

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Powerlink Supplier Capability Development Program

Who is eligible to join the program?

The program is open to:

- local businesses in the Flinders Shire, McKinlay Shire, Richmond Shire, Mount Isa City, Cloncurry Shire, Townsville City, Burdekin Shire and Charters Towers Region local government areas (LGAs)
- Indigenous businesses in local government areas along the CopperString 2032 project corridor
- new and established businesses, including people who are considering starting a new business
- small to medium-sized businesses
- businesses that work on-site, off-site and those in the local area who provide support services e.g. motels, hardware providers, professional services, vehicle servicing and parts, real estate etc.
- potential business owners.

What will the program help my business with?

The program helps local suppliers to:

- understand what major project buyers want from suppliers
- be more visible to buyers through quality capability statements and better information on supplier platforms such as Industry Capability Network (ICN) Gateway and others
- be compliant with major project requirements
- understand prequalification requirements for major projects and supply chains
- be prepared for tendering and contract management
- build confidence to bid on major project and supply chain work, and network and collaborate with other local suppliers.

How long will the program run?

The program will run for nine to 10 months at each location. Suppliers are encouraged to sign up for all five workshops to experience the full benefits of the program, including one-on-one support.

How much does it cost?

This Supplier Capability Development Program is free of charge in line with Powerlink's commitment to helping build business capability in communities along the CopperString 2032 corridor.

Where will this program be run?

The program launched in July 2024 with workshops held in Hughenden and Richmond, followed by sessions in Mount Isa, Cloncurry and Julia Creek.

The program will also run in Charters Towers and Burdekin from mid-2025. Further details and timing will be shared in due course.

What supply chain opportunities will the program support?

The program will help suppliers build their capability to target a wide range of opportunities including local council, Queensland Government (e.g., QBuild, Department of Transport and Main Roads, Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works), the agricultural sector, large businesses in the region and major projects (current and planned), including CopperString 2032.

How many workshops are there and what will they cover?

There are five workshops in total, plus one-on-one support.

Each workshop combines easy to understand information and advice from expert facilitators, a meet the buyer session, and interactive small group sessions to answer supplier questions.

Workshop handouts and information toolkits are provided at each workshop.

Workshop #	Topic	What will be covered
W1	Be visible and be compliant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how to build a high-quality capability statement how to create a business profile on ICN Gateway WHS compliance for council, Queensland Government and major projects, and other key compliance requirements
W2	Be prepared for tendering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> questions suppliers will be asked in tenders key policies suppliers need tips on how to prepare core information for tenders
W3	Meeting buyer requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understanding modern slavery, sustainability and ESG (environment, social and governance) requirements what costs to include in tendering e.g. inductions, supplier onboarding, other costs
W4	Be prepared for contract management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understanding how suppliers are evaluated common contract management terms and what they mean managing a contract and avoiding the pitfalls
W5	Meet the buyer event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> suppliers will hear about buyers' expectations and opportunities interactive sessions (25-30 minutes) during which buyers sit at the table with suppliers and answer their questions all suppliers meet and talk with all buyers in an informal workshop

When are the workshops?

Richmond and Hughenden

Workshop	Date	Location
W1 – Be visible and be compliant	23 July 2024	Hughenden
	24 July 2024	Hughenden (First Nations)
	25 July 2024	Richmond
W2 – Be prepared for tendering	3 September 2024	Hughenden
	4 September 2024	Richmond
W3 – Meeting buyer requirements	22 October 2024*	Hughenden
	23 October 2024	Richmond
W4 – Be prepared for contract management	4 March 2025*	Hughenden
	5 March 2025	Richmond
W5 – Meet the buyer event	7 May 2025	Richmond
	8 May 2025	Hughenden

*After-hours workshop available.

Mount Isa, Cloncurry and Julia Creek

Workshop	Date	Location
W1 – Be visible and be compliant	27 August 2024	Mount Isa
	29 August 2024	Cloncurry
	30 August 2024	Julia Creek
	11 September 2024	Mount Isa (First Nations)

Workshop	Date	Location
	12 September 2024	Cloncurry (First Nations)
W2 – Be prepared for tendering	11 February 2025*	Mount Isa
	12 February 2025*	Cloncurry
	13 February 2025	Julia Creek
W3 – Meeting buyer requirements	18 March 2025*	Mount Isa
	19 March 2025*	Cloncurry
	20 March 2025	Julia Creek
W4 – Be prepared for contract management	20 May 2025*	Mount Isa
	21 May 2025*	Cloncurry
	22 May 2025	Julia Creek
W5 – Meet the buyer event	15 July 2025	Mount Isa
	16 July 2025	Cloncurry
	17 July 2025	Julia Creek

*Early workshop available.

Charters Towers and the Burdekin

Workshop	Date	Location
W1 – Be visible and be compliant	Early June 2025	Charters Towers
		Charters Towers (First Nations)
		Burdekin
W2 – Be prepared for tendering	Early August 2025	Charters Towers
		Burdekin
W3 – Meeting buyer requirements	Late October 2025	Charters Towers

Workshop	Date	Location
		Burdekin
W4 – Be prepared for contract management	Early March 2026	Charters Towers
		Burdekin
W5 – Meet the buyer event	Mid-May 2026	Charters Towers
		Burdekin

Please note dates for workshops 1 to 5 in Charters Towers and the Burdekin are proposed and will be confirmed. Workshops in Townsville City LGA will also be confirmed in due course.

Where can I find more information?

If you have questions or would like to know more, please visit www.powerlink.com.au/copperstring-2032, call us on 1800 635 369 or email copperstring2032@powerlink.com.au.