Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

About the project

The Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project is in the planning stage. Powerlink has been engaged by RWE Renewables Australia (RWE) to progress work to connect their proposed Theodore Wind Farm to the electricity grid. This work includes selecting and finalising the location of a new double circuit 275kV transmission line corridor and easement alignment, seeking required approvals, and building and maintaining the line if it is approved.

Project update

Thank you to everyone who provided their feedback and comments on the Draft Corridor Selection Report (CSR) late last year. This newsletter provides a summary of what we heard, and our response.

We reviewed and considered all input received during the Draft CSR consultation period and have now prepared the Final CSR that includes some changes based on what we heard. Powerlink's commitment to early, ongoing and transparent engagement with landholders, Traditional Owner groups and other stakeholders has resulted in tangible changes to the corridor.

The Final CSR is now available on our project web page. Please contact us if you would like to request a copy in another format.

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/theodore

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Community feedback and our response

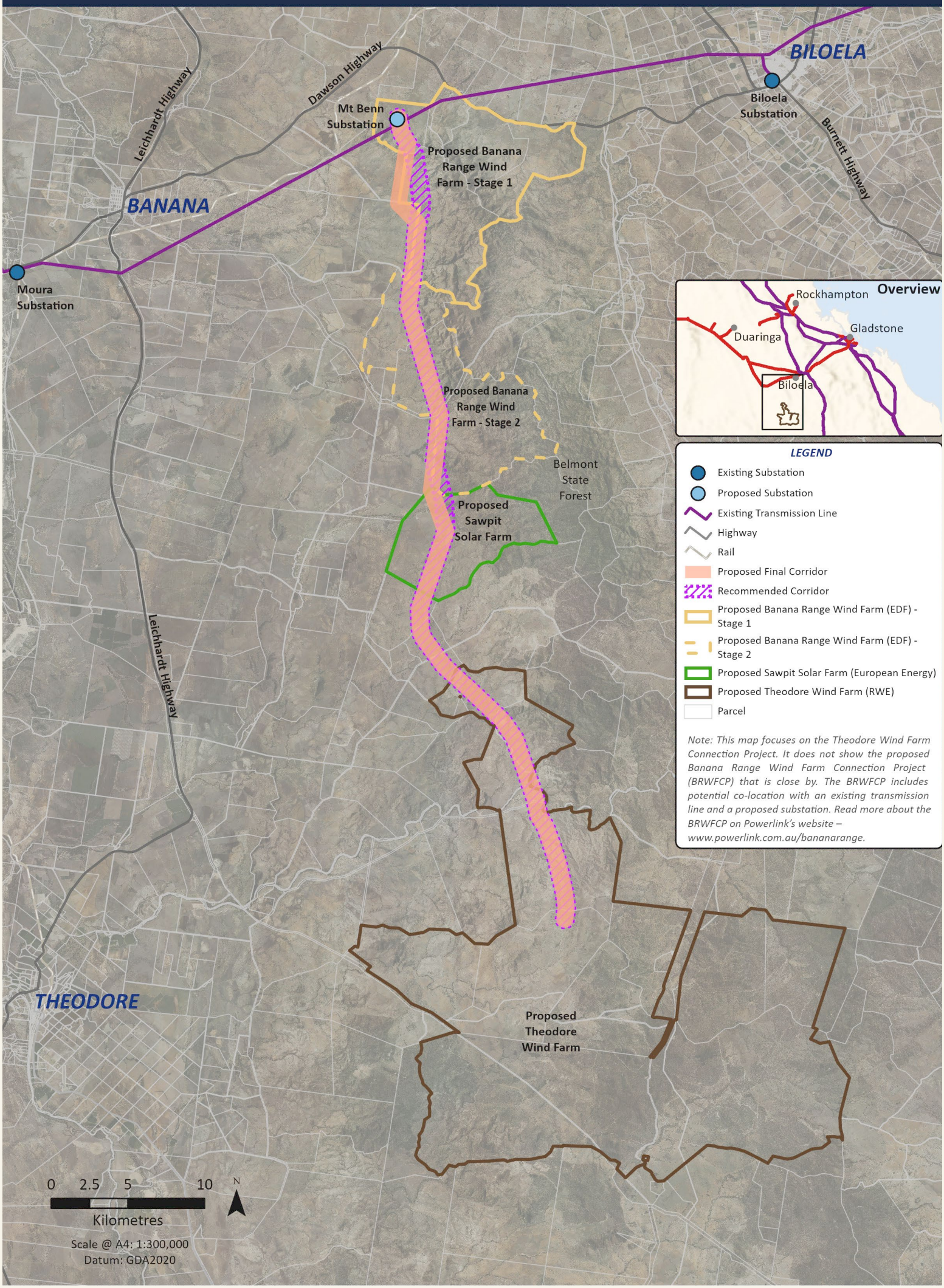
Most feedback on the Draft CSR was provided verbally, either in-person or by phone. The table below summarises the key feedback themes from the Draft CSR consultation period, and our response.

Themes	Response
BIOSECURITY	
• Potential spread of weeds from Powerlink's use of access tracks and activity within the easement • Vehicle washdowns prior to entering properties • Ensuring fire management and risk assessments are undertaken	We understand biosecurity is a priority for landholders. We take biosecurity seriously and have processes in place to avoid spreading weeds between properties or introducing new weeds from outside the local area. For example, we take preventative measures to minimise exposure to weeds, such as: • conducting regular vehicle wash downs • avoiding travel through areas heavily affected by biosecurity matter • visiting clean areas first, before travelling to affected areas • staying on roads and designated access tracks in work areas • obtaining weed and seed declarations on any fill material brought onto a property. Powerlink will work with landholders to identify biosecurity risks on each property and develop appropriate management measures, including those referred to in existing biosecurity management plans.
COMPENSATION	
• Payment for landholder's time	Powerlink is committed to being fair, transparent and equitable when negotiating payments with hosting landholders. Additionally, the Project Participation and Access Allowance (PPAA) is a payment offered by Powerlink to recognise cooperation from landholders in providing input and facilitating access to their property for technical studies. The PPAA is separate from, and in addition to, any compensation to be paid if an easement or substation is to be progressed on that land.

Themes	Response
LAND USE IMPACTS	
• Design considerations including topography, waterways • Farming practices, aerial mustering and laneways • Future development plans	Powerlink is committed to working with landholders to understand how their land is used, including timing of key activities such as farming operations, future development plans and any potential incompatibility these may have when locating transmission towers and accessing properties. Management strategies will be developed to minimise impacts, such as adjusting construction schedules to coincide with agricultural calendars and working closely with landholders to ensure their long-term property development plans are considered during the life of the project. Changes to the final corridor are reflective of consideration to farming practices. Feedback regarding design considerations will continue to be investigated into the easement alignment phase of this project.

Image: Transmission tower in Central Queensland

Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project



Changes made to the recommended corridor

As a result of feedback received, Powerlink investigated two areas for realignment of the recommended corridor, in the northern and central sections of the corridor. The final corridor selected achieves the lowest overall impact across social, environmental and economic factors.

Realignment of the northern and central sections

- Realignment has occurred in the northern section of the corridor from the proposed Mt Benn Substation site for an approximate distance of 1.3km to the south where it rejoins the original recommended corridor.
- Realignment has occurred in the central section of the corridor, surrounding Sawpit Creek.
- Both the northern and central areas are constrained by existing land uses include grazing operations and associated infrastructure.
- Following feedback from landholders, both the northern and central sections of the corridor have been relocated to the west.
- Realignment of these two corridor sections offers greater ability to reduce impacts in these areas, in particular environmental impacts in the central corridor.

Changes adopted

With these realignments adopted, the final 1km-wide corridor length has increased by 0.9km (1% of total line length) to improve co-existence opportunities.

The final corridor continues to achieve the least overall impact across social, environmental and economic considerations. Through the corridor selection and refinement process, the final corridor:

- maintains a relatively direct route
- includes the least number of properties, which minimises property-specific impacts
- minimises significant impacts on agriculture, cropping and grazing lands
- is located a considerable distance from existing townships (mainly Banana) and major highways, reducing broad visual amenity impacts
- enhances opportunities for co-existence with existing distribution powerlines and other proposed renewable energy projects in the area, creating less impacts and maximising efficiencies.

Next steps

Powerlink will continue to work closely with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the wider community and other stakeholders as planning activities progress to ultimately reduce the 1km-wide final corridor to a 60m-wide easement alignment.

This work includes undertaking detailed technical studies and ongoing engagement with landholders and Traditional Owner groups to help determine the final transmission line design. This phase of the project focuses heavily on identifying specific areas to avoid, and impacts to mitigate and further manage through the design process.

Following completion of the corridor selection process, Powerlink will seek planning approval from the Queensland Government, under the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) process. Powerlink may also need to seek environmental approval from the Australian Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

If the project is approved, construction is proposed to commence by mid-2026.

Image: Community Information Session sign in Theodore

Support

Powerlink is offering support to landholders and community members through a professional counselling service (Rural Health Connect). This is an independent and confidential provider.

To access this service, please call 0493 432 144 or visit ruralhealthconnect.com.au/employeeassistance-program. Select 'EAP' from the services menu, select your psychologist and appointment time, and complete the registration entering the EAP Program Code: 'Landholder Assist'.

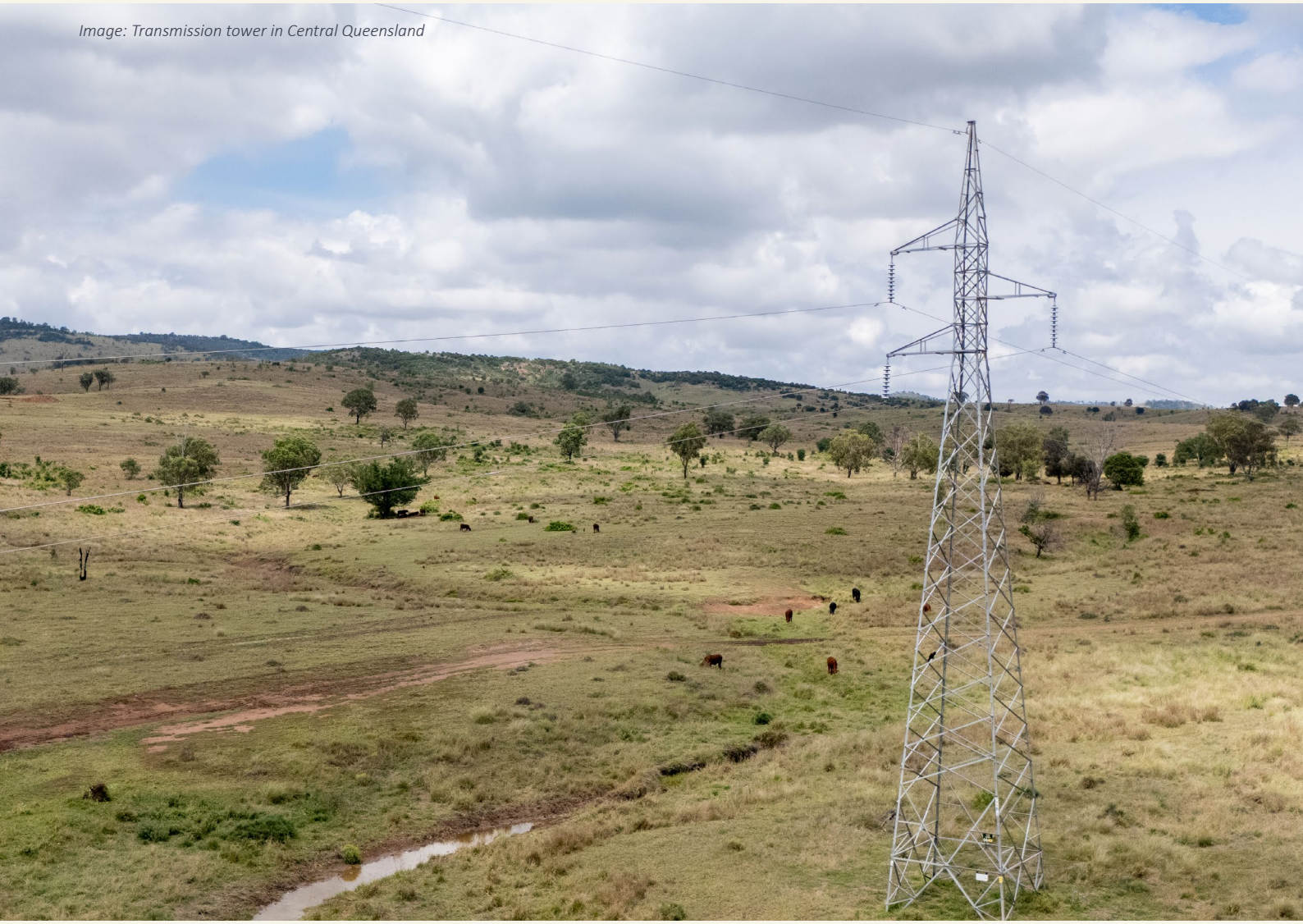
About Powerlink Queensland

Powerlink is a Government Owned Corporation that owns, develops, operates and maintains the high voltage transmission network in Queensland.

We connect Queenslanders to a world class energy future, providing electricity to more than five million Queenslanders and 241,000 businesses.

We also connect large-scale renewable energy developments to the electricity grid, such as wind, solar and hydro, and provide electricity to large industrial customers across many sectors, including rail, mining and oil and gas.

Image: Transmission tower in Central Queensland



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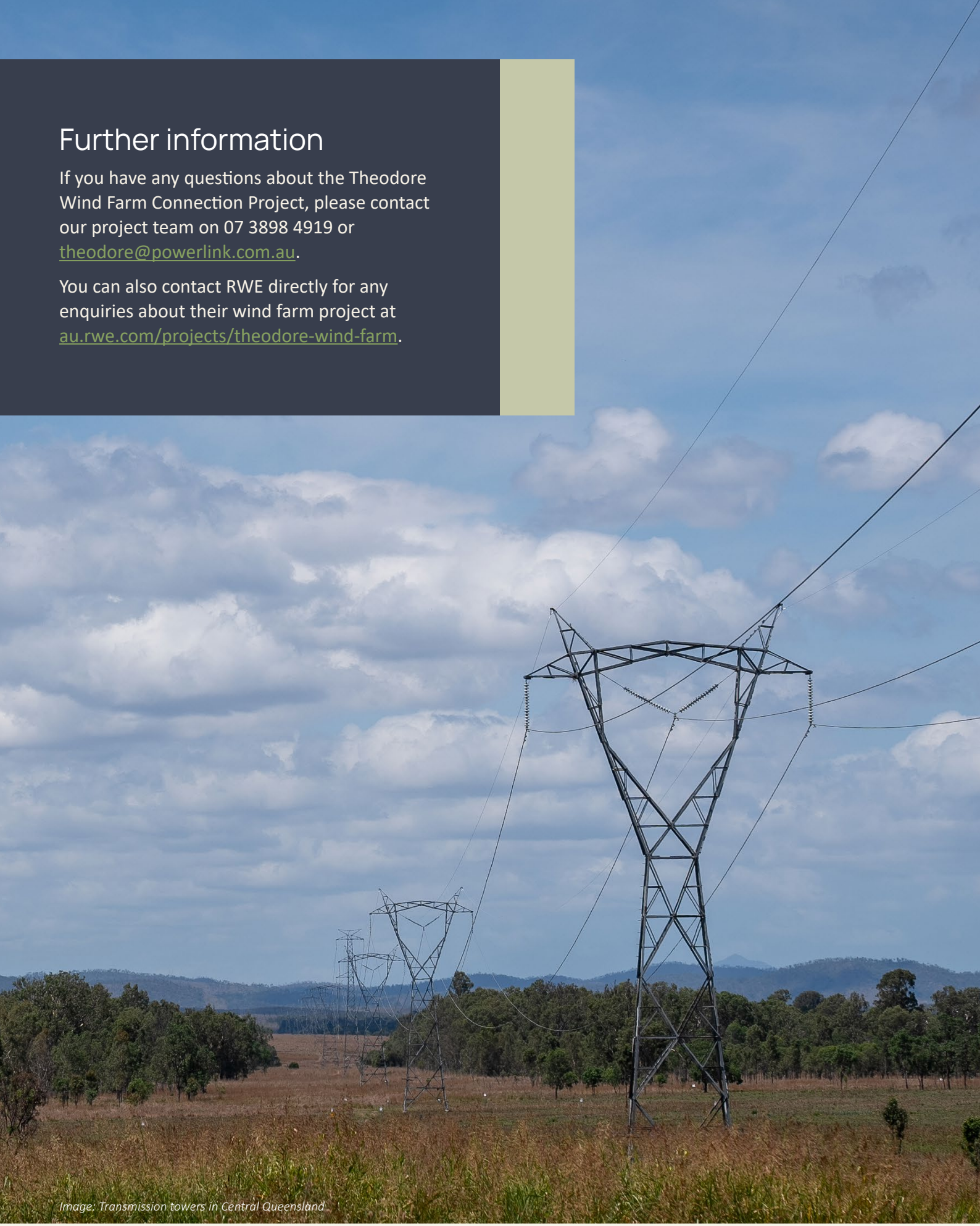
Further information

If you have any questions about the Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project, please contact our project team on 07 3898 4919 or theodore@powerlink.com.au.

You can also contact RWE directly for any enquiries about their wind farm project at au.rwe.com/projects/theodore-wind-farm.



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