

# Central Queensland Transmission Update

## POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

### Meet Ian Lowry

#### Executive General Manager, Major Projects

Ian leads Powerlink's Major Projects division which is responsible for developing and delivery of large transmission projects across Queensland, including Powerlink's Central Queensland program.



Ian grew up in Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast, and is now established as an experienced senior leader and power systems engineer with over two decades of experience in the electricity supply industry.

His current focus is on delivering new transmission infrastructure in a way that supports resilient regional communities, drives positive economic development, and facilitates a strong and reliable energy system that benefits the broader economy.

Ian recently presented at Powerlink's first Gladstone-based Transmission Network Forum detailing Powerlink's projects in Central Queensland and what we are doing differently for industries and communities across the region. Find out more about this event later in the update.

### About Powerlink

Powerlink Queensland is a leading Australian provider of electricity transmission services, focused on delivering a safe, cost-effective and reliable network for our customers.

### In this edition:

- Opportunities for local businesses
- What we have heard from you so far
- Training the next generation of energy workers
- About connections and confidentiality
- Project updates

*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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## Local procurement

### Meet the buyer event

Powerlink recently participated in a 'meet the buyer' event run by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning in Rockhampton. The event brought together 11 project proponents or principal contractors, more than 70 local suppliers and 14 different agencies from peak bodies, Local, State and Federal Government. The Powerlink team had a full calendar, meeting with 19 suppliers in 10 minute appointments, in a fast-paced, 'round-robin' format. We appreciated this valuable opportunity to connect with such experienced and capable suppliers across a range of industries.



Steve and Ben from Powerlink attended the 'meet the buyer' event in Biloela, with Candace and Geoff from the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning.

### Main works contractor update

The Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project is expected to be the first project underway as part of the Gladstone Project. We are continuing the process for appointing a main works contractor from our experienced supplier panel. This contractor will manage the bulk of the project's local procurement activities. In the coming months, there will be opportunities to engage with Powerlink and our contractors more broadly across the region. We will be working closely with our contractors as they come on board, to ensure our projects in Central Queensland have strong local and Indigenous business participation.



Powerlink partnered with the Callide Dawson Chamber of Commerce to host a Supplier Information Session in Biloela in September 2025.

### Opportunities for local businesses

Powerlink first tested the local market for interest in participating in our projects earlier this year.

We opened 55 work packages through the ICN Gateway and received submissions from 516 businesses – 34% were local and 10% were indigenous. This allowed us to complete a market analysis, plan our procurement approach, and start building our Central Queensland Supplier Register.

We have now reopened 21 works packages to allow more time for local and indigenous suppliers to register their interest in these categories. In late September, the Callide Dawson Chamber of Commerce kindly hosted Powerlink to deliver a supplier event in the Banana Shire to provide the latest information on the Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project and how to register for the open packages.

Registrations from earlier this year are still part of the process. You don't need to re-submit for the same packages, but you are welcome to review and update your submission if you would like to.



To register or find out more, access Powerlink's Gladstone Project ICN Gateway: [gateway.icn.org.au/projects/13600](https://gateway.icn.org.au/projects/13600)

#### Packages that are open:

- |                                     |                                   |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Accommodation – on-site and local | • Foundation reinforcement supply | • Substation civil works           |
| • Coach and bus services            | • Haulage (local)                 | • Trade services                   |
| • Concrete supply                   | • On-site security services       | • Training and upskilling services |
| • Cranage                           | • Quarry                          | • Vehicle washdowns                |
| • Earthmoving and civil plant       | • Signs and signage manufacturing | • Waste management                 |
| • Environmental services            | • Social enterprises              | • Water – storage and management   |
| • Fabrication services              |                                   | • Water – supply and transport     |
| • Fencing – supply and installation |                                   |                                    |

### What's next?

Your feedback is important to us and helps shape how we deliver our work.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak to you at our next series of pop-up sessions. Details on these sessions can be found on the back page.

Our research work as part of the of Social Impact Assessment with community services, organisations, groups and other local stakeholders is ongoing.

The Queensland Government recently released their Energy Roadmap to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for Queenslanders.

Find out more at: [treasury.qld.gov.au](https://treasury.qld.gov.au)



Out and about in Central Queensland



Carlin and Erin from Powerlink’s Indigenous Relations team participated in the 2025 First Nations Carnival of Careers Dorrie Day events.

Powerlink is committed to open and regular communication with our communities in Central Queensland.

In July and August, more than 100 locals shared valuable insights at our engagement pop-ups at Gladstone, Rockhampton, Biloela and Bouldercombe.

We also attended the 2025 First Nations Carnival of Careers Dorrie Day in Gladstone and Bundaberg, and shared information on Powerlink’s career opportunities.

Powerlink has been connecting with community groups and stakeholders to understand more about the communities where transmission infrastructure is proposed for development. These research and listening activities form part of a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) to provide local insights regarding how communities will be affected, how we can avoid and mitigate these impacts and also where we can invest to improve long term community wellbeing.

Across all our activities, local feedback to Powerlink has been clear and consistent.



Ellen from Powerlink’s Project Engagement Team at our engagement pop-up event in Biloela.

What we’ve heard from local communities:

- Communities want consistent, clear and coordinated engagement across our work in the region
- Key priorities for landholders include biosecurity, weed management and access controls
- Key priorities for communities include the impact of our work on local roads and transport systems, engaging local suppliers and providing opportunities to build skills for the next generation

Our current projects

Transmission network reinforcement works

Powerlink’s reinforcement of our network in Central Queensland will strengthen and increase capacity of the electricity transmission network in the region.

This critical program of transmission upgrades will ensure versatility, safety and reliability of the electricity network as the region prepares for the eventual retirement of ageing coal-fired power generators, and heavy industry moves toward electrification of their operations increasing demand on the network.

For the most up to date information on the projects that make up our transmission network reinforcement works, please visit the respective project webpages by scanning the QR code or visiting [powerlink.com.au/cq](https://powerlink.com.au/cq).



Powerlink is also scoping the potential for a new substation at Gladstone West to support the reinforcement of the network within the region. The site under investigation is a Powerlink-owned property adjoining the Bruce Highway.

A potential new substation will enhance power system operability and versatility, as well as support future industrial load growth.

Connection projects

Powerlink, as the Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSP) in Queensland, operates under the National Electricity Rules (NER) which define our obligation to connect generation projects to Queensland’s electricity network. This means that Powerlink is obligated to connect any proponent (such as a generator) to the transmission network, provided they meet the relevant technical and regulatory requirements.

Currently, we are actively engaging communities and landholders on two of these projects (follow the QR code above for more information on these projects):

- Banana Range Wind Farm Connection Project
- Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project

Connection works are also advancing on the following power generation and storage projects in Central Queensland:

- Lotus Creek Wind Farm
- Boulder Creek Wind Farm
- Broadsound Solar Farm
- Stanwell BESS

Powerlink’s work on these projects facilitates private sector investment, and broader electricity system and economic benefits.

Please scan this QR code to see a map of Powerlink’s transmission network in Central Queensland.







Did you know?

Connections and confidentiality

Under the National Electricity Rules, Powerlink must make an offer to connect to our network if a developer satisfies certain criteria. It is not Powerlink’s role to approve developer-led power generation and storage projects.

Powerlink is bound by confidentiality obligations throughout the whole process of connection from inception to operation and decommissioning (including specific obligations under the National Electricity Rules).

This means we are restricted in what information we can share about potential connections to our network.

We may only be able to share publicly available information, such as information published on the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) website.

Further, developers conduct their own project assessments and undertake due diligence prior to contacting Powerlink to start the connection process. They may also undertake corridor selection, easement acquisition and construction activities for the transmission infrastructure required to connect electricity generation projects to Powerlink’s existing network.

It is important to note that not all connection enquiries and applications result in proceeding to construction.

To learn more about Powerlink’s confidentiality obligations, scan the QR code on this page or visit [powerlink.com.au/brochures/connections-and-confidentiality](https://powerlink.com.au/brochures/connections-and-confidentiality).



Local apprenticeships for the next generation

In August, Powerlink held our third assessment centre for local aspiring apprentices. The 31 candidates were put through a range of scenarios to assess how they work as a team, their ability to work at heights and problem-solving skills.

The successful candidates will join our growing Gladstone-based workforce, starting January. Their electrical or communications and control apprenticeships will see them service the region and beyond for years to come.



Powerlink recently held our third assessment centre for local aspiring apprentices.



Powerlink’s Chief Executive Paul Simshauser with David Limburg from the State Emergency Service and Eliza from our Community Relations Team.

Central Queensland Transmission Network Forum

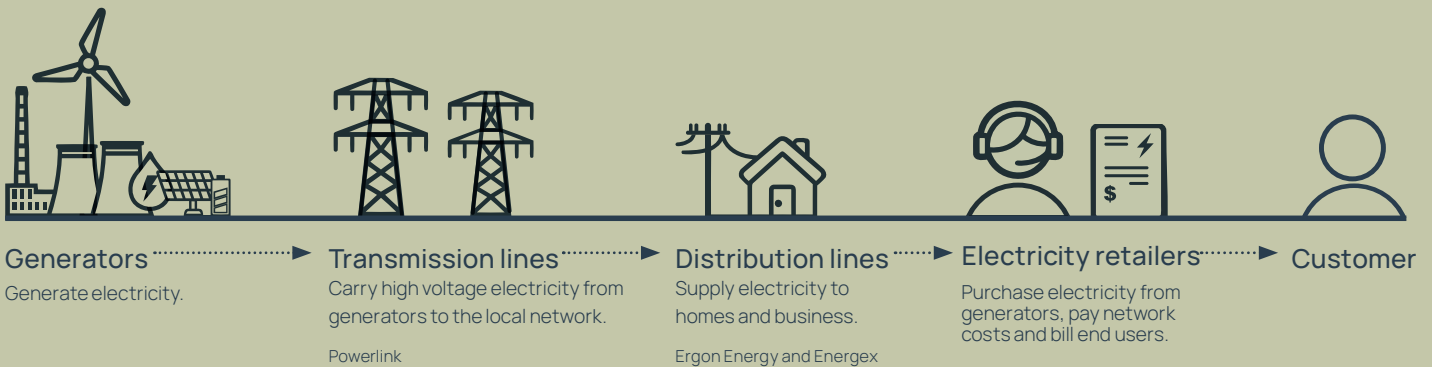
More than 130 delegates from industry, local government and community advocacy groups attended Powerlink’s first Central Queensland Transmission Forum in August 2025.

In addition to Powerlink’s Executive General Manager Major Projects Ian Lowry, we also heard from Chief Executive Paul Simshauser and Roger Smith, Director of Powerlink’s future revenue determination process. Scan the QR code on this page to view the forum presentations.





## Electricity supply chain



## Come and meet our team!

We will be coming to the following locations and we'd love to see you there.

### Friday 21 November 2025, 9am - 12pm

Gladstone Centre Plaza – Near Woolworths and Jay Jays  
Corner of Dawson Highway and Philip Street, West Gladstone

### Friday 21 November 2025, 9am - 12pm

Stockland Rockhampton Shopping Centre – Near Strandbags  
120 - 331 Yaamba Road, North Rockhampton

### Saturday 22 November 2025, 9am - 12pm

Outside of FoodWorks  
Shop 2, 25 - 27 Dawson Highway, Biloela

### Saturday 22 November 2025, 8am - 12pm

Bouldy Markets  
52496 Burnett Highway, Bouldercombe



## Contact us

For more details on our activities in Central Queensland, please contact us by:

- **Email:** [cqprojects@powerlink.com.au](mailto:cqprojects@powerlink.com.au)
- **Phone:** 1800 635 36 (Monday to Friday, 7.30am – 5pm).

Landholders of our current projects are also welcome to contact their Landholder Relations Advisor.

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