

Borumba Pumped Hydro Transmission Connections Project

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

Welcome to our latest project newsletter

This edition looks at:

- current project activity
- environment and planning approvals
- local sponsorship and events.

Our newsletter aims to keep you informed about our project updates and highlight the events and activities we support in the region. We appreciate any feedback you may have on this update, so please reach out if you have any questions or suggestions, or if we can assist you in any way.

You can contact the Borumba Transmission Connections Project Team via email at borumba@powerlink.com.au or by calling the project team on:

Borumba to Halys:
07 3898 4911

Borumba to Woolooga:
07 3898 4988

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/borumbatransmission



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Project update

In April 2025, the Queensland Government announced that the Queensland Investment Commission (QIC) would be overseeing Queensland Hydro (QH), and playing a lead role in scoping the delivery options for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project.

Powerlink will continue to work closely with QH on developing the transmission infrastructure essential for connecting the Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project to the electricity grid.

Borumba to Halys Connection

We are making steady progress on the Borumba to Halys transmission connection, focusing on progressing key approvals and refining the final 1km-wide corridor to a 70m-wide easement alignment.

As part of the project development process, ecological surveys were completed earlier in the year, including late wet season assessments focusing on flora, frogs and reptiles.

These surveys build on the knowledge already established as part of field assessments completed earlier.

As part of the project, vegetation clearing is needed. This requires approval from the Federal Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC), which is a legal requirement for activities that could impact nationally protected plants, animals or ecosystems.

We are committed to meeting these requirements and carrying out our work in a responsible and environmentally conscious way.

We are currently finalising the EPBC referral documentation and aim to formally lodge the referral to the Federal Government in August 2025. The referral process will confirm whether the project is considered a 'controlled action' under the EPBC Act, as well as the type of assessment required.

We continue to engage with Traditional Owner groups as we plan to progress targeted site-specific technical assessments. These insights, along with other technical assessments will help us balance environmental, heritage and social impacts, while ensuring the transmission network remains safe and reliable.



Ecologists setting up a motion-activated camera to get a glimpse into local wildlife. The camera remained in place for two weeks, capturing images of animals as they moved through the area.

We are also working with the Queensland Government to progress planning approval through the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) process for the Borumba to Halys connection. While this application will not be lodged until 2026, the key technical assessments we are currently progressing will help to inform the project development and design.

The MID approval process will involve a formal community consultation period where we will share our findings and gather feedback, and we will provide plenty of notice ahead of time.

Borumba to Woolooga Connection

Since our last update, we reached a key milestone in February 2025 with the completion of our seasonal ecological studies.

These studies have provided us a clearer picture of the local environment, including sensitive areas and habitats that we need to be mindful of as we move forward.

We continue to progress desktop level design assessment, which provide an early, high-level view of the potential route and highlights some of the design constraints we may need to navigate.

While we are still in the early stages, this work lays the groundwork for more detailed planning and will help guide future conversations with landholders.

Once all assessments and field studies are finalised, and we have worked with landholders to determine the easement alignment, we will move forward with the EPBC referral and MID approval.

Submitting these referrals and approvals separately allows for a thorough and transparent assessment of social, environmental and economic impacts, along with mitigation measures and stakeholder feedback.



*Ecologists use various methods to find and identify frogs, including acoustic recordings, spotlighting and call playback. These techniques form part of our surveys to detect elusive species like the *Litoria wilcoxi* shown here.*



Project timeline

- **December 2021**
Early engagement
- **July - October 2022**
Introduction to investigation area
- **November 2022 - April 2023**
Engagement on transmission corridor options
- **April 2023**
Release of recommended transmission corridors
- **August - October 2023**
Engagement on recommended transmission corridors
- **September 2023**
Release final corridor for Borumba to Halys transmission corridor and extended engagement on the Borumba to Woollooga corridor
- **November 2023**
Release of final corridor for Borumba to Woollooga transmission corridor
- **December 2023 - June 2025**
Landholder engagement on easement alignment
- **2025 - 2027***
Progress approval for the transmission lines through the Federal Government EPBC Act and State Government planning approvals via the MID process under the *Planning Act 2016*.

*Indicative timing

Environment and planning approvals for Borumba to Halys

Federal Government decision

At Powerlink, we take our environmental responsibilities seriously and are committed to managing any potential environmental impacts from our proposed activities for this project.

We are planning to refer the project to the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) for assessment under the EPBC Act.

As the next step, DCCEEW will open a 10-business-day public consultation period for our EPBC referral.

This is an opportunity for landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community, and other stakeholders to review and comment on our referral. DCCEEW will manage this process, and all related documents will be available on the [EPBC Act Public Portal](#).

Following this consultation period, DCCEEW will determine if the project is a 'controlled action', meaning the project would require Federal Government approval under the EPBC Act.

They will also determine the assessment process and what type of information we are required to provide for assessment.

State Government decision

Powerlink is also seeking planning approval from the Queensland Government, under the MID process.

This process is managed by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) with input from other government agencies.

To support this, we are preparing a MID Report to identify the potential social, environmental and economic impacts of the project, and how those impacts can be mitigated or managed across the whole lifecycle of the infrastructure wherever possible.

The report will draw on insights from over 18 months of desktop and field studies on flora, fauna, and social and cultural heritage factors.

We expect to submit the Borumba to Halys MID proposal to DSDIP in the first half of 2026. In the meantime, key assessments to help us inform the project development and design will continue, taking into account construction traffic impacts, noise and vibration, landscape and visual amenity, bushfire risks and more.

Once the MID proposal has been endorsed, the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning will initiate a 20-business-day public consultation period on the project's report. This formal consultation is initiated by DSDIP, and we will support the process through our own concurrent engagement activities.

Formal submissions must be made directly to the Minister in writing and can address any of the topics covered in the report.

During this period, we will share details with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders on how to access the report, ask questions and make a submission.

We will also be holding community information drop-in sessions at selected locations along the Borumba to Halys corridor.

Register for updates at powerlink.com.au/borumbatransmission.



Powerlink was pleased to support Coolabunia State School's Reef & Beef event.

Coolabunia State School's Reef & Beef event

In February 2025, Coolabunia State School hosted its annual Reef & Beef event to raise funds for a new playground extension.

The event, which sold out with 200 tickets, transformed the school's undercover area into an elegant cocktail setting, complete with delicious food and live music.

The evening brought together the local community to support a great cause, with the goal of expanding the school playground to accommodate their growing number of students.

Powerlink was proud to attend the event and show our support.

It was a wonderful night that showcased the strength and spirit of the Coolabunia community, all while raising vital funds for the next generation of students.



Powerlink team out at the Nanango Show.

Nanango Show

In April 2025, Powerlink proudly supported the Nanango Show Society by volunteering and participating in their annual show, one of the town's biggest events.

The show provided an opportunity to engage with local residents, share information about Powerlink's role in the energy system, and discuss our projects underway in the region.

The Show Society greatly appreciated our assistance with event set-up and staffing various stalls on the day and into Saturday evening.



Powerlink presented the People's Choice Award to a young band of three talented Kingaroy High school students, The Paradox.

South Burnett Music Awards support local talent

The third South Burnett Music Awards was held in March 2025 at the Commercial Hotel Kingaroy to celebrate the vibrant live music scene in the region.

The event, run by the very passionate local musician Warren Gould and supported by Blackbutt Benarkin Lions Club, aimed to recognise and encourage live music excellence, with a special focus on engaging young adults.

Over the past two years, the event has raised over \$11,000 to donate musical instruments to young dedicated music students in the South Burnett area.

As a Crescendo Sponsor, Powerlink was delighted to support this wonderful cause. Our Community Relations Advisor Bec Coffey had the honour of presenting the 'People of the Industry's Choice Award,' one of seven awards presented on the night.

The event was a success, raising funds to help provide instruments for those who need them most, ensuring that the love for music continues to thrive in South Burnett.



Powerlink team out at the Gympie Show.

Connecting with the community at the Gympie Show

Powerlink was proud to be part of the Gympie Show in May, and what a great few days it was. Our team really enjoyed the chance to connect with the local community, answer questions, and have meaningful conversations about the future of energy in the region.

We had lots of visitors drop by our stand to learn more about our upcoming projects and share their thoughts. It is always valuable to hear firsthand what matters most to the people who live and work in the areas where we operate.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to pop by and have a conversation with us, and a big shoutout to the organisers for putting together such a well-run and welcoming event. We are already looking forward to the next one!



Our visitors got a close-up look at some of the technology we use to monitor and maintain our transmission network, including our inspection drones.

Community groups empowered through Powerlink grants

Seventy-eight beneficiaries of the 2024 Powerlink Community Grants program have received grants of up to \$5,000 to help make a difference in communities across Queensland. Through these grants, Powerlink has provided more than \$320,000 for communities across 14 local government areas where electricity transmission projects are underway.

In Southern Queensland, 39 community groups received grants totalling more than \$148,000. These grants aim to enhance community wellbeing, promote sustainable practices and offer substantial support to grassroots organisations. Examples of local initiatives that have been funded include:

- data projector and screen for the Linville Community Hall
- refuge and hospital care kits for the Gympie Country Women's Association
- lockers for the homeless provided to South Burnett Support Alliance Incorporated
- new fridge and freezer for Jimna Forest Action Group Information Centre.

Powerlink remains steadfast in our mission to support and uplift Queensland communities. The next grant round opens 21 July and closes on 22 August 2025. We encourage eligible groups to visit powerlink.com.au/community-grants to learn more.



Dave from the Jimna Forest Action Group standing proudly by the new fridge and freezer at their Information Centre, funded as part of Powerlink's community grants program.

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/employee-assistance-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 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 are also responsible for connecting large-scale renewable energy developments, including wind and solar, and providing electricity to large industrial customers in the rail, mining and LNG sectors.

Further information

Scan the QR code to visit our project webpage and subscribe to keep up to date with project activities.



Or contact:

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