

CopperString Flinders Substation Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Assessment Report Summary

About Powerlink

Powerlink Queensland is a Government Owned Corporation that owns, develops, operates and maintains the transmission network. We connect Queenslanders to a world-class energy future, providing electricity to more than five million Queenslanders and 241,000 businesses.

About CopperString

CopperString initially involves building 840 kilometres (km) of high voltage transmission line from Townsville to Mount Isa. Approximately 200km of additional transmission line will be required to connect diversified energy generators to CopperString.

The project includes:

- 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Townsville to Hughenden
- 330kV transmission line from Hughenden to Cloncurry
- 220kV transmission line from Cloncurry to Mount Isa
- substation sites and workforce accommodation and facilities in strategic locations along the corridor.

Project approvals

CopperString was declared a 'Coordinated Project' in April 2019, necessitating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.

The final EIS was accepted in February 2022 and in September 2022, the Coordinator-General recommended the project proceed with specific conditions outlined in an evaluation report.

The project is now progressing to the next stage of delivery which involves obtaining land use planning approvals and development permits through the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) process under the *Planning Act 2016*.

CopperString was endorsed to apply for planning approval through the MID process in May 2024.

Project scope

Due to the size and scope of CopperString, project delivery will be staged.

Several MID proposals are required to support project approvals and construction sequencing, starting with Flinders Substation.



Engagement to date

Since taking responsibility for project delivery in March 2023, Powerlink has undertaken specific MID process consultation activities in communities along the corridor.

During this time, we have engaged with landholders to gather local insights and understand how individual properties are managed. We have also engaged with relevant state and local government representatives in the region, Traditional Owner representatives, community leaders, local business groups and other key stakeholders to get their input.

The project team has undertaken comprehensive work including environmental and technical assessments which, together with landholder and other stakeholder feedback, has assisted in our decision-making process.

How to have your say

The Flinders Substation MID Assessment Report is now available for public review and comment. The report has been submitted to the Queensland Government Planning Minister for approval under the *Planning Act 2016*.

The report was prepared by environmental specialists and has been informed by extensive environmental and technical research, and engagement with landholders, the community and other key stakeholders.

The document can be accessed by:

- viewing a full digital report on Powerlink's website at www.powerlink.com.au/copperstring
- visiting <https://www.planning.qld.gov.au/planning-framework/infrastructure-planning/ministerial-infrastructure-designations> (visit the 'Requests open for consultation' tab towards the bottom of the webpage and search for 'Flinders Substation')
- viewing a hard copy at the library in Hughenden
- requesting more information by emailing copperstring@powerlink.com.au or phoning 1800 635 369.

What's in the report

The Flinders Substation MID Assessment Report proposes the construction of a new Flinders Substation 6km south of Hughenden on Kennedy Developmental Road. The proposal also includes a temporary concrete batching plant within the footprint of the substation and a new water bore adjacent to the substation.

Flinders Substation is located within a rural area south of the township of Hughenden and Flinders Highway. The land surrounding the substation includes stock routes and stock route reserves, as well as Hughenden racetrack and rural grazing land.

The report identifies the environmental, social, technical and economic aspects of the project in detail, and how potential impacts can be managed or mitigated.

The table below lists topics frequently mentioned by landholders, the community and other stakeholders, as well as where to access the relevant information in the report.

| Topic | Section of the MID Assessment Report |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Flinders Substation project description | Section 2.2 |
| Construction methodology | Section 3.3 |
| Traffic and transport | Section 7.2 |
| Ecology | Section 7.3 |
| Water | Section 7.4.5 |
| Biosecurity | Section 7.5 |
| Electromagnetic fields | Section 7.9 |
| Bushfires | Section 7.10.4 |
| Aboriginal cultural heritage | Section 7.11 |
| Social impact | Section 7.13 |
| Consultation with landholders and other stakeholders | Section 9 |

How to make a submission

Formal submissions on the Flinders Substation MID Assessment Report are now invited and must be received in writing on or before **Tuesday 9 September 2025** by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. Submissions must be lodged:

- online at www.planning.qld.gov.au/planning-framework/infrastructure-planning/ministerial-infrastructure-designations
- via infrastructuredesignation@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au

- by post to PO Box 15009, City East, Queensland 4002.

Next steps

Current activities:

- Formal consultation on the Flinders Substation MID Assessment Report is being undertaken by the Planning Minister. Powerlink is also encouraging submissions from anyone with an interest in the project.
- Powerlink is working with Traditional Owners in the project area to seek feedback and input on the report.

Upcoming activities:

- The Planning Minister will review all submissions received on the report and provide Powerlink with information about matters raised. Powerlink will review this information, undertake any required additional investigations and respond by outlining any changes made.
- The Planning Minister will assess the report and consider all submissions. If approval is granted, the decision will be published in the Queensland Government Gazette and notification will be provided to directly affected landholders, relevant local governments and Powerlink.
- Powerlink will engage with neighbouring landholders ahead of construction works starting and explain how property-specific impacts will be minimised or managed.