on the joint bays will be undertaken during planned network outages in 2025 and will not result in any impacts to electricity supply.

As the joint bays are located underground, the area above (approximately 20m x 12m) will be established as a construction site. This will involve installing fencing, vegetation clearing, excavation of the joint bays and setting up equipment in preparation for the refurbishment works. Some vegetation around the joint bay sites will remain until the refurbishment works start in the 2025 dry season.





Easement restoration

Powerlink is committed to restoring the easement while maintaining required safety clearances for the underground cables and easement.

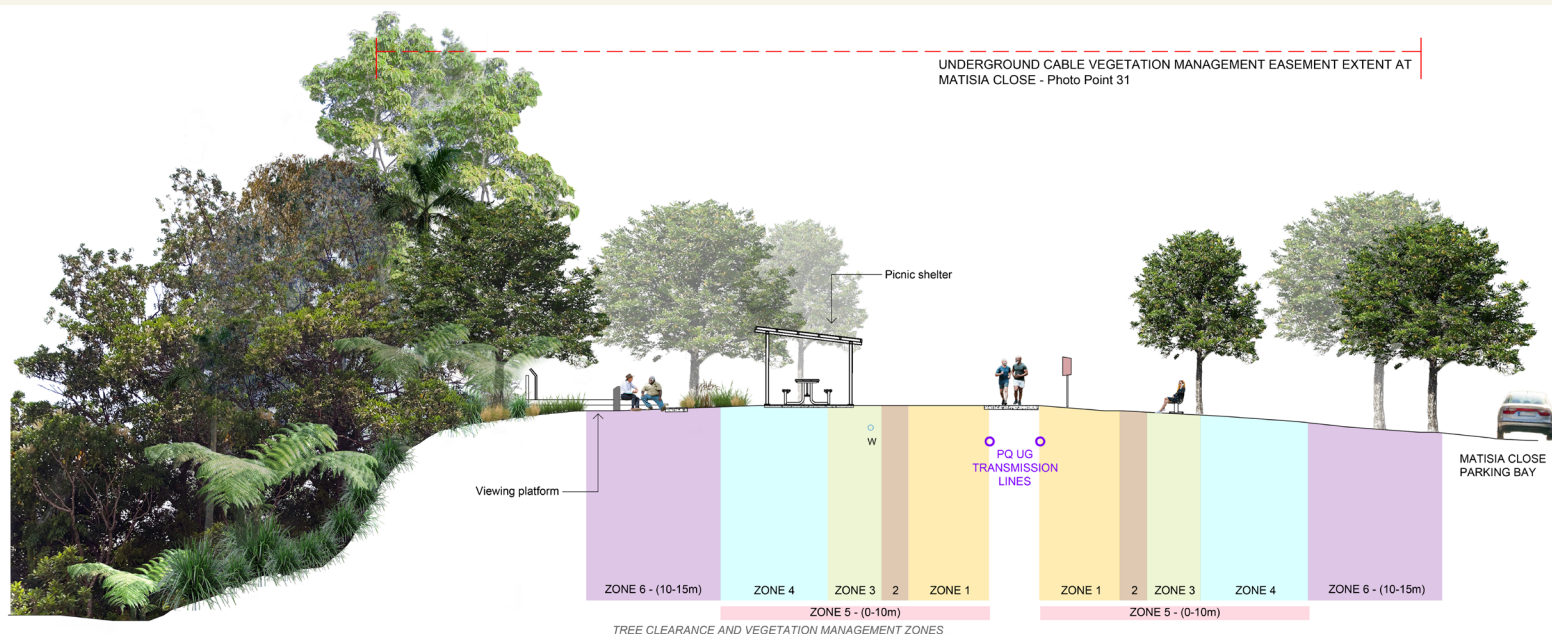
We are working with Cairns Regional Council to appropriately plan for the restoration of the easement, including identifying new amenity opportunities for the area such as shade structures and seating.

Restoration works will involve replanting along the easement with compatible species that will not impact on the underground cables or the easement in their mature state.

Approximately 24,000 grasses and plants will be locally propagated from local provenance seed and cuttings.

Vegetation restoration zones will guide what is planted based on the species type and the zone's proximity to the underground cables. The types of species used will also be determined by availability of stock.

The image below shows the restoration zones, compatible species types and potential new amenities.



LEGEND

VEGETATION RESTORATION ZONE 1 (<3m)	VEGETATION RESTORATION ZONE 5 (0-10m) - No trees identified as having vigorous root systems are to be planted in this zone.
VEGETATION RESTORATION ZONE 2 (3-4m)	VEGETATION RESTORATION ZONE 6 (10-15m)
VEGETATION RESTORATION ZONE 3 (4-6m)	PATH/KERB
VEGETATION RESTORATION ZONE 4 (6-10m)	W WATER
	UGC UNDERGROUND POWERLINE



Landscape drawings and visual materials have been prepared for different viewpoints along the easement to show how the area looks with existing vegetation and what it will look like three to five years after the vegetation management and restoration works are completed.

These visuals are available on our project website powerlink.com.au/bayviewheightswhiterock
Alternatively, you can contact our project team and request copies be provided to you.

Existing vegetation

Matisia Close



Completed restoration work



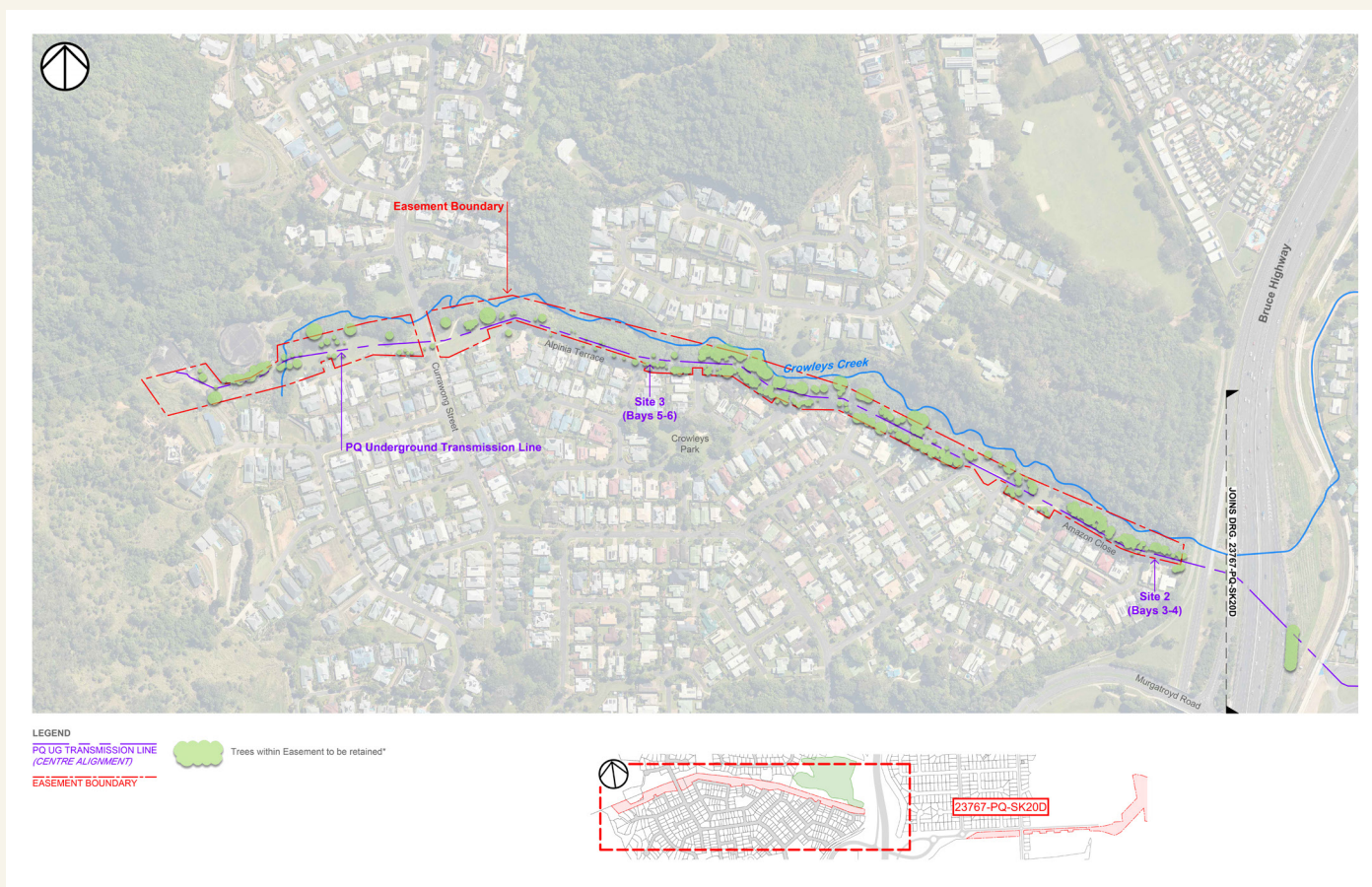
Amazon Close



Alpinia Terrace



Trees to be retained within the easement



Community feedback and how to be involved

Powerlink is planning to stage the vegetation removal and easement restoration works and is seeking community feedback on two proposed options.

Both proposed options involve:

- removing selected trees posing a high risk to the underground cables in 2024
- using mulch to cover areas where trees have been removed until restoration works commence.

Powerlink is seeking feedback from local residents, the wider community and other stakeholders to help inform the approach for the vegetation management and timing for the easement restoration works.

Maps have been prepared to show the two options being considered. The following two option maps show 2024 vegetation clearing only. The full suite of maps are available on the project website.

To provide your feedback on the proposed options and new amenity opportunities for the area, we encourage you to please complete a survey by:

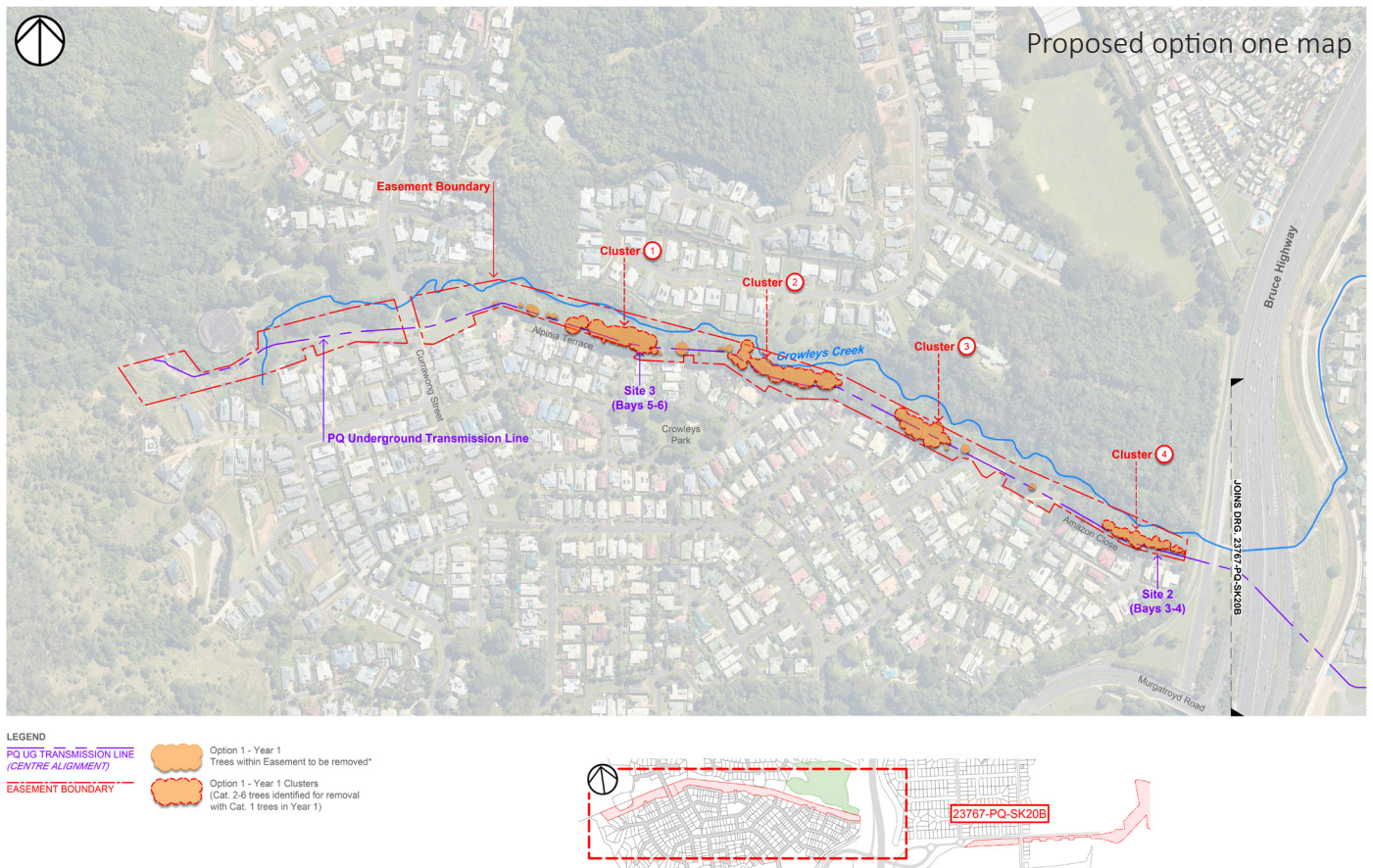
- Visiting our project website at powerlink.com.au/bayviewheightswhiterock or by scanning this QR code
- Visiting one of our community information drop-in sessions
- Contacting our project team on 07 4034 7600 or fnqprojects@powerlink.com.au



Proposed option one

- This approach involves vegetation removal and easement restoration works occurring over a 3-year period, between 2024 and 2026.
- Approximately 175 high risk trees along the easement and 110 selected trees in four key clusters would be removed in 2024.
- Clusters have been identified to address issues with problematic tree removal (e.g. trees with interlocking branches and root systems).
- This option removes the need to disturb some areas more than once and enables progressive restoration works to occur in the cleared cluster areas.
- Two clusters about the joint bay site locations adjacent to Alpinia Terrace and Amazon Close.

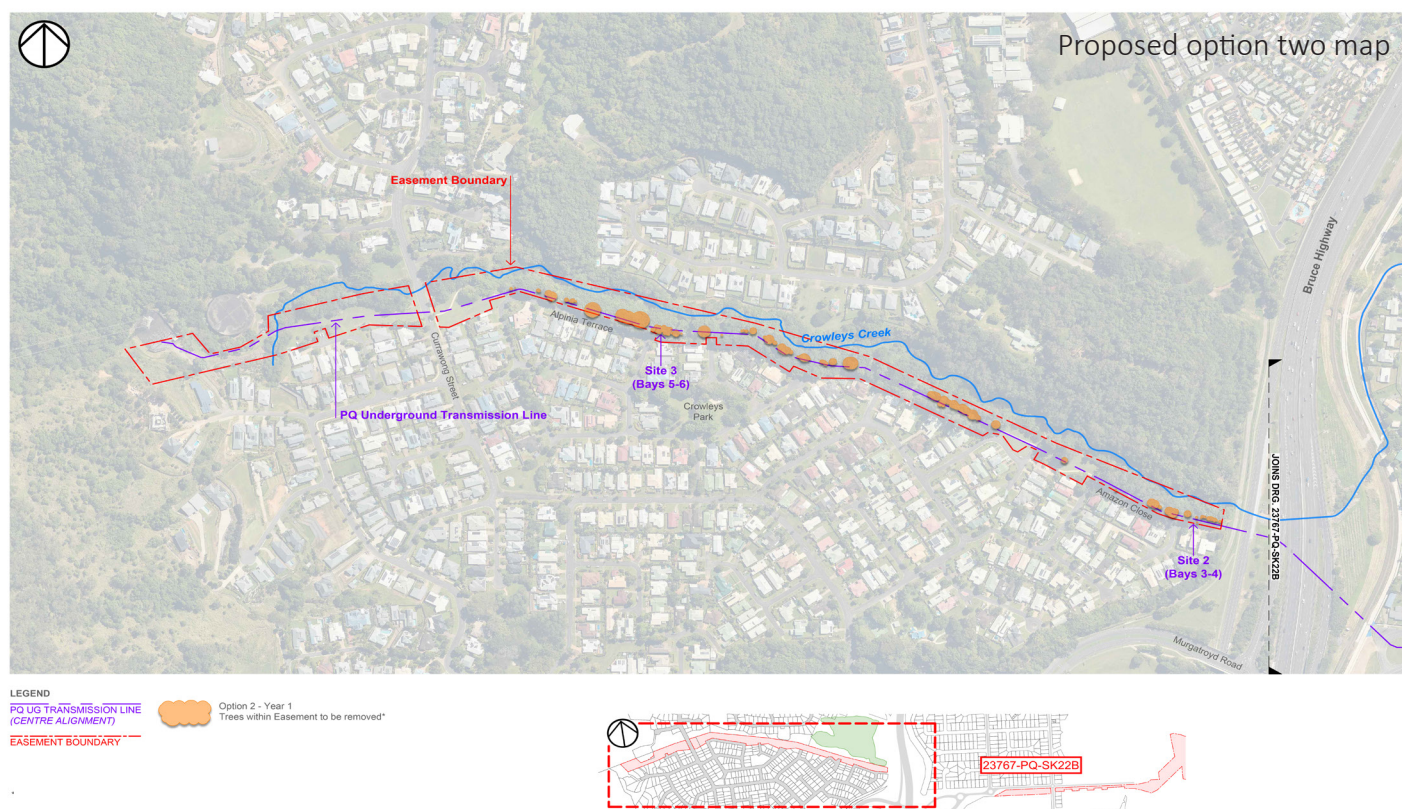
Year	Required Works	Approximate number of trees to be removed
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove trees posing a high risk to the underground cables• Remove all trees within four key clusters• Some vegetation in a 20m x 20m area around the joint bay locations will remain until the refurbishment works in 2025• Mulch will cover areas where trees have been removed• Restoration works will start at the cleared cluster areas	285
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove vegetation around joint bay locations• Remove remaining trees posing a future risk to the underground cables• Complete restoration works along the easement	100
2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintenance of plantings	Nil



Proposed option two

- This approach involves vegetation removal and easement restoration works occurring over a 4-year period, between 2024 and 2027.
- Only trees identified as posing a high risk to the underground cables will be removed in 2024.
- Remaining trees posing a future risk will be removed in 2025.
- Progressive restoration works cannot occur as some areas will be disturbed multiple times during the selected tree removal.
- The areas where trees have been removed will be covered with mulch until restoration works commence.

Year	Required Works	Approximate number of trees to be removed
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove trees posing a high risk to the underground cables • Mulch will cover areas where trees have been removed 	175
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove remaining trees posing a future risk to the underground cables • Commence restoration works along the easement 	210
2026/2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete restoration works along the easement • Maintenance of plantings 	Nil





Community information drop-in sessions

We will be hosting community information drop-in sessions to provide residents and the community with an opportunity to meet with our project team, ask questions and provide feedback.

The community information drop-in sessions are being held at the Mount Sheridan Plaza (near Woolworths) 106 Barnard Drive, Mount Sheridan.

- Saturday 15 June - 10am to 2pm
- Monday 17 June - 3pm to 6pm
- Tuesday 18 June - 9am to 12pm
- Thursday 20 June - 10am to 2pm
- Saturday 22 June - 10am to 2pm

Keeping the community informed

Local residents, the wider community and other stakeholders will be kept updated about the easement vegetation management and refurbishment works through:

- letterbox drops to properties in the project area
- door-knocking residents directly neighbouring the easement
- project newsletters
- website updates
- social media posts
- signage along the easement
- community information drop-in sessions.

About Powerlink Queensland

Powerlink is a leading provider of high voltage electricity transmission network services, combining innovation with insight to deliver safe, cost effective and reliable solutions. We own, develop, operate and maintain the high voltage electricity transmission network in Queensland. Our network extends 1,700km from north of Cairns to the New South Wales border. We aim to connect Queenslanders to a world class-energy future, providing electricity to more than five million Queenslanders and 253,000 businesses.

Further information

For more information on the Bayview Heights to White Rock Underground Cable Project, please contact our project team on **07 4034 7600** or **fnqprojects@powerlink.com.au**



Use the QR code to access our project website or visit powerlink.com.au/bayviewheightswhiterock