

Genex Kidston Connection Project

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

Overview

Powerlink has been engaged by Genex Power Limited (Genex) to deliver a 275kV electricity transmission line and two associated switching stations to connect Genex's renewable energy generation project at Kidston to the national electricity grid.

The Kidston Clean Energy Hub includes establishing a combination pumped storage hydro, solar and wind power generation facility at Kidston, approximately 270km north-west of Townsville. Visit www.genexpower.com.au for more information.

Construction and project highlights

- Transmission line stringing is progressing well and is now 89% complete.
- A total of 25% of the 186km-long transmission line will be strung using drone stringing methodology.
- Final testing and commissioning works are due to commence in the coming months and will take around three months to complete.

Genex Kidston Connection Project

TOWER HEIGHT
UP TO **85M**



348 TRANSMISSION
TOWERS



250MW
KIDSTON PUMPED
STORAGE HYDRO



SUPPORTING
400 JOBS



MOUNT FOX
GREENVALE
CONJUBOY
KIDSTON



275kV
SINGLE CIRCUIT LINE



186KM
OF TRANSMISSION LINE



5,500 TONNES OF
GALVANISED STEEL

INSULATORS **35,000** CONDUCTORS **1,200KM**



MORE THAN
25 LOCAL
SUPPLIERS
ENGAGED



LOCAL CONTRACTS
VALUED AT MORE THAN
\$50m

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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Construction activity update

Following completion of construction works for all transmission towers, our focus is on stringing the remaining sections of the transmission line.

While the majority of stringing work was completed by helicopter, 25% of the 186km-long transmission line will be strung using drone stringing methodology.

Construction of both our Guybal Munjan and Aurumfield switching stations is now complete with final testing and commissioning works planned for Q3 2025. The new 275kV feeder connection will be energised by Q4 2025.



Guybal Munjan Switching Station

Engineering excellence: Towering heights and drone innovation power Queensland's grid

As the project nears completion, we look back on two key construction milestones where Powerlink reached new heights – literally and technologically – reshaping how energy infrastructure is delivered across Queensland.

Towers that touch the sky

Standing at 85m tall, Powerlink's newly constructed transmission towers over Hopewell Creek are among the tallest on our 275kV transmission network. Designed to withstand the region's flood-prone conditions, these tower heights ensure Queenslanders remain safely and reliably connected to power during natural disasters.

Built to last: Each tower is anchored by 71.5 tonnes of steel and 25 cubic metres of concrete, with foundations extending 5.8m deep and 1.2m wide.

Precision assembly: A 250 tonne crane with a 90m reach was mobilised to the remote site – no small feat given the challenging terrain. The successful delivery reflects the strength of Powerlink's partnerships and logistical planning.

Drone stringing takes flight

In a first for the Asia-Pacific region, Powerlink and aerospace partner Infravision were recognised by the Australian Financial Review Energy Awards for using drones to string the longest section of high voltage transmission line. This innovation was delivered as part of connecting Genex's Kidston Clean Energy Hub to the grid.

Award-winning innovation: By using drones and 'smart puller tensioner' stringing technology, we are minimising environmental impacts and enhancing safety, as well as reducing noise and disruption for landholders.

Future-ready agreement: Powerlink and Infravision have entered a multi-year partnership to integrate drone stringing into future transmission projects across Queensland. The system combines drones, smart puller tensioners and specialised payloads to string lines, install hardware and conduct inspections.

Local supplier contracts

Powerlink has worked with principal contractor UGL to maximise local employment and procurement opportunities wherever possible for this project.

Sub-contracting opportunities on the project have included vegetation and access works, machine and equipment hire, cleaning services, waste management and recycling, and much more.

To date we have engaged more than 25 local suppliers, including landholders along the transmission line, with local contracts valued at more than \$50 million.



Local supplier information session in September 2023

Community investment

Powerlink's community investment activities are aimed at supporting initiatives and projects that focus on creating sustainable communities and assist with economic development, enhance community and social capacity, build resilience and create positive legacies.

Since the Genex Kidston Connection Project began construction, more than \$500,000 in community investment funding has been committed. This funding has supported over 50 community investment initiatives across the Charters Towers, Etheridge and Hinchinbrook local government areas including:

- supporting the upcoming upgrade of existing lighting and the installation of new solar powered lighting in several parks in the Etheridge Shire Council area.
- installing and commissioning a new oven for Ingham Meals on Wheels
- providing the Greenvale State School with 10 new laptops as part of a wider community investment initiative that has included furniture, kitchen appliances, a defibrillator and a water bubbler as well as gardening and maintenance equipment
- supporting Ingham Tennis Club's free tennis coaching for school students and funding an accessibility upgrade of their toilet block.

For more information about Powerlink's community investment activities, please contact community@powerlink.com.au or visit our [community investment](#) page.



Powerlink representative Ben with the Ingham Meals on Wheels team



Powerlink supporting the refurbishment of Ingham Tennis Association facilities

Construction progress

(as per July 2025)

Transmission Line

Site clearing and access:

100% complete

Foundation works:

100% complete

Tower assembly and erection:

100% complete

Conductor stringing:

89% complete

Guybal Munjan Switching Station

Site clearing and earthworks:

100% complete

Civil works:

100% complete

Plant delivery:

100% complete

Assembly works:

100% complete

Electrical works:

100% complete

Testing and commissioning:

90% complete

Aurumfield Switching Station

Site clearing and earthworks:

100% complete

Civil works:

100% complete

Plant delivery:

100% complete

Assembly works:

100% complete

Electrical works:

100% complete

Testing and commissioning:

50% complete

About Powerlink

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 253,000 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.

About the Kidston Clean Energy Hub

Genex Power Limited is developing the Kidston Clean Energy Hub, which comprises the Kidston Pumped Storage Hydro Project in combination with wind and solar, approximately 270km north-west of Townsville. This facility will connect to the Queensland grid via a new 275kV electricity transmission line and switching stations, collectively referred to as the Genex Kidston Connection Project (visit www.genexpower.com.au for more information). Powerlink has been engaged by Genex to deliver this project.

Further information

For more information on the Genex Kidston Connection Project, please contact the project team:

07 4034 7600

fnqprojects@powerlink.com.au



Scan the QR code or visit powerlink.com.au/genex to read more on our project webpage.

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