

CopperString

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

Charters Towers 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 Queensland Energy Roadmap. 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.

Expression of Interest (EOI) process for Eastern Link

Powerlink recently ran an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to identify sites available for the construction of temporary Workforce Accommodation Facilities (WAFs) required for the CopperString project's Eastern Link, between Hughenden and Townsville.

WAFs are essential for supporting workforce wellbeing, project efficiency, and compliance with planning and environmental approvals. They may include accommodation facilities, health and wellbeing services, laundry facilities, car parking, workshops, and more.

The Eastern Link temporary WAFs are expected to be required for up to five years, including a period of 12 months for construction. The opportunity to nominate a site for the EOI was shared across the region and information sessions were held at the Charters Towers library for interested locals.



Tom Dockray and Charters Towers Mayor Liz Schmidt

The EOI ran for four weeks, closing on 24 October 2025. Powerlink has shortlisted the nominations and has commenced site inspections. Successful applicants will be advised as a part of this final assessment process.

Sponsorship of Charters Towers Business Awards

Powerlink is proud to support the inaugural 2026 Charters Towers Business Awards as a Gold Sponsor. This aligns with the CopperString values to support local businesses along the alignment and build capacity for a strong regional economy.

We look forward to celebrating with the local business community at the awards ceremony in May 2026.



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





Erin Bell at Charters Towers Coffee Connect



Michael Brasil and Sharon Collier at Charters Towers Careers Expo

Attendance at Coffee Connects and Business Breakfasts

Powerlink was pleased to attend the November Business Breakfast run by Charters Towers Regional Council and held at Blackheath & Thornburgh College. CopperString Project Director, Tom Dockray, presented an update on the project and key milestones.

For an opportunity to meet CopperString staff and have a chat about the project, come along to the upcoming Business Breakfasts and Coffee Connects. Dates for upcoming events are posted on the Charters Towers Regional Council website.



Simon Murphy, Mayor Liz Schmidt, Ashlee Keen, Tom Dockray and Lisa McDonald at the latest Charters Towers Business Breakfast

Community grants

Powerlink's Community Grants round closed on 22 August 2025 and we received a strong application rate from along the corridor.

There were four successful submissions for grants within the Charters Towers local government area, securing over \$18,000 in total funding.

Initiatives supported include:

- the PCYC 'Watch that truck' safety program
- the purchase of a portable PA system for the Pentland Progress Association
- a commercial coffee machine for training and fundraising at the Blackheath & Thornburgh College Canteen
- a concrete footpath for the Charters Towers Junior Rugby League club.

Powerlink is proud to support these community initiatives. For information about future grant rounds and how to apply keep an eye on our website powerlink.com.au/communitygrants.



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