Appendix H Social and Economic Context Review

Banana Range Wind Farm Connection Project

Social and Economic Context Review

On behalf of Powerlink Queensland

Ethos Urban

Prepared by Ethos Urban

9 October 2025 | 2240710

'Gura Bulga'
Liz Belanjee Cameron

'Gura Bulga' – translates to Warm Green Country. Representing New South Wales.

'Dagara Buumarri'
Liz Belanjee Cameron

'Dagara Buumarri' – translates to Cold Brown Country. Representing Victoria.

'Gad lung Djarri'
Liz Belanjee Cameron

'Gad lung Djarri' – translates to Hot Red Country. Representing Queensland.

Ethos Urban acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

In supporting the Uluru Statement from the Heart, we walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

Contact:	Lee Cikuts Director, Economics	lcikuts@ethosurban.com

This document has been prepared by:		**This document has been reviewed by:**	
Jade Golding, Bernice Menezes, Isabelle Best	11 August 2025	John Noronha	11 August 2025

Version No.	Date of issue	Prepared by	Approved by
1.0 (DRAFT)	04/06/2025	Jade Golding, Bernice Menezes, Isabelle Best	John Noronha
2.0 (FINAL)	11/08/2025	Jade Golding, Bernice Menezes, Isabelle Best	John Noronha
3.0 (FINAL)	03/10/2025	Bernice Menezes, Mark McManus	John Noronha
4.0 (FINAL	09/10/2025	Bernice Menezes, Mark McManus	

Ethos Urban | Ethos Urban Pty Ltd | ABN 13 615 087 931 | Sydney NSW | Melbourne VIC | Brisbane QLD | ethosurban.com

1.0 Contents

2.0 Figures

3.0 Tables

4.0 Appendices

Appendix	
A.	Community Profile Summary

1.0 Introduction

This Social and Economic Context Review has been prepared for Powerlink (through JBS&G) and relates to the proposed development of a new transmission line connecting the Banana Range Wind Farm (BRWF) to a new substation (Mount Benn Substation) and facilitating access to the broader electricity network via Powerlink's existing Calvale Substation. This Report does not constitute a detailed Social and Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) but rather provides a high-level overview of potential social and economic considerations related to the Project.

1.1 Study Aims and Objectives

The primary objectives of this Social and Economic Context Review are to:

- Provide an overview on the Proposal and its surrounding locational context.
- Define Local and Regional catchments (study areas) that represent relevant communities and economies that may be influenced by and benefit from the Project.
- Undertake a review of the Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing and other relevant data sources to compile existing and future community profiles of the study areas.
- Undertake a review of relevant local and regional strategic planning policies as they relate to community aspirations, social values and economic development.
- Summarise key findings from the Review to inform the future preparation of a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment to assist the Project through the planning approvals process.

1.2 The Project

1.2.1 Project Background and Description

Powerlink is progressing works to deliver a new transmission line, approximately 44km in length, to connect the BRWF to the transmission network. The BRWF Connection Project involves constructing a new 275kV transmission line from the BRWF site at the northern foothills of the Banana Range (about 20km west of Biloela), to Powerlink's existing Calvale Substation, near Callide Power Station. A new substation will also be constructed at the BRWF site.

The BRWF Connection Project comprises the following components:

- A 44 km 275 kV double circuit transmission line from the existing Calvale Substation to the proposed BRWF Project (via the proposed Mount Benn Substation);
- A 275 kV substation proposed on Lot 47 on SP232217 (the proposed Mount Benn Substation); and
- An expansion of the Calvale Substation to accommodate 3 additional diameters.

The BRWF is a renewable energy development proposed by EDF Renewables Australia (EDF), located approximately 20km west of Biloela. The BRWF comprises 38 wind turbines with an output of 230MW.

Refer to Figure 1 for the Project Overview and Proposed Alignment.

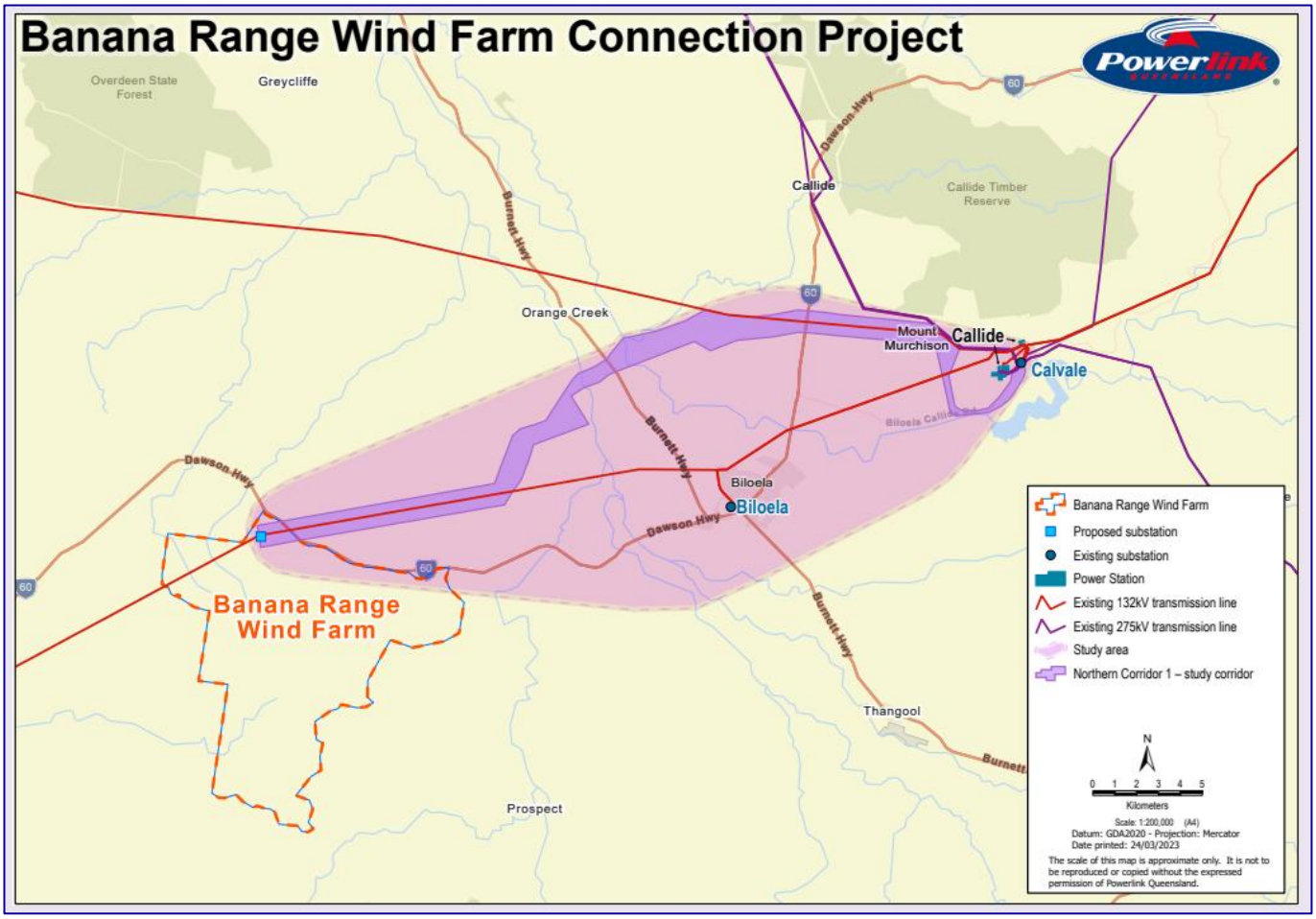

Figure 1 Proposed Transmission Line and Substation Facility

Source: Powerlink Queensland

1.3 Data Sources and Assumptions

Key data sources used to compile this Social and Economic Context Review include:

- ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2021
- ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2016
- ABS Estimated Resident Population, 2024 (April 2025 Release)
- ABS, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exists, December 2024
- Australian Government National Skills Commission, Small Area Labour Markets, December Quarter 2024
- Queensland Government Statisticians Office, Population Projections 2023 Edition
- Cordell Future Projects accessed May 2025
- Banana Range Wind Farm Connection Project Final Corridor Selection Report, prepared by JBS&G
- Central Queensland Regional Plan 2013
- Central and Western Queensland Infrastructure Plan – March 2023
- Banana Range Corporate Plan 2021-2026 – June 2021
- Banana Range Workforce Accommodation Policy 2024
- Banana Shire Community Plan 2017 – 2027

Assumptions applied to complete this Social and Economic Context Review include:

- Socio-economic data for each study area accurately reflects the characteristics of the impacted communities.
- Analysis and findings presented throughout this report is based on a desktop review only.
- Community consultation undertaken by the Proponent accurately reflects the local community's attitudes and values.
- Assumptions are made at the time of this report and do not reflect an exhaustive study of the region's history in respect of the social environment.
- The study represents a social and economic context review only and therefore no impact assessment has been undertaken.

1.4 Study Area

To facilitate the Review, appropriate study areas need to be defined. A study area geographically represents the communities/economies that are likely to experience varying impacts of the proposed development.

Factors that define the boundary of study areas for the Project include:

- Construction activities and operational uses of the Project
- The extent of the area in which the proposed transmission line will service
- Location of surrounding key community facilities and residential areas
- Proximity to major roadways, and accessibility of the transmission line from surrounding urban areas and centres
- The likely scale and extent of the potential direct and indirect impacts and benefits of the Project.
- Cumulative impacts that may impact affected communities and businesses as a result of infrastructure and development projects planned or underway in the area
- Community and stakeholder groups that would most likely be affected by the direct and indirect impacts from the Project Site
- The ABS statistical areas for collecting and reporting Census data.

For the purposes of this Review two study areas have been defined as the 'local' and 'regional' and are illustrated in Figure 2. The study areas are described as:

- The **Local Catchment Area** represents the immediate community surrounding the Project alignment and is represented by the towns and suburbs of Banana, Orange Creek, Dakenba, Mount Murchison and Biloela. It is anticipated that communities within this geographic area are likely to experience the greatest range and degree of impacts during the construction and operation of the Project.

- The **Regional Catchment Area** represents the broader community and economy and is defined as the area in which the proposed Project will service. This area is defined as the Banana Shire Local Government Area (LGA).

This Review provides an overview of the community and economic characteristics of both catchment areas.

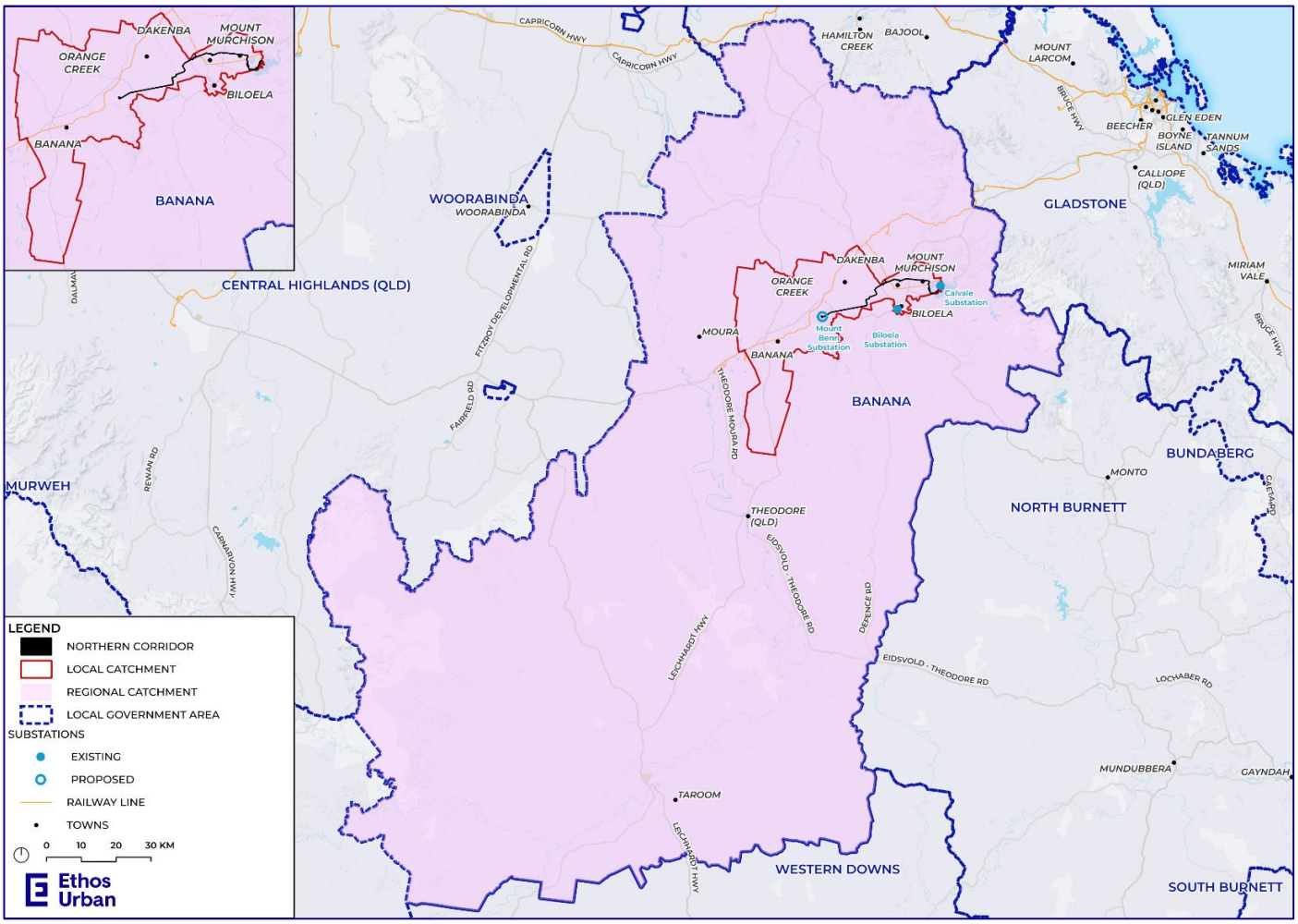

Figure 2 Banana Range Wind Farm Conection Project – Local and Regional Catchments

Source: Ethos Urban

2.0 Existing Socio-Economic Environment

2.1 Site Description and Immediate Surrounding Activity

Plans for the Project show that the proposed 44km-long transmission line will be constructed on rural land between Mount Murchinson and Banana. The transmission line will connect the BRWF to the existing Calvale Substation via to the proposed Mount Benn Substation.

The southern border of the Project corridor is constrained by Mount Murchinson State school 800m from the proposed alignment and residential properties in Biloela with some houses being just 250m from the proposed alignment.

The Final Corridor Selection Report (FCSR) prepared by JBS&G, outlines the considerations and process involving the corridor selection for the Project. The study corridor (refer to *Figure 1*) was selected based on multiple criteria, including its lower impact on land parcels, alignment with existing transmission corridors, and consideration of community feedback.

2.2 Regional Context

The Project Site is located within the Banana Shire Council LGA in Central Queensland (CQ). The eastern end of the corridor is located approximately 100km south of Rockhampton City and 78.5km west of Clinton. Biloela is the major township within Banana Shire LGA, located approximately 5.2km from the Project corridor, with the Project Site located in Dakenba.

Clinton and Rockhampton City are the major centres in Central Queensland servicing the broader regional economy.

2.3 Strategic Planning and Policy Context

Stated community values and priorities in planning and policy frameworks help depict what is important for communities and economies now and in the future. Regional and local plans have been developed over a number of years and identify the aspirations and visions for Banana Shire Council and Central Queensland over the short to medium term.

Key social and economic issues and aspirations identified are presented in *Table 1*, and are grouped around key themes such as economic and community resilience, climate change and disasters, equal access to infrastructure and services, supporting First Nations communities and the needs of an ageing population including those in rural communities.

The following strategies of relevance to the Project have been reviewed:

- Central Queensland Regional Plan 2013
- Central and Western Queensland Infrastructure Plan – March 2023
- Banana Shire Corporate Plan 2021-2026 – June 2021
- Banana Shire Council Major Projects Housing Demand & Levy Policy – November 2023
- Banana Shire Council Workforce Accommodation Policy 2024
- Banana Shire Community Plan 2017 – 2027

Table 1 Summary of State and Local Strategic Policy Themes and Objectives

Policy Theme	Objective/Strategy
Investing in renewable energy	• Electricity requirements are escalating in the region due to population and economic growth. The priority investment outcome is to focus on reinforcing electricity generation and transmission/distribution systems where and when they are needed (Central Queensland Regional Plan, 2013). • The shift and changing demand for renewable energy is seen as a positive way to create more jobs in more industries (Central and Western Queensland Infrastructure Plan, 2023). • It is a key activity in Council's Corporate Plan to investigate new industry opportunities including renewables. • It is important for Council to manage workforce accommodation that supports high quality outcomes, maintain the character of the existing communities and support local business while delivering on major renewable infrastructure projects.
Natural disaster and hazard resilience	• Climate change is identified as a key challenge at a local and State level. • Queensland has committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 (Central and Western Queensland Infrastructure Plan – March 2023). • It is a priority for Banana Shire LGA that the community and Council is aware and resilient to the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.
Services and infrastructure to support the ageing population, both in towns and in rural areas.	• Banana Shire LGA is an ageing population and therefore residents need continued access to services to support independent living and in home services. Continued access to power is critical service infrastructure to ensure that people stay connected to enhance their social connection and health and wellbeing.
Supporting First Nations communities	• State and local strategies recognise that First Nations people are an integral part of the region's social fabric. • There are four traditional landowner groups in the Banana Shire LGA, and it is imperative that programs are developed in partnership with them to support individual capacity and resilience of indigenous people across the Shire. • Additionally, it is a strategic priority in Banana Shire LGA's Community Plan to enhance opportunities for employment programs that mentor indigenous people into employment.
Economic prosperity	• Central Queensland is one of the most prosperous regions in the state, accounting for $21 billion of the State's economy. • Growth in employment and therefore the non-resident workforce population is driving demand for services including electricity. • There is over $17 billion invested in projects relating to transport, manufacturing, gas, water and electricity.
Provision of Housing	• This policy applies to all new developments within Banana Shire with a capital value exceeding $50 million. It requires major projects to contribute to meeting the permanent residential housing demand generated by their activities, in a manner that does not disrupt the Shire's existing housing market or supply value. • Each qualifying project must contribute the greater of 0.7% of its total capital value or $650,000 towards the cost of providing permanent housing in the nearest urban centre to the project site. These funds must be released on the first day of construction, including any associated external infrastructure works.

2.4 Study Area Community Profiles

The results of the ABS Census of Population and Housing 2021 have been used to identify key socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the community within the Local and Regional Catchments. Refer to **Appendix A** for a detailed breakdown of the socio-economic characteristics of the Local Catchment.

At the time of the 2021 Census, the population in the Local Catchment area was 6,500 residents and the Regional Catchment 14,510 residents.

Key findings of the demographic analysis are as follows:

- **A higher share of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) residents**, accounting for 5.6% of the Local Catchment population and 5.8% of the Regional Catchment population. This compares to 4.9% of ATSI residents in Queensland overall.
- **A slightly lower median age of 36.6** years in the Local Catchment and 38.4 in the Regional Catchment, compared to the Queensland median of 38.6 years.
- **A slightly higher income profile** where individuals in the Local Catchment earn a median annual income of around $45,510, and $44,670 in the Regional Catchment, compared to the Queensland median of $41,020.
- **The Local Catchment has a lower dwelling occupancy rate** of 84.8% and 81.6% in the Regional Catchment, compared to 90.7% throughout Queensland. This implies that more dwellings are vacant within the local area.
- **A higher proportion of Local Catchment residents are occupied in activities that would align with the Project's workforce needs**, noting the 15.5% of labourers, 19.0% of technicians and trades workers, and 14.9% of machinery operators and drivers in the Local Catchment. Collectively, these occupations account for 49.4% of resident workers in the local catchment and 45.5% in the regional catchment, compared to 31.1% in QLD.

Key trends that have occurred between the 2016 and 2021 Census include:

- **An increase in the share of ATSI residents** by +1.5 percentage points (ppt) in the Local Catchment and +1.8ppt in the Regional Catchment, compared to a +0.9ppt increase in QLD.
- **A decline in occupancy rate in the Local Catchment area** by -2.2 percentage points (ppt), compared to a +1.2 ppt increase in QLD.
- **The population is getting older**, with the median age increasing by 3.3 from 33 to 33.6 years old in the local catchment, and a 2.4-year increase in the regional catchment, compared to a 1.6 increase in QLD.

2.5 Business and Employment Trends

2.5.1 Business Structure

A major investment project can deliver tangible benefits by enabling local and regional businesses to participate through supply chain and service provision. During the construction phase, the Project has the potential to generate new employment opportunities across the region. These opportunities may be accessible to local residents, First Nations peoples, and job seekers, in alignment with relevant policies such as Powerlink's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy and its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

ABS Business Count data for June 2024 show that Banana Shire Council LGA includes approximately 300 construction, manufacturing and transport/warehousing related businesses, representing 12% of all businesses located in LGA compared to 28% for QLD (refer Table). This data indicates a low presence of businesses with potential to service the Project.

Importantly, the data highlights the dependency of the Agricultural, Forestry and Fishing sector to The Banana Shire LGA's economy, noting it accounts for 62% of all businesses (compared to 8% for QLD). It will therefore be important that the construction and operation of the Project minimises impacts on this key sector.

Table 2 Banana Shire LGA - Business Structure

Industry	Banana Shire Council LGA		Queensland
	Total (no.)	Industry Share (%)	Industry Share (%)
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	1,570	61.8%	8.1%
Mining	10	0.4%	0.4%
Manufacturing	40	1.6%	3.6%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	10	0.4%	0.3%
Construction	180	7.1%	17.0%
Wholesale Trade	30	1.2%	2.8%
Retail Trade	80	3.1%	5.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	50	2.0%	3.9%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	80	3.1%	7.7%
Information Media and Telecommunications	0	0.0%	0.8%
Financial and Insurance Services	30	1.2%	4.2%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	150	5.9%	11.7%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	50	2.0%	12.4%
Administrative and Support Services	60	2.4%	4.6%
Public Administration and Safety	0	0.0%	0.3%
Education and Training	10	0.4%	1.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	60	2.4%	8.0%
Arts and Recreation Services	10	0.4%	1.4%
Other Services	120	4.7%	5.6%
Currently Unknown	0	0.0%	0.1%
Total	**2,540**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: ABS, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exists, December 2024
Note: Figures Rounded

2.5.2 Labour Force Participation

As of December 2024 (latest available data), Banana Shire LGA had a labour force of 9,350 people, of whom 9,030 were employed. (Source: Australian Government Small Area Labour Markets).

The construction phase of the Project will provide new job opportunities locally and regionally. There may be opportunities for job seekers (subject to appropriate skills match) to secure project work.

Due to the specialised nature of certain aspects of the Project, a significant portion of the workforce is expected to be sourced from outside the region.

Table 3 Labour Force – Banana Shire Council LGA

LGA/Area	Labour Force	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployment Rate
Banana Shire Council	9,350	320	9,030	3.4%
Queensland	**3,069,500**	**123,400**	**2,946,100**	**4.0%**

Source: Australian Government National Skills Commission, *Small Area Labour Markets,* December Quarter 2024,
Note: Figures Rounded

2.6 Impacted Communities and Consultation

2.6.1 Early Engagement

Between June and November 2022, Powerlink engaged with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders to identify the most suitable corridor for the transmission infrastructure.

Three rounds of community consultation were held during this time. The engagement process started with a wide study area of around 28,000 hectares and sought to understand community priorities and how landholders managed their properties and business operations.

Three 1km-wide corridor options were identified within the study area, based on feedback, on-ground and desktop studies. Landholders in each corridor option were contacted and community information drop-in

sessions held on various occasions to seek feedback (see below for timing of engagement activities). A Draft Corridor Selection Report was released in November 2022, formally recommending a corridor and seeking community feedback once again. This was followed by the Final Corridor Selection Report in April 2023, confirming the corridor to be taken forward to further planning and approvals.

The engagement activity timeframes for the above process were as follows:

- June 2022: Powerlink contacted landholders within a wide study area, to introduce the team and the Project.
- July 2022: Community drop-in sessions were held, providing the community an opportunity to meet with the Project team, provide feedback on the study areas and ask questions.
- August 2022: Landholders contacted, and community information drop-in sessions were held to seek feedback on the corridor options.
- November 2022: Drop-in sessions were held for the community to view the Draft Corridor Selection Report and the formal recommendation for the corridor.

Overall, during the period of engagement from June to November 2022, the Project team had the following touchpoints:

- 252 phone calls made/received
- 49 emails received and responded to.
- 605 letters sent to landholders via email or post.
- 33 meetings held with individual landholders
- 12 entries made on the interactive mapping engagement platform.
- 73 landholders and community members attended the three community engagement sessions in July, September and November.

Following the release of the Draft Corridor Selection Report in November 2022, Powerlink received nine submissions, mainly from landholders within the Northern Corridor 1, together with an electricity generator and a local elected official.

2.6.2 Consultation Feedback

The followings sub section explores the perspectives of key stakeholders and communities, which have a bearing on the proposed Project. It summarises aspects of the community and stakeholder engagement undertaken by Powerlink outlined above. The responses and outcomes from engagement confirm the issues and opportunities identified by the community and help inform the magnitude of social impacts with consideration to the levels of expressed concern about a particular aspect of the Project.

In additional to sourcing community feedback, community consultation sessions also gathered insights on how the community views the social environment within the local and regional area. This helps determine if the proposed development will generate meaningful social impacts.

Key findings from the consultation and engagement sessions relevant to this Review include:

- Impacts to landholder farming operations including biosecurity, loss of productivity, irrigation systems such as centre pivots and travelling irrigators and electrical safety concerns.
- Landholders' proximity to the Project.
- Visual impacts of the transmission line.
- Loss of property values for surrounding landholders.
- Permanent removal of areas from production and associated loss of revenue.
- Protection of endangered vegetation.
- Perceived health effects from Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs).
- Potential impacts to transport routes, airstrip and aviation facilities within or nearby the potential corridors.
- Impacts to major development plans on some properties, including other renewable generation projects.
- Concerns about the lack of engagement between the renewable energy sector and agricultural sector and general commentary about poor community consultation.

2.6.3 Key Affected Communities

Considering the above engagement and feedback outcomes (with reference to the social and economic profiles outlined in sections 0 and 2.5), the following individuals and communities are likely to be impacted by the proposed Project:

- Most sensitive receivers are twelve rural residential properties around Biloela that are within 500m of the proposed alignment. The closest rural property is located 250m from the proposed alignment.
- Local Indigenous community, noting the area is within the registered native title claim area of Gaangalu National People.
- Students, staff and families attending the Mount Murchison State School which is located approximately 800m south of the proposed alignment.
- Community and other accommodation uses located within proximity to the Project alignment, such as Biloela Showground, Discovery Parks – Biloela, Camp Illawong Scout Camp, Queensland Heritage Park and other open space and recreation areas, and tourism and accommodation providers.

3.0 Future Socio-Economic Environment

3.1 Major Projects and Developments

A review of major projects and developments in the Regional Catchment shows that there is approximately $4.0 billion in investment activity either planned, approved or underway on the Cordell data base. These projects predominately focus on renewable energy and will support Queensland and Australia meet its renewable energy target and reduce emissions.

Major projects, identified through the Cordell data base, are described in ***Table 4***.

Table 4 Major projects identified in the Regional Catchment

Project Name	Description	Estimated Costs ($)	Status	Estimated Completion	Distance to Site
Theodore Wind Farm	Construction of a 1,100 MW wind farm near Biloela with 170 wind turbine generators.	$1.10 billion	Development Application	2029	65.2km
Kariboe Wind Farm	Construction of a wind farm with a generation capacity of up to 1000MW, connection to the existing 275 kV transmission line with 170 wind turbines.	$1.00 billion	Early Planning	2029	35.6km
Callide Solar Power Station	Construction of solar power station comprising a 200 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) farm with a 200 MW/800 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS).	$0.56 billion	Development Approval	2028	2.3km
Callide Wind Farm	Construction of a 462MW wind farm in the Calliope Range. Approx 70 wind turbines with a tip height of approx 250m. 275kV Switchyard to connect into the existing Calvale or Callide to Stanwell 275kV overhead transmission lines.	$0.43 billion	Development Approval	2027	10.1km
Mount Sugarloaf Wind Farm	Construction of a 345 MW wind farm.	$0.35 billion	Feasibility Study	2030	9.0km
Mount Rainbow Wind Farm	Construction of a 270 MW wind farm with approx 60 wind turbines & potential battery.	$0.27 billion	Early Planning	2030	16.1km
Sawpit Solar Farm	Construction of a 1000MW solar farm.	$0.15 billion	Early Planning	2029	8.0km
Smoky Creek Solar Farm	Construction of a 600MW large scale solar photovoltaic (PV) power station.	$0.10 billion	Development Approval	2028	25.6km
Renewable Ammonia Plant	Construction of a renewable ammonia plant at QNP's existing facility is proposed to produce 20,000 tonnes per year of ammonia from 3,600 tonnes of renewable hydrogen	$0.05 billion	Feasibility Study	2027	33.3km
Theodore Solar Farm	Construction of a 70MW solar farm.	$0.02 billion	Development Approval	2027	55.3km

Source: Cordell Connect
Note: Only includes projects with a value of $10 million or more

There are also additional projects that Powerlink will be involved in, these include a transmission line reinforcement project between Calvale Substation and Calliope River substation. Additionally, the formerly proposed Banana Range Wind Farm stage two will now be a separate project known as Dawson Wind Farm with a 560MW capacity, 20km West of Biloela.

With consideration to the above, the potential for cumulative impacts through the Project's construction and operational phases will need to be comprehensively assessed as part of the planning approvals process.

3.2 Future Socio-Economic Profile

Population forecasts to 2036 for the Regional Catchment have been prepared using the Queensland Government's Statistician's Office and rebased to the latest Estimated Resident Population (ERP) (2024) released by the ABS.

Analysis of these forecasts indicates that:

- Between 2016 and 2025 the population of the Regional Catchment increased by 460 persons from 14,570 persons in 2016 to 15,030 persons in 2025.
- The Regional Catchment's population is forecasted to decline by 230 persons between 2025 and 2036 (at an average annual rate of 0.1%), compared to a forecasted average annual growth rate of 1.2% in regional Queensland.
- While official population projections indicate subdued future growth, this contrasts with recent historical experience of strong population growth across the region over the last few years. Indeed, official population projections estimated that 14,530 persons would be living within the Regional Catchment in 2026 a decline from the 2021 estimate of 15,660 persons. By contrast, according to the latest ABS ERP, the population growth actually increased by around 460 persons.

Overall, this indicates the high degree of uncertainty attached to forecasting population growth across regional areas. Population growth across regional areas tends to be volatile and tied to local and broader economic conditions and prospects of the region. During the COVID-19 period, much of regional Australia experienced an increase in population growth as persons migrated from the cities and urban areas to regional areas.

Table 5 Resident Population Estimates and Projections - The Banana Shire LGA, 2016-2036

Population (no.)	2016	2021	2025	2031	2036	2016 - 2025	2025 - 2036
Regional Catchment	14,570	14,660	15,030	14,890	14,800	+460	-230
Rest of Qld	2,482,480	2,648,100	2,850,730	3,059,080	3,243,350	+368,250	+392,620
Average Annual Growth (no.)							
Regional Catchment		+20	+90	-20	-20	+50	-20
Rest of Qld		+33,120	+50,660	+34,730	+36,850	+40,920	+35,690
Average Annual Growth Rate (%)							
Regional Catchment		0.1%	0.6%	-0.2%	-0.1%	0.3%	-0.1%
Rest of Qld		1.3%	1.9%	1.2%	1.2%	1.5%	1.2%

Source: ABS ERP 2024, Queensland Government's Statistician's Office 2023, Ethos Urban
Note: Figures Rounded

- Projections by age cohort show that the resident population is trending towards a more elderly community, including strong growth in residents aged 65 years and over (+15.1% over the 2025-36 period).
- The age projections also show that over the 2025-2036 period there is a significant decline in children aged below 20 years in the Regional Catchment.

Table 6 Resident Age Projections - The Banana Shire LGA, 2025-36

Regional Catchment	2025	2036	Change no.	Change %
0-4	970	930	-40	-4.1%
5-14	2,010	1,760	-250	-12.4%
15-19	870	670	-200	-23.0%
20-34	2,770	2,870	100	3.6%
35-49	2,980	2,900	-80	-2.7%
50-64	2,770	2,620	-150	-5.4%
65+	2,650	3,050	400	15.1%
Total	**15,020**	**14,800**	**-220**	**-1.5%**

Source: Queensland Government's Statistician's Office 2023, Ethos Urban
Note: Figures Rounded

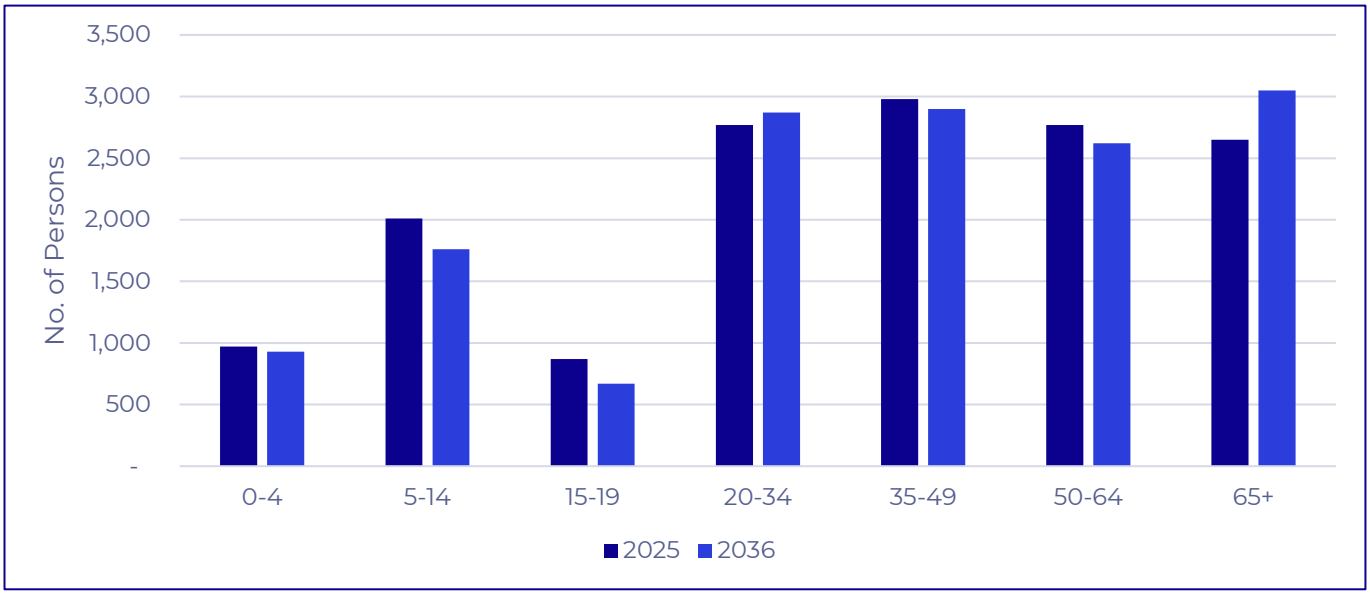

Figure 3 Population Projections by Age (2025-2036) – No. of Persons, The Banana Shire LGA

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Queensland Statistician's Office (June 2023 Population Projections), Ethos Urban
Note: Figures Rounded

3.3 Likely Social Environment Change

In view of the forecast population decline, the Regional Catchment Is expected to undergo only a moderate change with a slight decrease in the resident population (230 persons between 2025 – 2036), focused on those aged below 20 years (-590 persons). As noted, the Regional Catchment is projected to experience a strong increase in those aged 65+ (+400 persons). (see **Figure 3** above).

Based on other trends presented in **Section 2.0** , the Local Catchment may continue to experience growth in ATSI populations.

The forecast decline in the population is relatively marginal and is unlikely to have a substantial impact on power supply needs. An ageing population living in more rural areas will mean that secure power supply is needed to encourage ageing in place, social connection and even online services like telehealth appointments. The population will still require secure and resilient power supply as natural disasters and extreme weather events become more prevalent because of the warming climate. Having a reliable and well-connected electricity grid is one of many solutions to improving resilience of an ageing community in an area at risk from extreme weather.

4.0 Social and Economic Considerations

The key social and economic considerations arising from this Review are:

- Potential impacts on local Indigenous people, such as workforce participation, housing and accommodation, local business and industry procurement, health and community wellbeing, and engagement.
- The need for ongoing transparent and regular communication with the local community and other key stakeholders to ensure social license for the Project.
- Potential for construction impacts (if not appropriately managed) to cause impacts on the local community, such as noise and vibration, changes to air quality, increased vehicle traffic and how such impacts might affect social and business services (schools, accommodation providers, recreational activities).
- Potential impacts to farming communities and livelihoods through disruption to activities during construction and any ongoing constraints (e.g. removal of productive areas, reduced biosecurity) associated with the Project's operations.
- Potential visual impacts of the Project on communities and rural properties both during construction and once operational.
- Potential for cumulative impacts associated with multiple concurrent construction projects and the establishment in the landscape of further operating renewable energy infrastructure.
- Opportunity for local and regional economic benefits from the construction and operation of the Project including new investment and jobs.

Appendix A Community Profile Summary

Table 7 Community Profile Summary

Category	Local Catchment	Regional Catchment	Queensland
Income			
Median individual income (annual)	$45,510	$44,670	$41,020
Variation from Queensland median	*+10.9%*	*+8.9%*	*n.a.*
Median household income (annual)	$99,310	$91,970	$88,070
Variation from Queensland median	*+12.8%*	*+4.4%*	*n.a.*
Household income			
No income	1.7%	2.3%	1.6%
Low	13.6%	15.4%	14.2%
Medium	37.2%	38.8%	41.8%
High	47.5%	43.5%	42.4%
Age Structure			
0 years	1.2%	1.4%	1.1%
1-2 years	2.4%	2.5%	2.3%
3-4 years	2.5%	2.7%	2.3%
5-6 years	2.4%	2.8%	2.5%
7-11 years	7.9%	7.6%	6.6%
12-17 years	8.5%	7.6%	7.8%
18-24 years	8.8%	7.7%	8.6%
25-34 years	13.8%	12.7%	13.7%
35-49 years	21.2%	19.6%	20.1%
50-59 years	12.9%	12.9%	12.7%
60-69 years	9.1%	11.1%	10.9%
70-84 years	7.3%	9.4%	9.7%
85 years and over	2.1%	1.8%	1.8%
Males	50.3%	51.4%	49.3%
Females	49.7%	48.6%	50.7%
Median Age (years)	36.6	38.4	38.6
Country of Birth			
Australia	87.7%	90.9%	77.3%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	*5.6%*	*5.8%*	*4.9%*
Other Major English Speaking Countries	3.7%	3.4%	10.6%
Other Overseas Born	8.6%	5.7%	12.1%
% speak English only at home	*91.7%*	*94.8%*	*86.2%*
Household Composition			
Couple family with no children	27.8%	30.1%	28.2%
Couple family with children	31.9%	31.1%	29.9%
Couple family - Total	59.7%	61.2%	58.1%
One parent family	9.4%	8.3%	11.9%
Other families	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Family Households - Total	70.2%	70.5%	71.0%
Lone person household	26.2%	26.9%	24.8%
Group Household	3.6%	2.7%	4.3%
Dwelling Structure (Occupied Private Dwellings)			
Separate house	90.5%	93.4%	75.0%
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc.	3.8%	2.3%	11.8%
Flat, unit or apartment	4.9%	3.3%	12.5%
Other dwelling	0.8%	1.1%	0.7%
Occupancy rate	*84.8%*	*81.6%*	*90.7%*
Average household size	2.5	2.5	2.5
Tenure Type (Occupied Private Dwellings)			

Category	Local Catchment	Regional Catchment	Queensland
Owned outright	27.8%	34.3%	29.7%
Owned with a mortgage	32.0%	28.6%	35.2%
Rented	37.3%	30.6%	33.3%
Other tenure type	2.8%	6.4%	1.7%
Attending Education (% of those attending)			
Pre-school	6.8%	6.6%	6.8%
Infants/Primary Total	45.4%	47.8%	34.2%
Secondary Total	32.3%	30.2%	28.2%
Technical or Further Educational Institution	7.2%	6.6%	8.9%
University or other Tertiary Institution	7.1%	6.2%	18.2%
Other type of educational institution	1.2%	2.7%	3.7%
% of total population attending education	*19.0%*	*19.2%*	*23.9%*
Highest Level of Education Completed (% of population aged 15 years and over)			
Year 12 or equivalent	50.7%	47.9%	61.7%
Year 9-11 or equivalent	41.8%	44.0%	33.6%
Year 8 or below	7.4%	7.7%	4.1%
Did not go to school	0.2%	0.4%	0.6%
Employment Status			
Unemployed/ looking for work	2.6%	2.8%	5.4%
Labour force participation rate	62.5%	63.3%	61.6%
Need for Assistance			
With Need for Assistance	4.6%	4.7%	6.4%
No Need for Assistance	95.4%	95.3%	93.6%
Top 5 Languages Spoken at home (other than English)			
1	Mandarin (2.1%)	Mandarin (1.0%)	Mandarin (1.7%)
2	Tagalog (0.9%)	Tagalog (0.4%)	Vietnamese (0.6%)
3	Filipino (0.7%)	Filipino (0.4%)	Punjabi (0.6%)
4	Nepali (0.5%)	Nepali (0.2%)	Spanish (0.6%)
5	Portuguese (0.4%)	Spanish (0.2%)	Cantonese (0.5%)

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2021