

Far North and North Queensland Transmission Update

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

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 border and comprises 15,559 circuit km of transmission lines and 154 substations.

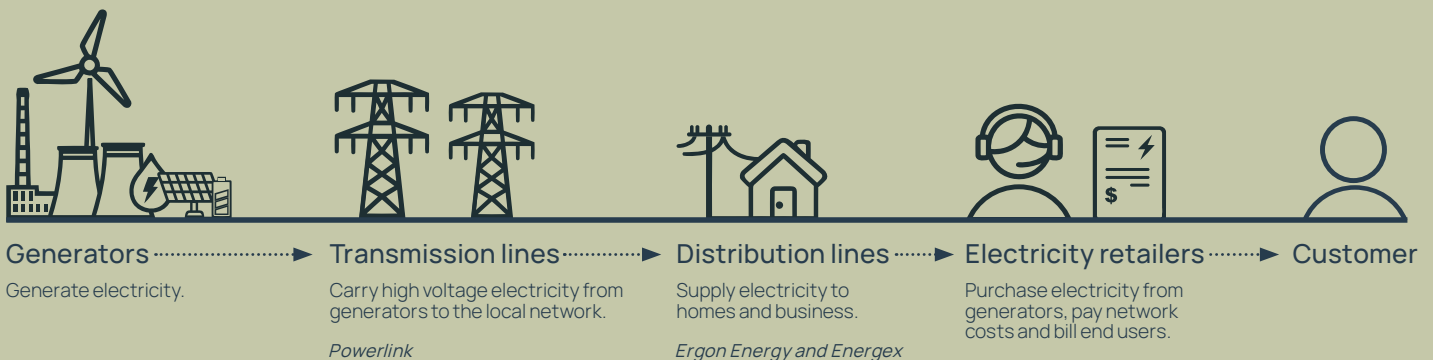
Our purpose is to connect Queenslanders to a world-class energy future, providing electricity to more than five million Queenslanders and 241,000 businesses.

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

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

Electricity supply chain



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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Our network in Far North and North Queensland

Managing our electricity infrastructure in the Far North and North Queensland regions has its unique challenges.

Our network runs through areas of the Wet Tropics rainforest, challenging terrain and in remote locations where access can be difficult. The regions face extreme climatic conditions with tropical cyclones, high ambient temperatures and high relative humidity and our work schedules are constrained by the wet season.

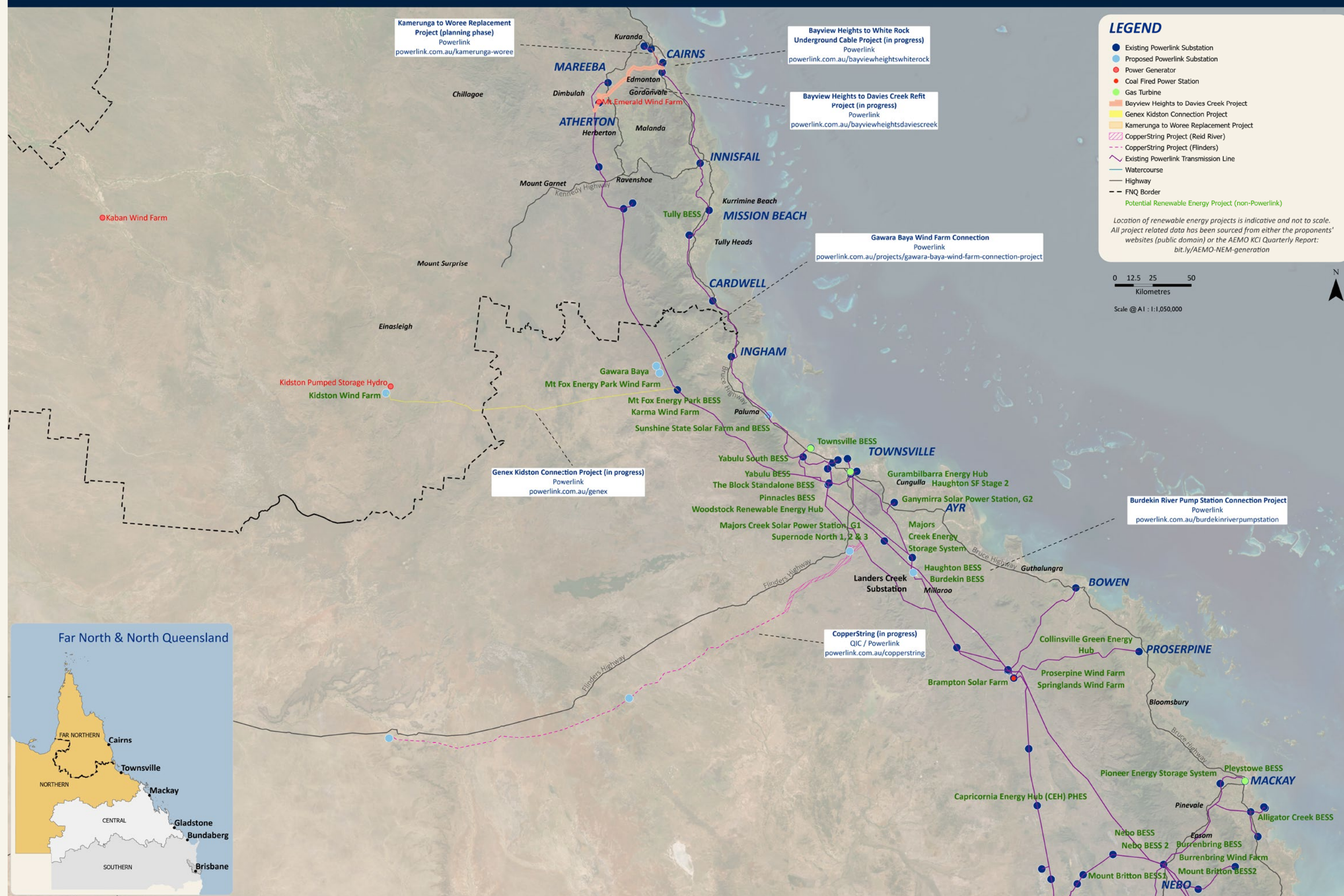
Despite these challenges, we are committed to providing and maintaining a safe, reliable and secure power supply to residents, businesses and industry in the Far North and North Queensland regions.

Our current projects

Powerlink is currently managing several projects in Far North and North Queensland, which are in different stages of progress. To find out more about the projects, please visit these respective webpages.

Far North Queensland	
Project	Update
Kamerunga to Woree Replacement Project powerlink.com.au/kamerunga-woree	<p>Kamerunga Substation and the transmission line between the Kamerunga and Woree substations are critical components of the electricity transmission network that supplies power to northern Cairns.</p> <p>Both the Kamerunga Substation and the transmission line are nearing the end of technical service life and must be replaced to ensure a safe and reliable electricity supply into the future.</p>
Bayview Heights to White Rock Underground Cable Project powerlink.com.au/bayviewheightswhiterock	<p>Essential works are being delivered along sections of the 275kV underground high voltage transmission cables that run between the Bayview Heights and White Rock transition stations in Cairns.</p> <p>The works have involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• vegetation management along the easement, including selected removal of trees posing a risk to the underground cable• easement restoration, including replanting with compatible vegetation• refurbishment works at two cable joint bay sites.
Bayview Heights to Davies Creek Refit Project powerlink.com.au/projects/bayview-heights-davies-creek-refit-project	<p>Refit maintenance works are being undertaken on 21 transmission towers at Bayview Heights in Cairns, running west through the wet tropics rainforest to Davies Creek, east of Mareeba.</p> <p>This section of line is around 16km in length, consisting of 37 towers – some of which are the tallest in Powerlink’s network at 85 metres, designed to sit above the forest canopy.</p>

North Queensland	
Project	Update
CopperString powerlink.com.au/projects/copperstring	<p>As part of releasing its Energy Roadmap in October 2025, the Queensland Government announced that a new entity will be established by Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC) to progress the development and delivery of the CopperString project.</p> <p>The Energy Roadmap confirmed the Eastern Link of the project is targeted for completion by 2032 (subject to approvals).</p> <p>As the project transitions to QIC, Powerlink has been tasked with continuing to deliver early works 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.</p>
Burdekin River Pump Station Connection Project powerlink.com.au/burdekinriverpumpstation	<p>Powerlink has been engaged by Townsville City Council to deliver a new substation and 132kV electricity transmission line to connect the Burdekin River Pump Station associated with the Haughton Pipeline Stage 2 Project to the transmission network.</p> <p>The Haughton Pipeline Stage 2 Project will connect and extend the existing Stage 1 Pipeline from the Haughton River to the Burdekin River near Clare. Visit Haughton Pipeline Project - Townsville City Council for more information.</p>
Genex Kidston Connection Project powerlink.com.au/projects/genex-kidston-connection-project	<p>Powerlink has been engaged by Genex Power Limited (Genex) to deliver a 275kV electricity transmission line and two associated switching stations to connect Genex’s renewable energy generation project at Kidston to the national electricity grid.</p> <p>The Kidston Clean Energy Hub includes establishing a combination pumped storage hydro, solar and wind power generation facility at Kidston, around 270km north-west of Townsville.</p> <p>Visit genexpower.com.au for more information.</p>
Gawara Baya Wind Farm Connection Project powerlink.com.au/projects/gawara-baya-wind-farm-connection-project	<p>The Gawara Baya Wind Farm Connection Project will connect Windlab’s Gawara Baya Wind Farm to Powerlink’s transmission network via our Guybal Munjan Switching Station in Mount Fox. Powerlink’s connection works will be predominantly within the existing switching station land owned by Powerlink, and a small section of adjoining road reserve.</p> <p>Windlab will construct the transmission line project to connect the Gawara Baya Wind Farm to Powerlink’s Guybal Munjan Switching Station. For more information on the wind farm project, please visit gawarabaya.com.</p>





Local supplier engagement

Powerlink is committed to providing genuine opportunities for local procurement as part of delivering our projects in the Far North and North Queensland regions.

On the Genex Kidston Connection Project, Powerlink has worked with principal contractor UGL to maximise local employment and procurement opportunities wherever possible.

Sub-contracting opportunities on the project have included vegetation and access works, machine and equipment hire, cleaning services, waste management and recycling. To date we have engaged more than 25 local suppliers, including landholders along the transmission line, with local contracts valued at more than \$50 million.

A local supplier, Ingham Concrete-Icon, was engaged to provide a concrete batch plant and concrete supplies to construct the Guybal Munjan Switching Station at Mount Fox. The concrete batch plant mixed around 1,200 cubic metres of concrete, negating the need for multiple heavy vehicles to drive along Mount Fox Range to deliver concrete to the switching station site.

On the Bayview Heights to White Rock Underground Cable Project in Cairns, we have engaged local contractor, Cairns Conservation Services, to manage the easement restoration planting works for the project.

This work involves planting around 24,000 compatible species near the high voltage underground cables with all stock being sourced from local nurseries.

As part of the easement restoration, the project will install a shade shelter, park benches, and water bubblers along the Bayview Heights easement. Local contractor Freedom Construction has been engaged to perform the amenity installation.

We recognise that engaging local suppliers, utilising their knowledge and skills, and contributing to local economies leads to positive outcomes.

Out and about in Cairns

Attending local events helps us engage directly with community members and stakeholders in the regions where we are delivering projects.

Powerlink recently hosted an information stall at the annual EcoFiesta in Cairns, considered to be Queensland's premier sustainability festival.

Our team enjoyed meeting with community members and local stakeholders to discuss Powerlink's projects in Cairns along with our role in the energy sector, including how the energy supply chain works and the difference between Powerlink and Ergon Energy.

It was also a valuable opportunity for us to further understand local interest in energy system planning, discuss new transmission infrastructure projects and explore community investment and sponsorship initiatives.



Putting safety to the test in an emergency simulation

A multi-agency exercise was recently held to test emergency response capabilities on the Bayview Heights to Davies Creek Refit Project, near Mareeba.

Participants from Powerlink, our construction contractor Downer and Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) conducted the exercise to test critical safety procedures in a real-world environment.

The simulated exercise involved a worker 'falling' from a high voltage transmission tower in a semi-remote location enabling participants to respond to a complex workplace incident.

The exercise provided a valuable opportunity for Powerlink to practise with our partners to ensure we are ready for incidents in the tropics and identify improvements for our response coordination efforts with QAS.

Supporting the Clontarf Foundation

Powerlink is proud to support the Clontarf Foundation which exists to improve the education, discipline, life skills, self-esteem and employment prospects of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men.

We have enjoyed being involved with their recent activities in Townsville including attending the Clontarf Foundation Employment Forum where our team met some inspiring students who have expressed their interest in joining Powerlink's apprenticeship program.

Other highlights have included Powerlink staff teaming up with students in the annual Clontarf Oztag Carnival and joining a morning training session designed to teach discipline and routine to help students with building these success factors into their everyday life.



Community Grants

We recognise communities play a vital role in the work we do, whether it's through providing feedback on projects or hosting our infrastructure.

Powerlink's Community Grants support initiatives and activities valued at up to \$5,000 in regional Queensland.

In 2024, twenty-five community groups, clubs and not-for-profit organisations in eligible Far North and North Queensland Local Government Areas (LGAs) received grants totalling almost \$125,000.

Applications for the 2025 Community Grants closed in August, and invited applications from the Mt Isa, Cloncurry, Richmond, McKinlay, Flinders, Charters Towers, Townsville and Cairns LGAs.



Further information

If you would like further information or to register to receive future Transmission Updates, please contact us on the details opposite:

Far North Queensland

Email: fnqprojects@powerlink.com.au

Phone: 07 4034 7600

Scan the QR code



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