

CopperString

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

Message from our Project Director

CopperString continues to move forward, with a clear focus on delivering the Eastern Link from Townsville to Hughenden and advancing early works in Hughenden.

Following the Queensland Government's additional \$1.4 billion funding commitment earlier this year, the Powerlink Board has endorsed a sharpened delivery focus on prioritising the Eastern Link and initiating the preliminary site works at the Hughenden Hub.

Subject to final approvals, works on the Hughenden Hub will commence later this year. These include road upgrades, surveying, fencing and site preparation for the new Flinders Substation. The Hughenden Workforce Accommodation Facility (WAF) will also open in 2025, initially offering 50 beds and shared amenities to support the growing workforce. Major construction of the Eastern Link is targeted to begin in 2026. This marks another important milestone in bringing CopperString to life.

The Powerlink Board has endorsed a scope change under the Delivery Launch Package (DLP), sharpening our focus on the Eastern Link. While both the Eastern and Western Links remain under review by Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC), our approach to the preliminary site works preserves sufficient optionality but also supports technical clarity with ongoing detailed design activities.

QIC's independent review continues to play a vital role in securing the right investment and long-term value for Queenslanders. Review feedback to date has been positive, recognising the strength, hard work and professionalism of the CopperString team. Powerlink expects the final QIC report for the Eastern Link to be concluded within the last quarter of the calendar year.

Community engagement remains central to our approach. In July, the CopperString Regional Reference Group (RRG) met under the leadership of new Chair Maria James, CEO of MITEZ, with strong support for the Hughenden works and the upcoming WAF launch.

An additional two RRG meetings are expected to be held over the coming months leading into December.

Earlier this month, I was proud to attend the iconic Mount Isa Rodeo. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with local businesses, community leaders and industry partners, and to celebrate the resilient spirit of North West Queensland.

Planning is also progressing for community legacy infrastructure across the corridor. Backed by the \$30 million Community Legacy Fund, these projects will deliver lasting benefits in education, training and local infrastructure for councils along the alignment. Regional investment remains a priority and we are excited to be working with local suppliers and partners to deliver this strategically important project.

I'm pleased to share CopperString has secured land to meet our environmental offset requirements in line with project approvals and to progress works on the Flinders Substation site. This is an important step forward, showing our commitment to protecting the environment as we move closer to starting works.

CopperString remains central to securing North and North West Queensland's energy and industrial future. I look forward to sharing further progress in the months ahead.

Tom Dockray
Project Director



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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Celebrating one year of CopperString Experience Centre

The CopperString Experience Centre has celebrated its first anniversary, welcoming more than 5,000 visitors and making a significant impact on the local community.

During the past year, the Centre has hosted three successful school holiday programs, achieved Aspect Certification, and conducted numerous educational tours for schools, businesses, and industry, professional and economic development bodies. These initiatives have fostered valuable connections and provided insights into the CopperString project's role in sustainable energy and local economic growth.

The Centre is preparing for its next school holiday program running from 20 September to 6 October. The theme is 'Eco Adventure' and looks at farming, agriculture and animals along the alignment. Bring the family for some fun and education these school holidays.

For more information about the Centre, visit copperstringexperience.com.au



Thank you for engaging with the CopperString Experience Centre



📍 CopperString team accepting the award on the night

CopperString wins Raising Regions Award

Powerlink's CopperString project has been recognised for its strong contribution to North Queensland, taking out the Raising Regions Award at the Townsville Chamber Business Excellence Awards.

The award celebrates organisations making a significant impact on the growth and development of the region by creating jobs, attracting new industry and enhancing North Queensland's reputation. Other finalists in this category included Explore Property Munro & Co, SeaLink and STEM Changemakers.

CopperString's award was accepted on the night by Susannah Greenleaf, Manager Community & Stakeholders, and members of the Townsville-based team.

"This award is a reflection of the dedication and collaboration across the Powerlink Queensland CopperString project team," said Susannah.

"We're proud to be delivering real and lasting benefits for North Queensland—creating jobs, supporting local and Indigenous businesses, and strengthening regional capability."

"Through initiatives like the Supplier Capability Development Program, the Community Legacy Investment Framework, and our engagement and education programs, we're working to ensure CopperString leaves a meaningful legacy. Our team's strong regional presence and commitment to partnership are central to that success."

From the Community Legacy Investment Framework, supported by a \$30 million State Budget commitment, to initiatives like the Community Grants Program, CopperString Experience Centre and STEM Changemakers, the project is already delivering benefits across North Queensland.

With more than 50 staff now based in Townsville, CopperString continues to build strong partnerships and ensure long-term value for the communities it serves.

Winning the Raising Regions Award is an important milestone and a reflection of the collaborative effort already underway to deliver lasting outcomes for the region.



Supplier Capability Development Program workshops

We are committed to providing genuine opportunities for local and Indigenous industry participation in the project supply chain.

The CopperString Supplier Capability Development Program (SCDP) is free of charge in line with Powerlink's commitment to helping build local supplier capability in communities along the CopperString corridor. The program has already delivered significant procurement outcomes with 18.87% local spend and 4.28% in Indigenous procurement spend to date.

We are continuing with our workshops across the corridor which can be attended in person and will also be available online.

Workshop 3 'Meeting buyer requirements'

Date	Time	Address	Location
16 September 2025	6.30am to 8.30am	Ballroom, Red Earth Hotel, 16-20 West Street	Mount Isa
16 September 2025	9am to 2.30pm	Ballroom, Red Earth Hotel, 16-20 West Street	Mount Isa
17 September 2025	7am to 8.45am	Conference Room, Gidgee Inn, Flinders Highway	Cloncurry
17 September 2025	9am to 2.30pm	Conference Room, Gidgee Inn, Flinders Highway	Cloncurry
18 September 2025	9am to 12.30pm	Julia Creek Civic Centre, 29 Burke Street	Julia Creek

Workshop 4 'Contract management'

Date	Time	Address	Location
9 September 2025	9am to 2.30pm	Diggers Entertainment Centre, 19 Flinders Street	Hughenden
9 September 2025	5pm to 7.15pm	Diggers Entertainment Centre, 19 Flinders Street	Hughenden
10 September 2025	9am to 2.30pm	Richmond Civic Centre, 50 Goldring Street	Richmond
11 November 2025	6.30am to 8.30am	Mount Isa Civic Centre, 23 West Street	Mount Isa
11 November 2025	9am to 12.30pm	Mount Isa Civic Centre, 23 West Street	Mount Isa
12 November 2025	6.30am to 8.30am	Cloncurry Community Precinct, 37 Scarr Street	Cloncurry
12 November 2025	9am to 2.30pm	Cloncurry Community Precinct, 37 Scarr Street	Cloncurry
13 November 2025	9am to 12.30pm	Julia Creek Civic Centre, 29 Burke Street	Julia Creek

Workshop 5 'Meet the buyer'

Date	Time	Address	Location
5 November 2025	9am to 1.30pm	Diggers Entertainment Centre, 19 Flinders Street	Hughenden
6 November 2025	9am to 1.30pm	Richmond Civic Centre, 50 Goldring Street	Richmond
10 March 2026	9am to 1.30pm	Mount Isa Civic Centre, 23 West Street	Mount Isa
11 March 2026	9am to 1.30pm	Cloncurry Community Precinct, 37 Scarr Street	Cloncurry
12 March 2026	9am to 1.30pm	Julia Creek Civic Centre, 29 Burke Street	Julia Creek

For more information on the program, visit powerlink.com.au/copperstring



Supplier Capability Development Program workshop attendees

Community legacy investment strengthening regional partnerships

Powerlink is committed to supporting regional growth and building strong community partnerships through our Community Legacy Investment Framework (CLIF), an initiative developed to ensure fair, transparent, and impactful investment in communities along the CopperString project alignment.

The CLIF focuses on four key areas:

- Legacy infrastructure (e.g. housing, community facilities)
- Strategic and enabling projects (e.g. masterplans and feasibility studies)
- First Nations and grassroots community investment
- Targeted local initiatives (e.g. skills programs, small amenity upgrades).

In July, the CopperString Regional Reference Group was briefed on the investment selection process, the role of councils, the delivery timeline, assessment criteria, and proposal template. Since August, councils have been identifying local needs and ready-to-go projects. The next phase includes targeted workshops to refine proposals, with prioritised submissions expected later this year.

This initiative reflects Powerlink and the broader Queensland Government's commitment to delivering long-term benefits and building confidence through early investment and collaboration.



Hughenden Country Universities Centre Soft Launch



Meet the Buyer North Queensland event in Townsville

Hughenden works update

The Hughenden Workforce Accommodation Facility (WAF) is nearing completion, with the team working hard to finalise the remaining water and wastewater infrastructure works.

Once operational, the WAF will begin with around 50 beds to meet initial workforce needs. This will scale up over time to accommodate the major construction phases tied to Flinders Substation and transmission lines.

Road sealing works will also be underway over the next few months on the access roads and intersections near the WAF to support site logistics and safety.

The project team are working to select a facility operator to operate the WAF and are hoping to have this finalised in the coming months.

We continue to work closely with Flinders Shire Council to ensure these works are delivered effectively and efficiently, with good outcomes for the community and the project.



Hughenden Workforce Accommodation Facility (WAF)



Townsville Careers Expo

CopperString team champions careers at Townsville Expo

The CopperString team proudly supported the recent Townsville Careers Expo, showcasing Powerlink's commitment to future workforce development.

More than 2,000 local students attended the Expo, meeting with employers, universities, and training providers to explore future career paths.

The Powerlink team shared valuable insights into career pathways, apprenticeships, work experience, and vacation programs. A standout feature was the CopperString Experience Centre's Drone Zone, which captivated students and sparked curiosity about the technology and innovation driving the energy sector.

It was great to connect with communities and promote opportunities across the broader Powerlink network.



Delivering for community and industry

Where we've been recently...

- Supplier Capability Development Program workshops (Mount Isa, Julia Creek and Cloncurry)
- CopperString Regional Reference Group meeting (Charters Towers)
- Townsville Careers Expo (Townsville)
- Townsville Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards (Townsville)
- Mount Isa Rodeo (Mount Isa)
- Meet the Buyer North Queensland Supply Chain (Townsville)
- Charters Towers Regional Council Quarterly Business Breakfast (Charters Towers)
- Julia Creek Dirt n Dust Festival (Julia Creek)
- CopperString Regional Reference Group meeting (Online)



Mount Isa Mayor, Peta MacRae and Tom Dockray at the Mount Isa Rodeo. Below Tom Dockray with some Australian cowboys.



Supporting STEM in our local communities

In June, the CopperString Experience Centre hosted 25 regional young women taking part in the STEM Changemakers program – an initiative designed to inspire the next generation of innovators.

Backed by a \$30,000 community investment contribution from CopperString, the two-month program helps participants build confidence, develop practical skills, and explore opportunities in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Through hands-on learning, mentorship, and real-world challenges, the program encourages capable young women from regional and remote areas to consider career pathways they may not have thought possible.

As part of their journey, the students toured the CopperString Experience Centre, learning more about Queensland's largest transmission project and the role of STEM in delivering energy infrastructure. In August, members of the CopperString team went on camera to share their own career pathways into STEM to help promote the program. From engineering and project management to community engagement and environmental science, their stories showed the diverse opportunities available to young people.

Programs like STEM Changemakers not only inspire individuals but also help strengthen the social and economic fabric of regional and remote Queensland. By empowering young women with the skills, confidence and networks to succeed, we are building a stronger talent pipeline for the future.

CopperString is proud to stand alongside partners including the Queensland Government, James Cook University, APT, AECOM, Rockfield AIMS, Wilmar and GRIT Mindset in delivering this important initiative. Together, we are helping ensure regional and remote communities are part of Queensland's future in science, technology and energy.



Upcoming events

Representatives from the CopperString project will be at these upcoming events:

- 9 September – SCDP – Contract management workshop (Hughenden)
- 10 September – SCDP – Contract management workshop (Richmond)
- 10 to 12 September – Meeting of the Mines (Cloncurry)
- 12 to 14 September – Beat the Heat Festival (Cloncurry)
- 16 September – SCDP – Meeting buyer requirements workshop (Mount Isa)
- 17 September – SCDP – Meeting buyer requirements workshop (Cloncurry)
- 18 September – SCDP – Meeting buyer requirements workshop (Julia Creek)
- 20 September to 5 October – CopperString Experience Centre school holiday program (Townsville)
- 23 September – James Cook University (JCU) Working Group (Townsville)
- 24 September – Hughenden Country Universities Centre (CUC) official opening (Hughenden)
- 4 October – Julia Creek Combined Sporting Association Big Weekend (Julia Creek)
- 5 November – SCDP – Meet the buyer workshop (Hughenden)
- 6 November – SCDP – Meet the buyer workshop (Richmond)
- 7 November – NQ Women's Leadership Forum (Townsville)
- 10 November – Meet the Buyer (Charters Towers)
- 11 November – SCDP – Contract management workshop (Mount Isa)
- 12 November – SCDP – Contract management workshop (Cloncurry)
- 13 November – SCDP – Contract management workshop (Julia Creek)
- 13 November – Townsville Industry Breakfast – NQRO (Townsville)
- 19 November – Charters Towers Regional Council Quarterly Business Breakfast (Charters Towers)



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 copperstring@powerlink.com.au.



Use the QR code to access our project webpage or visit powerlink.com.au/copperstring