Southern Queensland Transmission Update

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

In this edition:

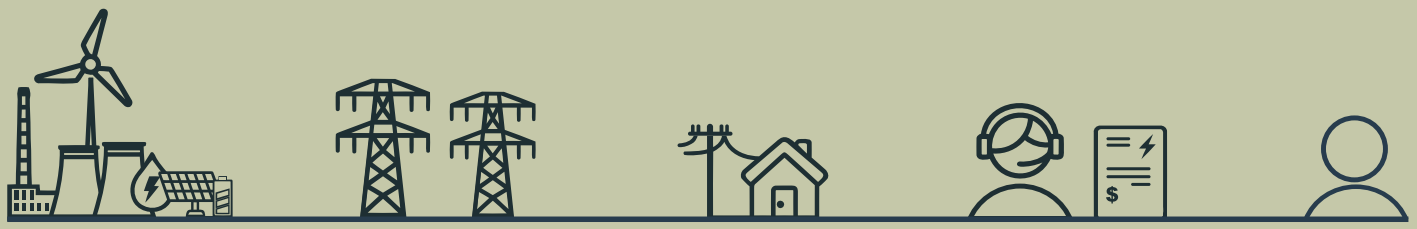
- Latest project updates
- Real-time weather trial and drone stringing of our transmission conductors
- Our investment and support for Southern Queensland communities
- How to submit your questions about Queensland's transmission network

About Powerlink

Powerlink 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 networks owned locally by Energex and Ergon Energy, we also provide electricity directly to large industrial customers such as rail companies, mines and mineral processing facilities.

Electricity supply chain



Generators ····► Generate electricity.

Transmission lines ····► Carry high voltage electricity from generators to the local network.

Powerlink

Distribution lines ····► Supply electricity to homes and business.

Ergon Energy and Energex

Electricity retailers ····► Purchase electricity from generators, pay network costs and bill end users.

Customer

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 projects

Powerlink is currently managing a number projects in Southern Queensland, which are in different stages of progress. The following outlines current progress and key updates for each project.

Project	Update
Swanbank BESS Connection Project	Powerlink supported the connection of CleanCo's 250MW Swanbank Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Swanbank Power Station. The project included establishing a new 275kV bay at Blackstone Substation, reconstructing 1.2km of decommissioned transmission line for the BESS connection. To navigate challenging terrain, including water crossings, roads and uneven ground, the project team used drone stringing technology in place of traditional helicopter methods, improving safety, reducing environmental impact and minimising vegetation clearing. Construction has been completed, and the Swanbank BESS was successfully energised in October 2025.
Belmont Substation Upgrade Works powerlink.com.au/belmont-upgrade	Powerlink is undertaking critical upgrades at the Belmont Substation, including works on two 11kV underground cables, two station service transformers and two auxiliary transformers. This substation plays a critical role in servicing the electricity requirements of the Brisbane CBD, south-eastern suburbs and Port of Brisbane. As part of the upgrades, Powerlink is installing new busbars and related equipment to interface with the adjacent Energex substation. Commissioning of this infrastructure was completed in December 2025 with completion of the final busbar expected by mid-2026. The two 11kV cables and station service transformers had reached the end of their technical service life and were replaced in 2023. The two auxiliary transformers were more than 40 years old and not compatible with modern cable termination technology. One transformer was replaced and commissioned in 2023, with the second now completed and commissioned in December 2025.
Redbank Plains Substation Upgrade Project powerlink.com.au/redbank	The Redbank Plains Substation, located around 27km south-west of Brisbane, was established in 1985 and supplies electricity to Energex's local distribution network. It also provides additional switching capability for alternative power transfer between our Blackstone and Goodna substations. Both transformers, along with a range of ageing equipment in the substation, are nearing the end of their technical service life and require replacement to maintain the ongoing safe, reliable and cost-effective supply of electricity into the future. Works to install new equipment commenced in February 2025 and are scheduled for completion in late 2026.
Sumner Substation Secondary Systems Replacement Project	The Sumner Substation was established in 2006 to meet the increasing electricity demand in the western suburbs of Brisbane. The protection and control equipment at the Sumner Substation is nearing the end of its technical service life and requires replacement. As part of this work, Powerlink has trialled a new project delivery approach, successfully implementing an innovative in-situ replacement methodology – the first of its kind for Powerlink. This approach involved replacing individual protection relays and control equipment rather than entire control buildings or panels. Early results show the in-situ methodology has delivered clear benefits, including shorter delivery timeframes, reduced capital costs and lower project risk. It also maximised the use of existing infrastructure and avoided the need for major civil works. The project was completed in January 2026, on time and under budget.
Borumba Pumped Hydro Transmission Connections Project powerlink.com.au/borumbatransmission	Powerlink continues to work with Queensland Hydro (QH) to develop the transmission infrastructure essential for connecting the proposed Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project to the electricity grid. Along the Borumba to Halys corridor work is underway to refine the 1km final corridor to a 70-metre easement alignment, supported by ongoing seasonal ecological surveys to understand environmental values and inform project design. In December 2025, following a period of public consultation, the Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) issued the guidelines for development of the public environment report (PER) for the project. Powerlink will continue progressing its environmental assessments and prepare the PER in line with these guidelines. Once complete, the PER will be released for public comment. Powerlink has continued engagement with key stakeholders for the development of the project, including with Traditional Owners to deepen Powerlink's understanding of the project area and discuss the management of cultural heritage values. Project work will continue alongside the refreshed business case and commercial assessment, with outcomes expected in 2026.

Project	Update
Wambo Wind Farm Connection Project powerlink.com.au/wambo	Wambo Wind Farm is located near Jandowae. Powerlink was engaged by Stanwell and Cubico Sustainable Investments to connect the wind farm to the transmission network. Construction of stage one commenced in June 2023 and was completed in 2025, delivering 252MW of clean energy generated by 42 turbines.Stage two commenced in 2024 and will add a further 41 turbines and 254MW of capacity, boosting the total generation to more than 500MW by the end of 2026. To support stage two of the wind farm, Powerlink progressed with the expansion of the Diamondy Substation to facilitate an additional 250MW of energy into Powerlink's transmission network, with works completed in March 2026.
Bungaban Wind Farm Connection Project powerlink.com.au/bungaban	Windlab has engaged Powerlink to investigate transmission line connection options for their proposed Bungaban Wind Farm. Progress on the project continues. On 8 December 2025, Powerlink lodged a referral for the Bungaban Wind Farm Connection Project under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The public comment period for the referral closed on 19 January 2026. In February 2026 DCCEEW determined the project to be a 'controlled action', meaning it will require assessment by preliminary documentation (PD). This assessment examines the project's potential impacts on protected matters and the measures proposed to manage them. Powerlink will work with DCCEEW to prepare the required PD, which will be released for public comment. In April, Powerlink will undertake a Social Impact Assessment to understand how the project may affect the community and identify opportunities to maximise local benefits, informed by targeted interviews, community sessions, and a public survey.
Tarong BESS Connection Project	Powerlink supported the connection of Stanwell's 300MW BESS at Tarong Power Station. Powerlink delivered the required transmission connection works, including a new underground 275kV feeder between Tarong Substation and the BESS, together with associated substation equipment, protection, control, metering and telecommunications systems. Construction and installation are now complete, and the new connection was successfully commissioned in July 2025.
Tangkam and Oakey Secondary Systems Replacement powerlink.com.au/tangkam-oakey	Major secondary system replacement works are underway at Powerlink's Tangkam and Oakey substations, located about two hours west of Brisbane. Secondary systems are the complex network of equipment and circuits used to monitor, control and protect high voltage primary equipment. These upgrades are essential as existing equipment reaches the end of its technical service life. Civil works commenced in August 2025 and will continue through to the end of the year. This includes earthworks, foundation construction, cable installation, and extensions to trenching and drainage systems. New control buildings are now on-site progressing with site integration. Following installation, the sites will undergo site acceptance testing, which is a rigorous process to confirm that all systems and equipment meet quality standards, operate safely and are fully functional. Commissioning is scheduled for late 2027.
Tangkam BESS Connection Project powerlink.com.au/tangkam-bess	Powerlink is delivering the transmission connection for Hyosung Group's 100MW BESS at Tangkam, west of Toowoomba. Powerlink's work includes establishing a new 110kV feeder bay at Tangkam Substation and connecting the transmission line to customer-owned infrastructure. Design is underway, with construction expected to begin in Q3 2026. Powerlink's works are scheduled for commissioning in May 2027.

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND'S TRANSMISSION NETWORK IN SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND - MARCH 2026

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Legend

- Existing Powerlink Substation
- Coal Fired Power Station
- Gas Turbine
- Borumba Pumped Hydro Transmission Connections Project
- Bungaban Wind Farm Connection Project
- Existing Powerlink Transmission Line
- Highway
- Operating Renewable Energy Projects (non Powerlink)

Data sourced from the Queensland Treasury Electricity Generation Map for projects connected to Powerlink's network. https://electricity-generation-map.treasury.qld.gov.au/#

Potential generation and storage projects (non-Powerlink)

Projects included are at connection application stage. Location of renewable energy projects is indicative and not to scale. Project related data has been sourced from either the proponents' website (public domain) or the AEMO KCI Quarterly Report: bit.ly/AEMO-NEM-generation.
Potential renewable energy projects shown on the map are currently in their planning and approvals stage.

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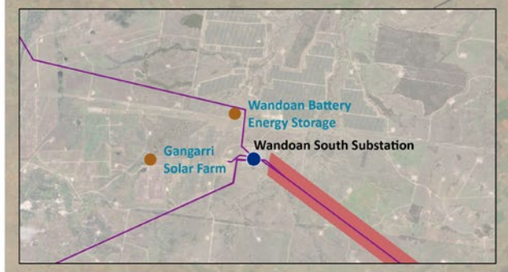
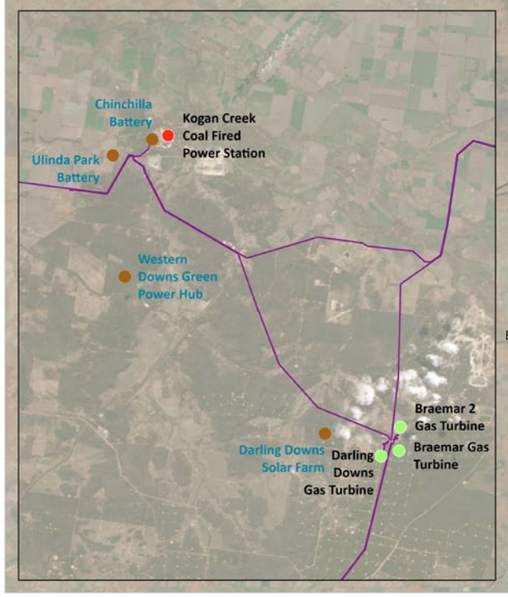
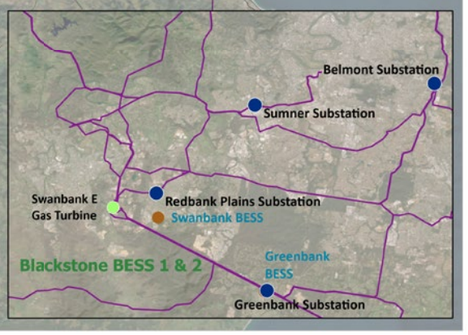
Kilometres
Scale @ A1 : 1:850,000







Monto
BUNDABERG
Burnett Highway
Bruce Highway
Leichhardt Highway
Mt Rawdon Pump Hydro
North Burnett Renewable Hub 1
Golden Fleece Solar Farm & BESS
Ticoba Solar Farm
Gayndah
Taroom
Fraser Coast Solar Park
Teebar BESS
Powerlink
Bungaban Wind Farm Connection Project
Planning Phase
Bungaban Wind Farm
Hookey Creek Solar Farm & BESS
Lower Wonga Solar Farm & BESS
Wooloogа Substation
Wooloogа Solar Farm
GYMPIE
Wandoan South Substation
Wandoan Battery Energy Storage
Gangarri Solar Farm
Woonga Creek BESS
Powerlink
Wambo Wind Farm Connection Project
Operational Phase
Powerlink
Borumba Pumped Hydro Transmission Connection Project
Planning Phase
Burnett Highway
Kingaroy
Borumba Pumped Hydro
Pleasant Hills Solar Farm
ROMA
Roma Gas Turbine
Columboola BESS
Columboola Solar Farm
Blue Grass Solar Farm
Baking Board Solar Farm
Wambo Wind Farm
Coopers Gap Wind Farm
Tarong West Wind Farm
Tarong North Coal Fired Power Station
Miles South Solar Farm & BESS
Diamondy Substation
Halys Substation
South Burnett BESS
Tarong BESS
Powerlink
Tarong BESS
Operational Phase
CALOUNDRA
Everleigh Solar Farm & BESS
Halys BESS 1 & 2
Tarong Coal Fired Power Station
Ulinda Park Battery
Chinchilla Battery
Edenvale Solar Park
Kogan Creek Coal Fired Power Station
Sixteen Mile Solar Farm & BESS
Tumuruu Solar Farm & BESS
Western Downs Green Power Hub
Tuckeroo BESS
Braemar 2 Gas Turbine
Darling Downs Solar Farm
Braemar Gas Turbine
Darling Downs Gas Turbine
Hopeland Solar Farm & BESS
CABOOLTURE
Toowoomba Pumped Hydro
Powerlink
Sumner Substation Secondary System Replacement Project
Operational Phase
Origin - Darling Downs BESS
Powerlink
Tangkam BESS
Planning Phase
Wivenhoe
Brendale Supernode Data Centre & BESS Stage 1, 2 & 3
Cattle Creek Wind Farm & BESS
Oakey
Abermain BESS
Sumner Substation
Belmont Substation
Tangkam Substation
Tangkam BESS
TOOWOOMBA
Moonie Highway
Leichhardt Highway
Dunmore Solar Farm & BESS
Powerlink
Tangkam and Oakey Substations Secondary Systems Replacement
Construction Phase
Swanbank E Gas Turbine
Redbank Plains Substation
Swanbank BESS
Greenbank Substation
Powerlink
Belmont Substation Upgrade Works
Construction Phase
Noblevale BESS
Greenbank BESS
Blackstone BESS 1 & 2
Powerlink
Redbank Plains Substation Upgrade Project
Construction Phase
Flinton
Millmerran Coal Fired Power Station
Powerlink
Swanbank BESS
Operational Phase
Bulli Creek Solar Farm & BESS
Punchs Creek Solar Farm
Gore Highway
Karara BESS
Warwick
Yelarbon Solar Farm & BESS
MacIntyre Wind Farm
Herries Range Wind Farm
Barwon Highway
STANTHORPE
Beebo Solar Farm & BESS
Pikedale Wind Farm
New England Highway

Powerlink crews at one of the ground-based weather stations.

Real-time weather trial shows early gains

Powerlink's innovative Dynamic Line Rating trial is underway, and we're already seeing encouraging early results.

As part of the trial, we have installed eight ground-based weather stations and 22 powerline-mounted sensors across sections of our high voltage transmission network. These devices collect real-time data such as wind speed and ambient temperature, enabling us to dynamically calculate how much electricity can safely flow through our transmission lines at any given time.

Traditionally, transmission line capacity is determined using conservative weather assumptions. Through this trial, we are testing how real-time conditions can unlock additional capacity while maintaining safety and reliability.

Early data from a section of network between Palmwoods and Woolooga indicates that over a six-month study timeframe, the average gains have been more than 16% capacity, while improvements can be as high as 40% under favourable conditions. Even small changes in wind speed can have a significant impact on how efficiently electricity can be transferred.

By improving visibility of actual operating conditions, we aim to reduce network congestion, make better use of existing assets and potentially minimise the need for new infrastructure over time.

The trial will continue for at least 12 months to capture seasonal variations and ensure the data can be effectively integrated into our network operations systems.

High-flying innovation: Drone stringing

There's something remarkable about watching a drone pull conductor (powerline) draw wire between transmission towers.

For decades, stringing transmission lines across challenging terrain meant relying on helicopters to carry draw wire over water crossings, roads, uneven ground and through large-angle tension towers. While effective, it required complex logistics, detailed safety controls and large crews working in high-risk environments.

Drone stringing is changing all of that.

Using remotely operated drones to carry the initial draw wire between structures reduces risk exposure for crews, minimises interaction with electrically 'live' infrastructure and removes the need for low-flying aircraft. It makes the process not just safer, but smarter and more efficient.

This approach was successfully demonstrated during works associated with the delivery of CleanCo's 250MW Swanbank Battery Energy Storage System connection at Swanbank Power Station. Faced with varied terrain and complex stringing requirements, the Powerlink team used drone technology to safely and efficiently draw wire between structures, proving the method's value in real-world conditions.

The environmental benefits are just as significant. Drones operate far more quietly than helicopters and require less vegetation clearing for access. That means reduced noise impacts for nearby communities and less disturbance to surrounding habitats.

Powerlink has been using drones to string conductor draw wire since 2022. Prior to that, drones were primarily used for inspections on both transmission line and substation infrastructure with the capability to capture high resolution images and video as well as thermal imaging and LiDAR.

Expanding their role into construction has been a natural evolution, one that is setting a new benchmark for how transmission projects can be delivered.

Powering Up for International Women's Day

There was a fantastic energy at Kingaroy Town Hall, with women from across Queensland's power industry coming together to celebrate International Women's Day over lunch and lively panel discussions.

Powerlink was proud to be involved as a sponsor, and our Community Relations Advisor Bec Coffey also played a hands-on role on the organising committee, helping bring the event to life.

The 'Power-Up Qld' event brought together representatives from Government Owned Corporations and renewable energy companies, sparking great conversations about women in trades, leading change and building a more inclusive industry. It was a truly inspiring day in a community that means a lot to us, and we're excited to see what comes next.

The 'Power-Up Qld' event organising committee, along with guest speaker, Wendy Agar.

Coolabunia Reef & Beef

In February 2026, Powerlink was delighted to support the 'Reef n Beef' community event hosted by the Coolabunia State School P&C Association, helping bring more than 200 locals together for a relaxed evening of great food, music and connection. Set against a beautiful summer backdrop on the school grounds, it was heartening to see families, friends and neighbours enjoying time together and celebrating their community spirit.

One of the standout moments of the night was seeing 12 hospitality students from Kingaroy State High School roll up their sleeves and gain valuable hands-on experience. Opportunities like this build confidence and give young people practical skills they can carry into the future.

We're proud to play a small part in events like this that strengthen local connections and support the next generation.

Powerlink Community Relations Advisor Bec Coffey with Principal of Coolabunia State School.

Got a question about our transmission network?

Our transmission network works hard every day to bring electricity from generators to homes and businesses across Queensland. But it doesn't just run by itself. Our teams are out there inspecting towers, checking equipment, managing vegetation, and making sure everything is safe and reliable.

We know maintenance work can raise questions, like what happens in your area, how we plan our activities to minimise interruptions, or how we prepare for storms and extreme weather. We're here to answer those questions and give you a peek behind the scenes.

Have a question or just curious about something? Reach out to us via our website, email or phone. We'd love to hear from you. Your questions help us share the stories and information that matter most to your community.

Further information

For futher information on our activities in Southern Queensland please:

Email: sqprojects@powerlink.com.au

Phone: 1800 635 369 (Monday to Friday, 7.30am – 5pm).

Landholders of our current projects are also welcome to contact their Landholder Relations Advisor.