

# CopperString

## POWERLINK QUEENSLAND



### Message from our Project Director

**The Treasurer has announced a further investment commitment for delivery of the CopperString Project over the next four years.**

At a pre-budget announcement in Townsville on Friday the government confirmed an additional \$1.4 billion would be allocated to CopperString over the next four years.

This will be on top of the initial \$1 billion previously allocated for early works such as design, procurement of long-lead equipment, planning and environment approvals and construction of workforce accommodation facilities.

A total budget commitment of \$2.4 billion is welcome news for our people working on the project, enabling the Powerlink project team to advance work on the Eastern Link while Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC) continues their work to assess the project and identify opportunities for private sector investment.

We will continue work to acquire easements, land and approvals for the Eastern Link and prioritise work around Hughenden in the coming financial year, especially construction of a new Flinders Substation.

This work will include preparations for site accommodation across the Eastern Link plus procurement of transformers and tower steel.

Recently, we also attended the Queensland Community Renewables Forum at Hughenden and outlined our work on finalising community legacy infrastructure plans for Richmond and Hughenden, plus ongoing discussions with local councils for legacy projects around Julia Creek, Cloncurry and Mount Isa.

I look forward to providing further updates on project milestones and our work with QIC as soon as possible.

**Tom Dockray**

CopperString  
Project Director



📍 Treasurer David Janetzki in Townsville to announce funding commitment for the project.



📍 Hughenden Workforce Accommodation Facility (WAF) tour with key stakeholders, Powerlink and QIC.

*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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## Community Investment and Sponsorship to date

Powerlink is dedicated to providing lasting benefits to communities along the CopperString alignment.

The project will also continue its smaller community and sponsorship investments. Since the beginning of this financial year CopperString has invested more than \$144,600 into community projects and initiatives across the corridor.

This includes support for:

- STEM Changemakers Program – providing support for 30 young women to participate in this fantastic program that encourages a career in the STEM fields.
- Clontarf Foundation Partnership- funding towards Powerlink's Queensland-wide partnership agreement
- Sporting and recreational upgrades – shade structures for community clubs in Richmond and Maxwellton, equipment purchases for the Hughenden Golf Club, and irrigation for the Richmond Golf Club green
- Youth and education – support for St Francis Primary School, Flinders Shire's Study Hub/Country University Centre, and back-to-school packs for Richmond State School students
- Cultural and social events – including the Hughenden Country Music Festival and Richmond Rotary's community Christmas event
- Community wellbeing and environment – support for Western Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Group, Prairie Community Horse Club, and women's workshops in the Flinders Region.

CopperString remains committed to investing in the social fabric of the communities along the project corridor and will continue working closely with local groups to support meaningful initiatives.



## Community grants opening soon

Powerlink's 2025 Community Grant Round is scheduled to open in late July, offering up to \$5,000 for one-off community projects. Stay tuned to our website for details on how to apply.

As part of our grassroots investment, CopperString has provided more than \$77,000 in local sponsorships, supporting events such as the Mount Isa Rodeo, North West MPX, Hughenden Festival of Outback Skies, Julia Creek Dirt and Dust, and Hughenden Country Music Festival.

For more information about Powerlink's community grant program, contact [communitygrants@powerlink.com.au](mailto:communitygrants@powerlink.com.au)



 Hughenden WAF aerial shot

## Hughenden Workforce Accommodation Facility (WAF)

The facility is nearing completion and recently hosted a successful tour with Flinders Shire Council and key regional stakeholders on 30 May. The Hughenden WAF reached another milestone recently with its first electrical energisation. Commissioning is expected in the coming weeks, with intersection works and fencing to be complete before the site becomes operational.



## Supplier Capability Development Program (SCDP)

We are continuing with our free supplier development program to prepare and upskill local suppliers along the corridor. The next round of workshops can be attended in person and will also be available online.

### Workshop 2 'Be prepared for tendering'

- 15 July 2025 - Mount Isa
- 16 July 2025 - Cloncurry
- 17 July 2025 - Julia Creek.

\*Early workshop available.

#After-hours workshop available.

For more information on the program, visit:  
[powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032](https://powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032)



 Supplier Capability Development Program (SCDP) information session



## CopperString Experience Centre

The Centre is preparing for its next free school holiday program with free fun and exciting activities to entertain the kids running 30 June – 13 July\*. The focus — “Energy Superheroes.” Since opening in September last year, the centre has welcomed more than 4,270 visitors.

**\*Please note:** the Experience Centre will be closed on 7 July public holiday.

### Engineers Australia

Project Engineering Director, Praveen Vijayakumar, showcased CopperString to the Engineers Australia board members at the Experience Centre. It was a fantastic session walking through our project and what we’re delivering, and incited several questions from the engaged board members.

### Regional Development Australia executives

We welcomed four Regional Development Australia executives to the CopperString Experience Centre. Wayde Chiesa (Townsville), Robert Cocco (Greater Whitsundays), Sonja Johnson (Tropical North), and Tony Gambling (Central & Western Queensland) toured the centre and discussed regional development, new opportunities, and cross-regional partnerships. The visit was a valuable chance to explore collaboration, sustainable growth, and support for thriving regional communities.



## QUT students gain insights from CopperString Leadership

Powerlink was proud to host future Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Master of Business Administration (MBA) graduates at the CopperString Experience Centre as part of their Townsville business tour, offering them a first-hand look at one of Queensland’s most significant infrastructure projects.

Deputy Project Director and QUT MBA graduate, Vik Dhiman, welcomed the students and shared insights into his career journey with Powerlink and CopperString. He spoke about the opportunities and challenges involved in delivering a project of this scale, covering key aspects such as major project delivery, stakeholder engagement, and leadership.

For the students, the visit was an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of infrastructure development and the skills required to drive large-scale projects forward. Vik also provided words of encouragement, reflecting on his own MBA experience and the role lifelong learning plays in career progression.







CopperString team at Townsville Green Energy Forum

## Engaging with the community



## Delivering for community and industry

Where we've been recently...

- Coffee with Cabinet with Premier David Crisafulli- Townsville
- Townsville Queensland Renewable Energy Council (QREC) Community Renewable Energy Forum
- Charters Towers Career Expo
- TAFE Queensland Reconciliation Week event (Pimlico Campus)
- Mining and Critical Minerals Forum- Townsville
- Future Economy Road Map – Mount Isa
- Hughenden Festival of Outback Skies
- Townsville Industry Breakfast by Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) – Townsville
- Townsville Green Energy Forum
- Coffee Connect – Charters Towers
- DSDIP Industry Briefing and Meet the Buyer event – Mount Isa



## Supporting employment pathways

Powerlink is committed to creating meaningful local and Indigenous participation opportunities on the CopperString project. To support this, we've partnered with Helping Our Mob Everywhere (HOME), an Aboriginal-owned organisation that provides life skills and employment support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. HOME is helping job seekers by identifying suitable candidates, delivering targeted training, and facilitating direct employment pathways within the project.

In late 2024, HOME hosted a weekend recruitment session in Townsville to introduce community members to potential project roles. This expression of interest (EOI) event attracted 180 participants.

The recruitment process includes identifying candidates' aspirations and baseline skills, mapping training pathways to ensure job readiness, providing training and support programs, and engaging families to help create a supportive environment.

Participants showed interest in a wide range of careers, including electrical apprenticeships, lineswork, boilermaking, hospitality (chefs, kitchenhands, and cleaning), labouring, maintenance, small business ownership, and environmental roles focused on caring for Country.

To learn more or attend an upcoming session, call 07 4773 3077 or email [admin@homeql.com.au](mailto:admin@homeql.com.au)



## Upcoming events

Representatives from our project staff will be at these upcoming events:

**13 to 15 June** – Sponsoring – Richmond Field Days

**19 June** – Charters Towers Coffee Connect

**26 to 27 June** – Townsville Chamber Raising Regions Conference

**28 June** – Sponsoring - STEM Changemakers event, Townsville.

**30 June to 13 July** - **FREE** School Holiday Program at CopperString Experience Centre, Townsville.

**2 to 3 July** - North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (NWQROC) - Georgetown

## Further information

Powerlink is committed to ongoing genuine and timely engagement to ensure we deliver positive outcomes for landholders, stakeholders, the environment and local communities where our transmission infrastructure is located.

To learn more about CopperString, contact the project team on 1800 635 369 or email [copperstring2032@powerlink.com.au](mailto:copperstring2032@powerlink.com.au)



Use the QR code to access our project webpage or visit [powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032](https://powerlink.com.au/copperstring2032)