

DECEMBER 2025



# CopperString Supplier Information Guide



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## Acknowledgement

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.



## Introduction

The CopperString Supplier Information Guide has been developed to provide general information on:

- Powerlink Queensland
- CopperString
- how industry participation is defined
- project compliance requirements
- how to get involved in the CopperString supply chain and who to contact for support.

Interested suppliers should undertake a thorough analysis of the cost, effort and risks associated with tendering for a major project such as CopperString and seek professional and qualified advice.

This guide includes information on supplying to CopperString only. For information on other tendering opportunities with Powerlink, please visit [www.powerlink.com.au/tenders](http://www.powerlink.com.au/tenders).

## 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.

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.

## About CopperString

### Project overview

CopperString supports North and North West Queensland by delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

With the first stage of project delivery set to be complete by 2032 (subject to approvals), CopperString will connect the region to the National Electricity Market (NEM), enabling new generation, firming, industrial development and economic growth.

The project will be delivered in two sections:

The **Eastern Link** initially involves building just under 350 kilometres (km) of 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Reid River near Townsville to Hughenden. This section of the project also includes the identification and construction of substation sites and workforce accommodation facilities (WAFs) near the project alignment.

When completed in 2032 (subject to approvals) this section of the transmission line will support a transfer capacity of 1.7 gigawatts (GW) – and 2.9 GW hosting capacity – to meet projected energy demand requirements over the medium to long term.

For the **Western Link**, a \$200 million North West Energy Fund will be used to support local renewable energy generation, battery and microgrids to ensure regional energy reliability improves for communities including Richmond, Julia Creek, Cloncurry and Mount Isa. The fund will be used to partner with the private sector to invest in flexible firming solutions to reduce reliance on gas for baseload electricity consumption, while options to deliver the Western Link are developed.



## Project status

A new entity will be established by Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC) to progress the development and delivery of the CopperString project.

Under this approach, the QIC-managed entity will develop, deliver, own, operate and maintain the assets.

Through the project ownership transition phase, Powerlink has been tasked with continuing to deliver activities on the project's Eastern Link (Townsville to Hughenden), including securing easements, planning and environmental approvals and commencing preliminary works on the Flinders Substation.

QIC and Powerlink are committed to working collaboratively to support a smooth transition and are conscious of the need to keep stakeholders informed as things progress.

Over the coming weeks QIC and Powerlink will finalise work on a transition plan for the project with a focus on detailed design of the operating model and an implementation plan.

In the meantime, work will continue as planned on the range of design, development and early works activities already in progress.

## Industry participation

The project is committed to providing genuine opportunities for industry participation and maximising the benefits that can be delivered through ethically, environmentally and socially responsible procurement.

The project team is continuing to progress opportunities for local and Indigenous businesses to be involved in the CopperString supply chain.

### How is participation defined?

Participation is a measurement of industry and worker participation in project delivery. Opportunities for CopperString participation include:

- subcontracting, supply and services provision
- employment and training.

The project has developed a tiered approach to participation in CopperString.

*Table 1: Levels of project participation – CopperString*

Tier	Definition	Groups and localities
Local*	Local Government Areas (LGAs) within a 125km radius of the project alignment, as well as Traditional Owner Land Council areas and Traditional Owner language group areas intersected by the project alignment	<p>LGAs: Burdekin Shire, Charters Towers Region, Cloncurry Shire, Flinders Shire, Hinchinbrook Shire, McKinlay Shire, Mount Isa City, Richmond Shire, Townsville City</p> <p>Traditional Owners: Bindal People, Birriah People, Jangga People, Gudjula People, Yirendali People, Wanamara People, Mitakoodi and Mayi Peoples, and Kalkadoon People</p>

Tier	Definition	Groups and localities
Regional	Localities within listed Regional Development Australia (RDA) areas, plus all LGAs not in South East Queensland (SEQ)	RDA areas: Townsville and North West Queensland, Tropical North, Greater Whitsundays, Central and Western Queensland LGAs: See <a href="#">map</a> for LGAs <b>not in</b> SEQ
Rest of Queensland	All LGAs in SEQ	See <a href="#">map</a> for LGAs <b>within</b> SEQ
Rest of Australia and New Zealand	All other Australian states and territories not listed above and New Zealand	Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia, New Zealand
Rest of world	All other countries globally	All other countries that operate as recognised United Nations member states and are not currently under any global sanction

\* To verify local status, **suppliers** must provide evidence of ownership, lease or rental of an applicable LGA Council-zoned facility linked to the contracted ABN.

## Compliance

Compliance with relevant government legislation is required to ensure full, fair and reasonable opportunities for participation are made available on CopperString.

### Australian Industry Participation Plan

CopperString is classified as a 'major project' (>\$500 million) and as such must maintain an Australian Industry Participation (AIP) Plan under the *Australian Jobs Act 2013*.

The project requires all suppliers to operate consistently with the requirements of the AIP Plan and cascade these obligations to their supply chain.

A copy of the CopperString AIP Plan can be found here: <https://www.industry.gov.au/major-projects-and-procurement/australian-industry-participation/copperstring-2032>.

Suppliers should also ensure all products and services comply with the **Modern Slavery Act 2018**.

A copy of this document can be found here: <https://www.ag.gov.au/crime/people-smuggling-and-human-trafficking/modern-slavery>.

For more information about the project's AIP Plan please contact Sam Scandlyn, Local Economic Participation Specialist via [sam.scandlyn@powerlink.com.au](mailto:sam.scandlyn@powerlink.com.au) or call 07 3898 4439.

### CopperString Local Economic Participation

CopperString is committed to supporting local and Indigenous economic participation, including creating opportunities for businesses along the project corridor to be involved in the supply chain.

### *Project participation focus areas*

- **Local participation:** supporting opportunities for businesses located along the CopperString corridor.
- **Small and medium enterprise participation:** creating opportunities for small and medium enterprises to engage in the project supply chain.
- **Construction procurement:** enabling local and regional suppliers to participate in construction-related work packages.
- **Queensland manufacturing:** encouraging the use of Queensland-manufactured goods where suitable.
- **Social enterprise participation:** promoting opportunities for recognised social enterprises to participate where relevant.

### *Guiding policies and frameworks*

The project's approach to local economic participation is informed by the standards and policies of the Australian Industry Participation Plan, together with the following Queensland Government documents and frameworks:

- [Queensland Energy Roadmap 2025](#)
- [Queensland Procurement Policy](#), [Queensland Charter for Local Content](#), [Queensland Local Benefits Test](#), [Queensland Government Supplier Code of Conduct 2023](#), [Queensland Government Ethical Supplier Mandate](#)
- [Queensland Industry Participation Act 2011](#)
- [Queensland Government Building and Construction Training Policy](#)
- [Queensland Social Enterprise Strategy](#).

All suppliers will be expected to align with project-specific participation requirements as they are released through procurement processes.

### *CopperString Indigenous Participation*

CopperString is committed to creating meaningful opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the project, including participation in the supply chain, employment, capability development and broader economic outcomes.

The project aligns with the principals and requirements of:

- [Australian Indigenous Procurement Policy](#)
- [Queensland Procurement Policy](#).

### *Indigenous participation outcomes*

The project has committed to the following minimum Indigenous participation targets:

- 3% of accessible spend with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses
- 5% employment (total workforce).

All awarded suppliers are expected to:

- support Indigenous employment and supply opportunities where suitable
- engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses where capability exists
- contribute to the achievement of project-wide Indigenous participation commitments
- provide reporting on Indigenous participation where relevant to their scope.

## Supplier Code of Conduct

Powerlink requires all of its suppliers to comply with its [Supplier Code of Conduct](#). This code applies to all procurement activities regardless of their value.

## Reporting

Powerlink expects the entire supply chain delivering CopperString to provide regular and accurate reporting on local and Indigenous participation, supplier engagement, development, and procurement outcomes relevant to their scope.

Reporting is an important part of the project's supplier requirements. All suppliers contracted to the project need to contribute to AIP Plan reporting and keep records consistent with policy requirements.

## How to get involved

Powerlink is committed to providing genuine opportunities for local and Indigenous industry participation in the project's supply chain. Project procurement is currently being managed by Powerlink.

Please note, all businesses involved in the supply chain are required to have an Australian Business Number (ABN). For information on how to register for an ABN please visit <https://business.gov.au/registrations/register-for-an-australian-business-number-abn>.

## Your Local Economic and Indigenous Participation team

The project's dedicated Local Economic and Indigenous Participation team can help you understand, meet and exceed participation requirements for CopperString. The team's role is to:

- shape procurement strategies to create local and Indigenous opportunities
- support supplier engagement and capability building
- monitor and report on participation targets.



**Sam Scandlyn** – Local Economic Participation Specialist  
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**Derek Willie** – Indigenous Participation Specialist  
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For general queries: [copperstring@powerlink.com.au](mailto:copperstring@powerlink.com.au)



## Register your interest

You can register your interest in supplying to CopperString by:

1. Joining the CopperString Supplier Register – scan the QR code below to visit the CopperString project page and complete the online form or visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PowerlinkCopperString2032>



2. Registering and creating a business profile on the Industry Capability Network (ICN) Gateway at <https://gateway.icn.org.au/projects/8452>
3. Keeping your [capability statement](#) up to date – this helps us understand what you do and match you to opportunities.

## CopperString Supplier Capability Development Program

The Supplier Capability Development Program is free of charge in line with the project's commitment to helping build business capability in communities along the CopperString corridor.






Launched in July 2024, the program includes workshops and one-on-one assistance at various locations.

The program helps suppliers along the corridor to:

- understand what major project buyers want from suppliers
- be more visible to buyers through quality capability statements and better information on supplier platforms (ICN Gateway and others)
- be compliant with major project requirements
- understand prequalification requirements for major projects and supply chains
- be prepared for tendering and contract management
- build confidence to bid on major project and supply chain work, and network and collaborate with other local suppliers.

For more information on the program and upcoming workshops in your local area, please visit [www.powerlink.com.au/copperstring](http://www.powerlink.com.au/copperstring), call 1800 635 369 or email [copperstring@powerlink.com.au](mailto:copperstring@powerlink.com.au).

## Contact us

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