

# Bayview Heights to White Rock Project

## POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

### Project update

This project newsletter provides the following updates and information on:

- upcoming vegetation management works
- changes to the Crowley Creek walking path
- maintenance requirements at the cable joint bay sites
- status of the easement restoration planting.

Works around the cable joint bay sites are scheduled to start from **Monday 24 March 2025**.

We thank residents and the local community for their ongoing patience as we deliver these essential works, and we will continue to provide updates on activities and timings.

### Project overview

Powerlink owns and operates the 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 are 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. Essential works to ensure the continued secure supply of power are being delivered along sections of the underground cables and easement located in Mount Sheridan's Forest Gardens Estate.

These works involve:

- 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 cable joint bay sites located near Alpinia Terrace and Amazon Close.

*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](https://powerlink.com.au/bayviewheightswhiterock)



**SAFE FOR LIFE**  
Everyone. Everywhere. Everyday.

## Maintenance requirements

Joint bays are used to join sections of the underground cables together.

Routine inspections and testing of our transmission underground cable network identified refurbishment works are needed at two cable joint bay sites located within Powerlink's easement in Forest Gardens Estate.

One site is located near Alpinia Terrace, and the other site is located near Amazon Close.

These essential works are required to maintain a secure and reliable power supply to residents and businesses in Cairns and Far North Queensland.

### What the works involve

To access the underground joint bay and deliver the refurbishment works, the following activities are required:

- targeted vegetation clearing around the joint bay sites
- levelling the area above the joint bays
- excavating the joint bays
- setting up equipment required for the refurbishment works
- installing temporary fencing around the work site.

Vegetation clearing is required to provide safe and clear access to excavate the joint bay sites and deliver the refurbishment works.

To prepare the sites, work crews will need to use small cranes, trucks and excavators.

Once the joint bays are excavated, a marquee-type structure will be erected over the sites to provide weather protection and a controlled environment for the specialist crews to perform their work.

### What to expect during the works

The refurbishment works at the cable joint bay sites will not result in any impacts to electricity supply.

The crews delivering these works will be on-site between **6.00am and 6.00pm**. Works will initially be performed Mondays to Saturdays, but once the joint bays are excavated works will be daily (including Sundays) to expedite delivery of the works.

Local traffic and pedestrian management plans will be in place, as required, to maintain safety and access for residents and community members.

A security provider will also patrol the joint bay sites outside of the crew's working hours.



*An excavated joint bay*

### Schedule of works

#### Joint bay site near Alpinia Terrace

- Vegetation removal works are scheduled to start **Monday 24 March 2025**
- Site preparation works are scheduled to start from **Monday 31 March 2025**
- All works at the joint bay site to be completed by **late-June 2025**.

#### Joint bay site near Amazon Close

- Vegetation removal works are scheduled to start **Monday 24 March 2025**
- Site preparation works are scheduled to start from **Monday 14 April 2025**
- All works at the joint bay site to be completed by **late August 2025**.

We will keep residents and the local community updated on timings as these works progress.



## Crowley Creek walking path

The underground cable joint bays in the Forest Gardens Estate are currently covered by sections of the Crowley Creek walking path.

We recognise this walking path is a valued and well-used community asset enjoyed by residents and the wider community.

Planning is underway with Cairns Regional Council to permanently realign two short sections of the walking path near the joint bay sites. By realigning these sections near Alpinia Terrace and Amazon Close, we can safely deliver maintenance works at the joint bay sites without impacting walking path users.

The realigned sections will bring the walking path closer to the creek bank and new bollards or handrails will be installed to maintain safety.

We are also working with Cairns Regional Council to identify opportunities to upgrade the existing railing on the pedestrian bridge near Alpinia Terrace.

In the coming weeks, we will provide residents and the wider community with further information about these works including timings and plans showing the realigned sections.



*Pedestrian bridge near Alpinia Terrace*

## Easement restoration works

### Restoration planting works

The easement restoration works are progressing well with the recent planting of compatible vegetation along the easement.

We have engaged local contractors, Cairns Conservation Services, to deliver these important works and crews have been busy over the last few months planting grasses, shrubs and shade trees.

During maintenance of the new plantings, it has been identified that some species are not thriving in their current location.

Some species will be replanted at alternate, suitable locations along the easement and tube stock will be replaced as required.

Further planting of compatible vegetation will be undertaken at the start of the 2025 wet season and following the completion of the vegetation removal and joint bay refurbishment works.



*Restoration planting works near Blueberry Close*

### Amenities

We are continuing to plan for the delivery of new amenities along the easement including liaising with relevant suppliers.

New amenities will be installed this year starting in areas that will not be impacted by further vegetation management activities, or the joint bay refurbishment works.

Prior to the amenities being installed, we will place signage along the easement to show the locations of these amenities.

The type and location of amenities has been determined following feedback from residents, the wider community and in consultation with Cairns Regional Council.

Further information about the amenities and community feedback are available on our project website and in project newsletters – October 2024 and December 2024.



*Restoration planting works near Matisia Close*

## Vegetation management – 2025

Further tree removal along the easement is required to remove the remaining trees posing a future risk to the underground cables.

This work is scheduled to start from July 2025, and we will keep residents and the community updated on the timing of activities.

For these works, the vegetation removal will start at the Amazon Close end of the easement with works continuing up towards Alpinia Terrace.

Local contractors, ETS Infrastructure Management, will again be undertaking the vegetation management works for the joint bay sites and easement.

To minimise impacts to the local environment, an arborist and fauna spotter will again be on-site during the vegetation removal process.

On-site equipment may include wood-chippers, tipper trucks, chainsaws, pole saws, blowers, an excavator and a specialist harvesting machine.

**Work crews will be on-site on Mondays to Fridays, between 7.30am and 5.00pm.**

Local traffic and pedestrian management plans will be in place to maintain safety and access for residents and community members.

Further information about the trees to be removed in 2025 is available on the project website.



*Restoration works near Alpinia Terrace*

## Keeping the community informed

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

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

## 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 241,000 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](mailto:fnqprojects@powerlink.com.au)



Use the QR code to access our project website or visit [powerlink.com.au/bayviewheightswhiterock](https://powerlink.com.au/bayviewheightswhiterock)