

Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

Powerlink is planning for a new transmission line between the Calvale Substation (near Callide Power Station) and the Calliope River Substation (near Gladstone). The project will strengthen and increase capacity of the transmission network in the region. Scan the QR code on page 4 to learn more about the project.

Federal Government environmental approval update

In accordance with Section 98(1)(c) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), Powerlink is inviting public comment on the Draft Public Environment Report (PER) from Thursday 12 February 2026. Consultation closes 5pm on Wednesday 11 March 2026. Details on how to view the Draft PER, make a submission or ask questions are provided in this newsletter.

Powerlink has prepared the Draft PER as part of our application for environmental approval under the EPBC Act. The EPBC Act is Australia's national environmental law. It provides a legal framework to protect and manage nine specific Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).

The Draft PER looks at how the project may affect MNES and outlines ways to avoid, mitigate or offset those impacts. It also includes the specialist studies undertaken and their findings, consideration of project alternatives, and detailed management and monitoring plans. The EPBC Act is administered by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

In late 2024, Powerlink referred the project to the DCCEEW for assessment. The project was found to be a 'controlled action', meaning that further assessment and approval is required before the project can proceed. The Draft PER is the next step in this process.

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.



powerlink.com.au/calvale-calliope



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Is this the same as the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Proposal Report?

In November 2025, the project's Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) Proposal Report was released for community consultation. The MID process is governed by the Planning Act 2016, through the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP).

While both EPBC Act and MID processes involve public consultation, they are governed by different legislation and managed by different agencies. The MID process is about planning approval for infrastructure at the State level, whereas the EPBC process focuses on protecting nationally significant environmental values at the Federal level.



Specialist studies

Preparing the Draft PER involved many field and desktop studies to meet legislative requirements and DCCEEW's guidelines. These studies included:

Ecological and biodiversity studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop reviews and mapping to identify ecological values and MNES 16 field surveys covering vegetation, habitat, threatened species and marine plants Habitat modelling and likelihood of occurrence assessments.
Water resources and hydrology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of surface water, hydrology and water quality Mapping of watercourses and wetlands Flood modelling Evaluation of aquatic ecosystem impacts Water quality monitoring plan.
Soils, geology, and erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping of soil and geology Identification of erosion-prone and acid sulfate soil areas Assessment of erosion risks and management measures.
Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with relevant traditional owners on cultural heritage.
Social and economic studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping of local social profile and impacts Cost-benefit analysis Evaluation of economic, employment and procurement opportunities.
Cumulative impact assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of combined effects from the project and other developments on MNES, water quality and social values.

What's in the Draft PER?

The table below summarises the PER structure and contents, excluding introductory chapters and appendices. A detailed table of contents is provided in the report.

CHAPTER	CONTENTS
4	Assessment methodology Describes the environmental studies undertaken, including the surveys, dates, locations and methods. It explains how the data was used to assess the presence and likelihood of occurrence of MNES and other ecological values.
5	Description of MNES values Identifies and describes the MNES relevant to the project area. Under Part 3 of the EPBC Act, the controlling provisions are: World heritage values of a declared World Heritage property (section 12 & section 15A), National Heritage values of a National Heritage place (section 15B & section 15C), Listed threatened species and communities (section 18 & section 18A), The environment in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (section 24B & section 24C).
6	Project impacts Summarises the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the project on MNES and the environment.
7	Avoidance, mitigation and management Presents strategies and measures to avoid, minimise and manage environmental impacts throughout the project lifecycle.
8	Significant impact assessment – ecology Provides detailed assessments of significant ecological impacts on threatened species and communities.
9	Significant impact assessment – Great Barrier Reef Assesses potential impacts on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, National Heritage values and Marine Park.
10	Cumulative impact assessment Evaluates the combined effects of this and other projects on MNES and the broader environment.
11	Consultation Describes stakeholder engagement, consultation processes and outcomes to-date.
12	Offsets Outlines proposed environmental offset measures to compensate for unavoidable residual impacts.
13	Social and economic matters Examines the project's social and economic impacts, including community, employment and regional development aspects.
14	Conclusion Summarises key findings, conclusions and next steps for the project's environmental assessment and approvals.



View the Draft PER

You can view the Draft PER:

- Through Powerlink's online Community Hub, accessed through the project webpage powerlink.com.au/calvale-calliope. Download the Draft PER and all appendices from the 'Resources' menu on the right side of the page
- By visiting the below venues where electronic and hard copies are available for viewing:
 - Gladstone City Library, 39 Goondoon Street, Gladstone Central
 - State Library of Queensland, Stanley Place, South Brisbane.

Please contact us if you would like to request sections of the Draft PER in an alternative format.

Persons with special needs (including those for whom English is a second language or those with a vision impairment) may contact Powerlink for assistance in accessing the documentation via email at cqprojects@powerlink.com.au.

Make a submission

You can make a submission to Powerlink about any part of the Draft PER, before 5pm on Wednesday 11 March 2026:

- By email to cqprojects@powerlink.com.au
- By post to:
Powerlink Queensland
Attn: Property Team re EPBC 2024/10044
PO Box 1193
Virginia QLD 4014

Next steps

Powerlink will review and respond to submissions through a Submissions Report prepared for DCCEEW. We will then prepare the final PER, which will include our response to issues raised in submissions. DCCEEW will also consider public submissions as part of their assessment process, before deciding whether to approve the project, and under what conditions.

Contact

If you have any questions about the project or the Draft PER, please contact our Powerlink project team on 1800 635 369 (Monday to Friday, 7.30am – 5pm) or email cqprojects@powerlink.com.au.



Questions about the EPBC approval process should be directed to DCCEEW on 1800 920 528.