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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | NOVEMBER 2025

Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project



Find out more and have your say on the MID Proposal Report

Powerlink is planning a new transmission line between the Calvale Substation (near Callide Power Station) and the Calliope River Substation (near Gladstone). The project will strengthen and increase capacity of the transmission network in the region.

These Frequently Asked Questions have been developed to explain the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) process. They also explain how you can find out more and have your say on Powerlink's MID Proposal Report prepared for the Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project.

Consultation on the project's MID Proposal Report ends at 5pm on Monday 22 December 2025.

What is a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation?

A Ministerial Infrastructure Designation, or MID, is a State Government approvals process for assessing certain types of community supporting infrastructure. The MID process is managed by the Queensland Government, through the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP), with input from other government agencies.

Is Powerlink using the MID approval pathway for the project?

Yes. Powerlink is applying for planning approval for this project under the MID process. We have prepared a MID Proposal Report, which looks at the potential social, environmental and economic impacts of building, operating and maintaining the project. It also outlines ways to avoid, minimise or mitigate these impacts.

This project also requires approval from the Australian Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). This is separate to the MID process.

What stage in the MID process is the Calvale to Calliope River project at?

In October 2025, Powerlink sent the project's MID Proposal Report to DSDIP.

DSDIP has now officially started the report's formal consultation period by writing to local government stakeholders and landholders. This consultation is initiated and managed by the Department and is supported by Powerlink engagement activities, which are now underway.

We invite landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders to view the project's MID Proposal Report, ask questions and provide feedback.

Consultation on the project's MID Proposal Report ends at 5pm on Monday 22 December 2025.

What's included in Powerlink's MID Proposal Report?

The MID Proposal Report for this project includes detailed reports that, together, make up our application for planning approval. It describes the findings of more than 18 months of desktop and detailed flora and fauna field studies, and social and cultural heritage assessments.

The MID Proposal Report also includes reports that detail the findings and proposed mitigations for other matters, including construction traffic impacts, noise and vibration, landscape and visual amenity, bushfire risks and more.

The table below describes where to find out more about topics addressed in the Environmental Assessment component of the MID Proposal Report in Chapter 6.

Key topics in the MID Proposal Report

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Ecology (flora and fauna) | 6.1 and Appendix F |
| Noise and vibration | 6.2 and Appendix G |
| Traffic | 6.3 and Appendix H |
| Landscape and visual amenity | 6.4 and Appendix I |
| Surface water | 6.5 and Appendix J |
| Bushfire | 6.6 |
| Electric and magnetic fields | 6.7 |
| Agriculture | 6.8 |
| Hazards, health and safety | 6.9 |
| Environmental management (including air quality, biosecurity and other matters) | 6.10 and Appendix K |

What part of the MID Proposal Report can I provide feedback on?

You can provide feedback on any part of the MID Proposal Report.

How can I view the MID Proposal Report?

Printed copies of the MID Proposal Report are available at:

- Gladstone City Library, 39 Goondoon Street, Gladstone Central
- Mount Larcom Rural Transaction Centre, 47 Raglan Street, Mount Larcom
- Banana Shire Library, 71 Grevillea Street, Biloela.

A digital version of the MID Proposal Report is available at our project online community hub, accessed through the project webpage at powerlink.com.au/calvale-calliope.

How can I find out more or ask questions?

Powerlink team members will be available at four community information drop-in sessions. Please stop by at any time during these sessions to find out more and ask questions about this project:

| | | |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Biloela Civic Centre | Supper Room, 96 Rainbow Street, Biloela | Tuesday 9 December, 3pm – 6pm |
| Mount Larcom Hall | 47 Raglan Street, Mt Larcom | Wednesday 10 December, 10am - 1pm |
| Yarwun Hall | 44 Butler Street, Yarwun | Thursday 11 December, 8.30am – 11.30am |
| Gladstone City Library | Meeting Room, 39 Goondoon Street, Gladstone | Thursday 11 December, 1.30pm – 3.30pm |

You can contact us any time about the Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project. However, if your questions or feedback relate to the MID Proposal Report, please contact us by 5pm Monday 22 December 2025. You can contact our Powerlink project team by:

- visiting our project web page (powerlink.com.au/calvale-calliope) and completing the online feedback form
- emailing cqprojects@powerlink.com.au
- phoning 1800 635 369 (Monday to Friday, 7.30am – 5pm).

Landholders along the project alignment are also welcome to contact their Landholder Relations Advisor.

How can I make a formal submission on the MID Proposal Report?

You can make a formal submission on the MID Proposal Report (MID-1025-0975) directly to DSDIP:

- online at www.planning.qld.gov.au/planning-framework/infrastructure-planning/ministerial-infrastructure-designations
- by emailing infrastructuredesignation@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au
- by mail to PO Box 15009, City East, QLD, 4002.

How is feedback on the MID Proposal Report considered?

DSDIP will review all formal submissions made on the MID Proposal Report and share key themes with Powerlink. Feedback provided directly to Powerlink will be reviewed and responded to by our project team. After the consultation period is over, we will provide an update summarising feedback, how it has been considered and next steps.

What does the project involve?

The project involves:

- constructing an 87 kilometre (km) long, double circuit, 275 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Calvale Substation (near Callide Power Station) and Calliope River Substation (near Gladstone)
- grid connection of the new transmission line to the Calvale and Calliope River substations
- expanding the Calliope River Substation on Powerlink-owned land, to accommodate new equipment and expansion of the existing 132kV and 275kV switching yards. New substation equipment may potentially include reactors to stabilise the power system, transformers to convert voltage, and synchronous condensers and static synchronous compensators for system strength.

Are synchronous condensers part of this project?

The MID Proposal Report describes the project scope, including an upgrade of the Calliope River Substation which among other components, outlines provision for up to two synchronous condensers at the site on Powerlink-owned land. This option is still being investigated by Powerlink and locations for synchronous condensers are not confirmed.

This has been included as part of our approval documentation to build in adequate flexibility and streamline approval requirements for potential project components. It is prudent for Powerlink to include this information in case this location is selected.

Synchronous condensers are being considered at several major substations across Central Queensland. These locations are under investigation for technical suitability. We expect to engage with communities on proposed synchronous condenser locations in early 2026.

Have potential changes to visual amenity been considered?

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been completed, and forms part of our MID Proposal Report (Appendix I). The LVIA follows an industry-standard process and evaluation criteria. There are two parts to the LVIA:

- Landscape Character Assessment: This looks at what makes a landscape unique, like its physical features, how it looks, and its significance.
- Visual Assessment: This focuses on how the project will change what people see. It considers things like how far away the project is, how much of it can be seen, and how it fits into the existing view.

The Landscape Character Assessment identified one, highly localised, 'significant' impact on the 'forested ranges and mountains' category ('significant' being standard terminology used in LVIAs). This is due to the line running through forested areas in Calliope Conservation Park and Mount Alma. We are committed to finding ways to reduce the need for vegetation clearing. You can find out more about this in the Environmental Management fact sheet available on the project web page.

The visual impact assessment looked at ten viewpoints, including roads, lookouts, private properties, and recreational areas. It found that no regionally important scenic viewpoints were significantly affected. Most impacts from the assessed viewpoints are rated as "moderate" or "minor to moderate". This is due to the presence of existing infrastructure, co-location of new lines with existing corridors, and local topography and vegetation providing screening in many areas.

What plant and animal studies have occurred?

Desktop assessments were carried out during early planning and updated as the project progressed. Twelve flora (plant) and fauna (animal) field studies occurred between March 2023 and June 2025.

The outcome of desktop and field studies is an Ecological Assessment Report (EAR). It outlines the environmental values in the project area, looks at potential impacts on these values, and provides strategies to avoid, reduce or mitigate impacts. A copy of the EAR is available on our project webpage, as part of our MID Proposal Report (Appendix K).

What area was studied for potential impacts?

Plant and animal studies occurred over a wide study area of around 14,293 hectares. This included the 87km long, 60m-wide transmission line easement alignment, substations and laydown areas, and a surrounding buffer zone.

Only a small part of the study area (around 2.5 percent) may be directly affected by the project.

What other environmental approvals are needed?

Powerlink takes our environmental responsibilities seriously and we are committed to managing potential environmental impacts resulting from our proposed activities for this project.

This project also needs approval from the Federal Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). We are preparing a Public Environment Report for this, which will be available for public comment early next year.



FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project, please contact us by:

- completing the contact form on our project webpage powerlink.com.au/calvale-calliope
- visiting powerlink.com.au/calvale-calliope
- emailing cqprojects@powerlink.com.au
- phoning 1800 635 369 (Monday to Friday, 7.30am – 5.00pm).

About Powerlink Queensland

Powerlink Queensland is a leading Australian provider of electricity transmission services, focused on delivering a safe, cost-effective and reliable network for our customers. Our network extends 1,700 kilometres (km) from Cairns to the New South Wales (NSW) border and comprises 15,559 circuit km of transmission lines and 154 substations.

Our purpose is to connect Queenslanders to a world-class energy future, providing electricity to more than five million Queenslanders and 241,000 businesses.

As well as connecting large generators to end-use customers through the distribution networks owned locally by Ergon Energy, we also provide electricity directly to large industrial customers such as rail companies, mines and mineral processing facilities.

