

# CopperString

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

## Hughenden update

### Project overview

CopperString will deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable energy to North and North West Queensland by connecting the region to the National Electricity Market by 2032 (subject to approvals).

The Eastern Link involves constructing 350 kilometres (km) of 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Reid River near Townsville to Hughenden, supporting the objectives of the Energy Road Map. The Western Link includes a \$200 million North West Energy Fund to support local renewable energy generation, battery and microgrids to ensure regional energy reliability improves for communities between Richmond and Mount Isa.

A new Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC)-managed entity will develop, deliver, own, operate and maintain CopperString, with Powerlink continuing to progress Eastern Link approvals and early works during the transition. Both organisations are working together to ensure a smooth transition while progressing design and delivery activities.

### Hughenden Workforce Accommodation Facility

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

When operational, the WAF will start by housing around 50 people to meet initial workforce needs. This will scale up over time to accommodate major construction of the Flinders Substation, which is expected to ramp up in 2026.

We are working closely with Flinders Shire Council to progress planning for road sealing works on the access roads and intersections near the WAF to support site logistics and safety. This will include intersection works on the Flinders Highway and WAF access road.

The project team is working to finalise an interim facility operator, after which a permanent facility operator will be

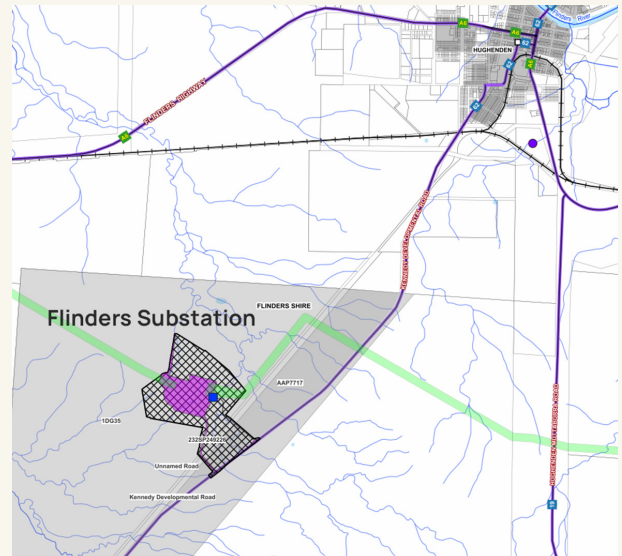
assigned. We are hoping to have the interim facility manager contract awarded by end of the year. We will work with the interim facility manager to maximise opportunities for local supplier involvement in the operation of the WAF and have attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting to get conversations started.

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.

### Flinders Substation

The Flinders Substation will be constructed about 6km south of Hughenden on Kennedy Developmental Road. Preliminary works will commence in late 2025, with major construction to commence in 2026.

Flinders Substation is a crucial component of CopperString and set to be one of the largest regional energy hubs in Queensland. Significant construction activities will be required to build the substation.



### Fast facts October 2025

- \$22.5 million spent with local suppliers, with \$11.8 million spent in the Flinders Shire
- 139 local businesses and 209 individuals upskilled at supplier capability development program workshops
- \$30,000 contributed to Hughenden Country Universities Centre

*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.*

Freecall 1800 635 369  
[powerlink.com.au/copperstring](https://powerlink.com.au/copperstring)





Official launch of Hughenden Country Universities Centre



A recent Supplier Capability Development Program workshop

## Community legacy investment

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).

We are looking forward to working closely with Flinders Shire Council to deliver legacy investment to benefit the community.

## Community grants

Powerlink's Community Grants round closed on 22 August and we received a strong application rate from the Flinders Shire. Successful applicants will be notified soon.

For information about future grant rounds, keep an eye on our website [powerlink.com.au/communitygrants](https://powerlink.com.au/communitygrants).

## 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 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 over \$10M spent in Flinders Shire to date.

Remaining workshops for the year will be held in Mount Isa, Cloncurry and Julia Creek on contract management at the following locations and times:

- 11 November, 6.30am to 8.30am or 9am to 2pm, Mount Isa
- 12 November, 6.30am to 8.30am or 9am to 2pm, Cloncurry.
- 13 November, 9am to 12.30pm, Julia Creek.



## 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](mailto:copperstring@powerlink.com.au).



Use the QR code to access our project webpage or visit [powerlink.com.au/copperstring](https://powerlink.com.au/copperstring)