COMMUNITY UPDATE | FEBRUARY 2026

Bouldercombe to Larcom Creek Transmission Line Reinforcement Project

PROJECT UPDATE

Powerlink is proposing to build a new, high voltage transmission line (about 95km in length) between the existing Bouldercombe and Larcom Creek substations via a proposed Gladstone West Substation. The majority of this new line is planned to be constructed within existing Powerlink vacant easements.

In October 2025, Powerlink released two corridor reports for this project. The first was a Corridor Validation Report (for project sections A, B and C); the second a Draft Corridor Selection Report (for project section D). Visit powerlink.com.au/bouldercombe-larcomcreek to view a map showing these project sections.

Landholders, community members and other stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on these reports during a four week consultation period from 8 October to 4 November 2025.

This update outlines the key feedback themes from that consultation period, the next steps on the project, our commitment to continued collaboration, and how to contact us with any questions.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed valuable insights and feedback so far.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

The table below summarises the key feedback themes from the consultation period, and our response.

THEME	RESPONSE
Biosecurity matters	We understand biosecurity is a priority for landholders and the community. We take biosecurity seriously and have processes in place to avoid spreading weeds between properties or introducing new weeds from outside the local area. For example, we take preventative measures to minimise exposure to weeds, such as: • conducting regular vehicle wash downs • avoiding travel through areas heavily affected by biosecurity matter • visiting clean areas first, before travelling to affected areas • staying on roads and designated access tracks in work areas • obtaining weed and seed declarations on any fill material brought onto a property. Powerlink will work with landholders to identify biosecurity risks on each property and develop appropriate management measures. We value our long-term, working relationships with landholders, and intend to work with landholders regarding biosecurity from the planning phase through to construction, operation and maintenance.

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For more information on Powerlink's approach to biosecurity, please visit our project web page and access the Biosecurity Frequently Asked Questions from the Resources menu. The QR code on the last page of this update will take you to the project web page.

Developer-led generation projects

While developers of electricity generation projects regularly approach Powerlink requesting connection of their proposed facility to the transmission network, it is not Powerlink's role to approve developer-led projects. Under the National Electricity Rules, Powerlink must make an offer to connect to our network if the developer satisfies certain criteria.

For further information on how developer-led projects connect to the transmission network, please see our Connections and Confidentiality factsheet (available at www.powerlink.com.au/brochures/connections-and-confidentiality or by scanning the QR code).

For further information on proposed developments, please visit our project web page and access the Central Queensland regional update from the Resources menu. This publication features a detailed map of Powerlink's Queensland Transmission Network in Central Queensland. It also presents existing renewable energy projects (non-Powerlink) that are in operation, and prospective renewable energy projects (non-Powerlink) currently going through planning and approval stages.

Visual amenity impact

Powerlink understand that impact to visual amenity is a concern for stakeholders in the project area. We are working with landholders to understand their concerns, and property-specific constraints. Where feasible we are working to adjust the placement of towers and tower height to minimise visual impact. It is important to note that opportunities to screen views of transmission towers are limited. As there is already existing transmission infrastructure in the landscape, any new towers are expected to result in an incremental increase to the current visual impacts.

As we progress through our State Government planning approvals, we may also be required to undertake a visual impact assessment. If undertaken, the results of this assessment will be made public.

Based on the feedback received so far, Powerlink is engaging an independent consultant to consider design options at Bouldercombe Substation which may help lessen the impacts to this community.

Any potential changes remain constrained by project requirements, including technical and economic feasibility, and operational safety.

Transmission line noise

During operation, transmission lines can generate low levels of noise. Wind or a natural electrical effect called corona discharge, which can occur during wet weather conditions, are the most common causes of this low-level noise.

Following feedback received, Powerlink is seeking to understand the existing background noise in the project area and how this might change because of the project. The change in noise will consider both potential operational and maintenance noise.

Our focus will be on the potential change for properties close to the existing line in Section A. This work will be undertaken when the project's design has progressed further (likely in mid-late 2026). We will share the results of this work when they become available.

Depending on the outcome of this work, we will identify what may be required to be addressed as part of our planning approvals.

The Queensland Government's Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2019 sets out the environmental values for acoustic environment and acoustic quality objectives that will meet these values. Powerlink will use the Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy to guide our work in this area.

Line placement	The Corridor Validation Report identified the southern side of the easement as the preferred location for the proposed new line because it enables a straighter and more efficient route, avoids crossing existing lines, and is better placed for connection into the Bouldercombe Substation. In response to feedback received from the community, our project team is continuing to explore design options to understand if potential impacts can be reduced. All options must be assessed against project requirements, including technical feasibility, environmental considerations, timeframes and cost.
Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs)	In response to feedback received from the community, our project team will also engage an independent specialist to undertake an EMF assessment on the existing transmission lines, and model EMF levels for the new proposed line. This information will be shared once the assessment is complete.

WORKING TOGETHER

Engaging with landholders and local communities is an important part of providing our electricity transmission services safely, reliably and cost effectively. This is front and centre as we look at the challenges and opportunities of the new energy future here in Queensland. Meeting the needs and expectations of landholders and communities is more important than ever.

We are also working with government and industry to deliver better outcomes for communities. For example, we are committed to The Energy Charter and are actively involved in multiple initiatives aimed at working "better together" that put the focus on communities and customers during this period of significant change.

Through our Powerlink community grants program, we support local initiatives that strengthen and uplift Queensland communities. Each year, groups can apply for grants of up to $5,000 to support projects kicking off the following calendar year. In 2025, we proudly supported 24 community groups across Gladstone,

Rockhampton, Banana and Isaac regions, funding projects that support resilience, safety, wellbeing and local economic outcomes. Stay up to date on future rounds at powerlink.com.au/community/community-grants.

NEXT STEPS

Powerlink has reviewed all stakeholder feedback received to date. This feedback has informed both this update, upcoming technical studies, and the design process. Our next steps are to use this feedback and results from technical studies to:

- continue investigating where the transmission towers will be placed in sections A, B and C, and
- inform the Final Corridor Selection Report for Section D.

Our project team is continuing to explore design options to understand if potential impacts can be reduced. This includes considering alternate design options such as tower placement. All options must be assessed against project requirements, including technical feasibility, environmental considerations, timeframes and cost. When this work is complete, Powerlink will share the findings with the community and landholders.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

Powerlink is working with the relevant Federal and State government agencies to progress the planning and environmental approvals pathway for the project. We will also meet all engagement requirements associated with formal planning and approval processes, including supporting any government led public submission periods.

Planning approvals

Powerlink's transmission projects are typically assessed through a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID). However, Sections C and D of this project are likely to require additional approvals, as they intersect with the Gladstone State Development Area (GSDA) and the Callide Infrastructure Corridor State Development Area.

Environmental approvals

Early ecological survey findings indicate the project is likely to have a significant impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). As a result, Powerlink is working with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and will refer the project for assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

As we progress through the approvals process, stakeholders will be informed of opportunities to provide feedback. Powerlink expects to lodge applications for planning and environmental approvals in mid-late-2026.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the Bouldercombe to Larcom Creek Transmission Line Reinforcement Project, please contact us by:

- Completing the online feedback form at the project web page (scan the QR code to be taken to the project webpage)
- Emailing: cqprojects@powerlink.com.au
- Phoning 1800 635 369 (Monday to Friday, 7.30am – 5pm).

Landholders along the recommended corridor are also welcome to contact their Landholder Relations Advisor.

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

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