

Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

About the project

Powerlink is planning for an additional transmission line between the Calvale Substation, near Callide Power Station, and the Calliope River Substation, near Gladstone. The additional 87km long transmission line will:

- Reinforce electricity supply to the Gladstone region
- Increase network capacity and reliability
- Enable up to 1,800MW of renewable generation capacity
- Support heavy industry to decarbonise and transition to clean energy

Most of the new line will be built within an existing double-width easement. However, there is approximately 16km between Bracewell and East End, where some easement widening is required. This is known as Section C (see map inside).

Have your say

We invite you to come along to our community information drop-in sessions, between Tuesday 2 and Thursday 4 July 2024. Please see the back page for more details on these sessions and other ways to provide your feedback. Consultation on the Draft CSR is open until 5pm, Friday 12 July 2024.

Draft Corridor Selection Report

Powerlink has prepared a Draft Corridor Selection Report (CSR) for the planned transmission line between Calvale and Calliope River substations. The Draft CSR was undertaken to assess the suitability of using existing transmission easements and identify if any new infrastructure corridors are required. The project is split into five sections (A, B, C, D and E).

Sections A, B, D & E – accessing the existing easement

Sections A, B, D and E are planned to be co-located within an existing Powerlink easement, beside an existing transmission line. Easement widening is not required. The Draft CSR includes an opportunities and constraints assessment for these sections, which considered social, environmental and physical factors. It involved field studies, desktop research and engagement with landholders, Traditional Owner groups and other stakeholders. Considerations included:

- Location of nearby houses and structures, and property boundaries
- Topography, including steep terrain, watercourses and floodplains
- Presence of agricultural and cropping land
- Presence of remnant vegetation, protected areas, and State Forests.

The assessment found the existing easement should be suitable for the new transmission line, and that co-location has the lowest impact across several factors. It identified some constraints to consider during environmental approvals and recommended ongoing consultation with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders. While the easement is vacant, it is not cleared, and some vegetation removal will be required across all sections.

Section C – Easement widening

As there are no vacant easements available in Section C, the existing easement needs to be widened to accommodate the proposed infrastructure.

The Draft CSR considered two options for Section C - one north and one south of the existing corridor. It found that social and environmental factors were similar for both options. However, a key difference was potential construction impacts on network reliability and security. It identified that outages would be significantly less impactful under the northern option. Powerlink is now seeking feedback on the preferred northern option.

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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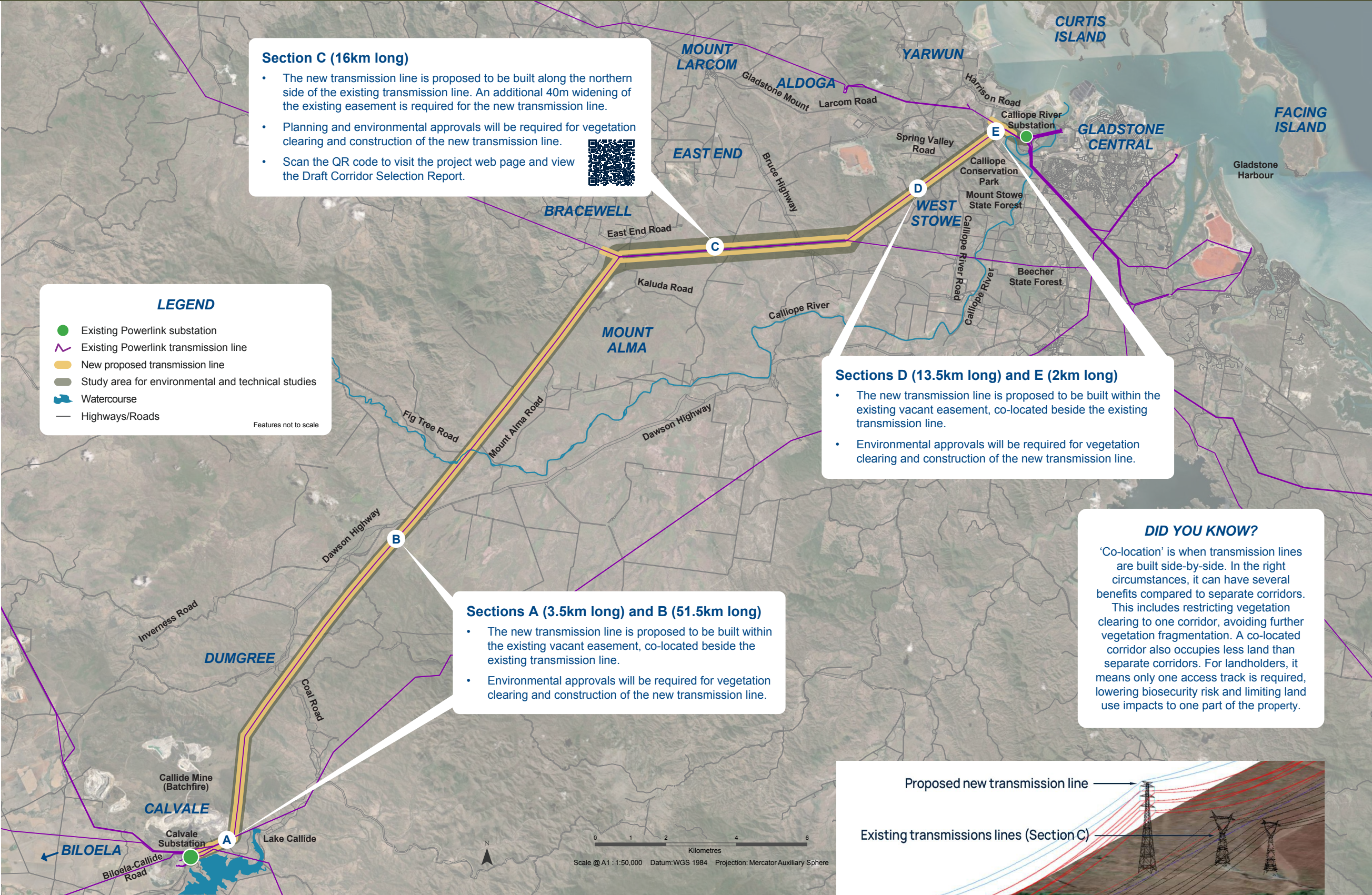
Planning Phase – June 2024

Project Timeline

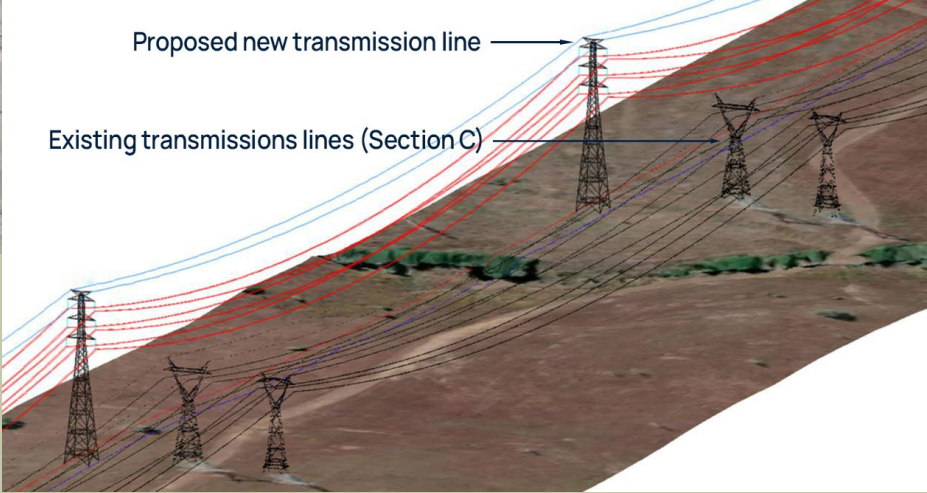
Commenced early engagement with landholders, Traditional Owner groups and other stakeholders	Early 2023
Field and desktop studies underway	Early 2023 - current
Draft CSR complete	June 2024
Draft CSR community consultation	17 June - 12 July 2024
Final CSR	August 2024
Environmental approvals lodged with government agencies	Late 2024 - Early 2025
Planning and approvals complete	Mid 2026
Start of construction	Mid 2026
Construction complete Start of operations	2028

Project Features

- The new line will be co-located with existing infrastructure, reducing social, environmental and economic impacts compared to constructing in a new location.
- The transmission towers for the new line will be approximately 64m high, which will be taller than the existing towers.
- To accommodate the new transmission line and future requirements of the Gladstone electricity network, the Calliope River Substation requires expansion over Powerlink-owned land. This will be considered as part of this project.



Draft design render showing the new transmission line co-located with the existing lines in Section C (indicative only, subject to change).



Environmental management

For safety and operational reasons, Powerlink must ensure clear access to and around our transmission lines. We try to minimise environmental impacts and only remove vegetation when absolutely necessary. Any impacts must be managed in accordance with state and federal legislation.

Environmental approvals are required for this project to appropriately manage vegetation clearing along the alignment. The project extends through different environments and terrain, mostly comprising rural land used for grazing. However, it will also traverse some areas of State Forest and Conservation Park, and Calliope River Substation is located within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Powerlink will seek environmental approval from the Australian Government under the EPBC Act. Powerlink has commenced consultation with Traditional Owners and other stakeholder groups on cultural values and heritage impacts.

Project approvals

Powerlink will also be seeking planning approval from the Queensland Government, under the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) process. We will continue working closely with landholders and the wider community as planning progresses.

Next steps

Powerlink will consider all feedback received on the Draft CSR and look to release a Final Corridor Selection Report later in 2024.

Field studies and engagement with directly impacted landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders will continue into 2025, and an Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) will be prepared as part of the formal MID approval process. There will be a formal community consultation period on the findings of the EAR in 2025.

If you would like to receive project updates via email, please email cqprojects@powerlink.com.au with your name, email address and 'C2C updates' in the subject line.

Community information drop-in sessions

Powerlink team members will be available to talk with the community at four community information drop-in sessions. Stop by at any time during these sessions to provide feedback or ask questions about this project.

Location	Date	Time
Biloela Civic Centre – Supper Room, 96 Rainbow Street, Biloela	Tuesday 2 July 2024	11.00am – 2.00pm
Mount Larcom Hall – 47 Raglan Street, Mt Larcom	Wednesday 3 July 2024	10.00am – 1.00pm
Gladstone City Library – Meeting Room, 39 Goondoon Street, Gladstone	Wednesday 3 July 2024	3.00pm – 5.30pm
Gladstone Centre Plaza – (outside Jay Jays), Philip Street, West Gladstone	Thursday 4 July 2024	9.00am – 12.00pm

Contact us

If you have any questions about the Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project, or would like to provide your feedback on the Draft CSR, please contact us by 5pm Friday 12 July 2024, by:

- visiting our project web page and completing a feedback form
- emailing cqprojects@powerlink.com.au
- phoning 1800 635 369 (Monday to Friday, 7.30am – 5pm).



Scan the QR code to visit the project web page.