

Central Queensland Transmission Update

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

First contractor appointed for Gladstone Project Stage 1

Powerlink has awarded the first major contract to progress critical reinforcement works on the electricity transmission network in Central Queensland.

Powerlink has appointed BMD Constructions to undertake the initial clearing and site preparation works for Gladstone Project Stage 1, Calvale to Calliope River. BMD Constructions has a strong presence in Central Queensland and anticipates approximately \$50 million in direct spend with local businesses, including around \$3 million with First Nations-owned enterprises.

As the project moves into delivery, Powerlink remains committed to working with BMD Constructions to maximise opportunities for local and Indigenous businesses and regional workers. Further information will be shared as planning and mobilisation activities progress.



Initial on-site activities will start from July 2026 to prepare the transmission easement for the clearing and access works.

Access and clearing works

Environmental planning is a key part of the project's approvals process and includes extensive studies and field surveys. Strict environmental controls are in place for all clearing activities. Initial works will begin in July and include site walk-throughs, along with activities to protect or relocate selected plant species. Vegetation and access clearing works will begin in August from the western end of the alignment. This includes upgrading access tracks, establishing work sites and temporary facilities, which will be completed with strict adherence to our biosecurity requirements. You can find more on the project's online Community Hub about the planning and preparation undertaken before works begin in order to reduce impacts and keep clearing to a minimum.

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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Main works contractor appointment coming soon

As part of the Queensland State Budget, the Crisafulli Government announced a \$501 million investment in the Gladstone Project Stage 1 to progress the project from planning to construction. In preparation for construction to commence, Powerlink will soon announce the contractors engaged to deliver the main construction works.

These contractors will deliver the new transmission line and substation works, including managing most of the construction-phase procurement and engaging local and Indigenous businesses and workforces.

Work on-site will begin in August alongside clearing and access works. Early activities will include establishing site offices and laydown areas, and progressing works at the substations.



Ashneel Padarath, Project Delivery Director.

Hear from the Project Delivery Director, Ashneel Padarath

As Powerlink's Project Delivery Director, Ashneel oversees the delivery of major transmission infrastructure across Queensland. He will lead the construction of critical transmission reinforcement work with a background of almost 20 years in the energy sector. Ashneel is focused on safely and efficiently delivering this infrastructure to ensure Central Queensland's communities, industry and economy continue to benefit from a reliable electricity network.

"This is an exciting time for Powerlink and our delivery partners as we start construction on this transformational power project for Central Queensland. We are focused on maximising opportunities to involve local businesses and keeping our communities engaged as we deliver this project that will enable safe, reliable and affordable power for the region."

Start of construction timeline

June – August 2026



Bolstering supplier capability in Central Queensland

In April 2026, Powerlink partnered with the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) to deliver a supplier capability workshop series across Biloela, Gladstone and Rockhampton. The workshops attracted 56 attendees and provided practical guidance to local and Indigenous businesses on preparing capability statements, as well as updates on Powerlink's Central Queensland projects and upcoming opportunities. Powerlink and DSDIP will deliver further sessions later this year.

Businesses interested in future work package opportunities on our Central Queensland projects are encouraged to register through Powerlink's ICN Gateway at gateway.icn.org.au/projects/13600.



Team members at the DSDIP Capability Statement Workshop in Gladstone in April.

Our Projects

System Strength Project

In May 2026, the Powerlink team were out in the community talking about the System Strength Project. Recently announced as part of the Crisafulli Government's Energy Roadmap, synchronous condensers have been identified as critical to maintaining power system security. This project involves the installation of four synchronous condenser machines – two at Powerlink's Calliope River Substation in Callemondah, and one each at the Nebo and Stanwell Substations.

Community information drop-in sessions were held in Stanwell, Gladstone and Nebo, which provided an opportunity for locals to learn more about the project and potential impacts and benefits.

The Powerlink team also hosted a stall at the annual Nebo Street Party, attended by more than three thousand Central Queenslanders. Powerlink was proud to support the event and sponsor the first aid service as part of our commitment to deliver positive outcomes to communities in the region.



The System Strength Project team at the Nebo Street Party in May.

What is a synchronous condenser?

A synchronous condenser is a large rotating machine that acts like a shock absorber to smooth out fluctuations in the electricity grid to maintain strength in electricity supply.

Powerlink has procured four synchronous condensers to be installed in Central Queensland by late 2029.

For more information on the project, visit engage.powerlink.com.au/central-queensland.

The Gladstone Project Stage 2

The Gladstone Project will be delivered in stages, the first stage being the Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement. It will be followed closely by Stage 2, which involves planning for a new transmission line between Bouldercombe and Larcom Creek substations and the proposed Gladstone West Substation.

Stage 2 is in the early planning stage, with the corridor selection process nearing completion and preparation to commence federal and state government approval processes.

Powerlink has been engaging with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders on Stage 2 since March 2025. Further information can be found on the project's Community Hub at engage.powerlink.com.au/central-queensland.

Visit the Powerlink team

Friday 17 July, 9am-12pm:

- Gracemere Shopping World (outside EB Games)
- Gladstone Centre Plaza (outside NewsXpress)

Saturday 18 July, 8am-12pm:

- Bouldy Markets (52496 Burnett Highway, Bouldercombe)

Saturday 18 July, 9am-12pm:

- Biloela Shoppingworld (outside Woolworths)

Social Impact Assessment

Powerlink is finalising two Social Impact Management Plans (SIMPs) for our major projects in Central Queensland, setting out how we and our contractors will manage impacts and create benefits for local communities during construction. The first SIMP to be completed will support the Gladstone Project Stages 1 and 2.

This work builds on a Social Impact Assessment completed across our portfolio of work in the region. Through this process, we spoke with councils, landholders, Traditional Owner groups, community groups, and businesses, and invited feedback through surveys and focus groups.

This feedback is now helping shape the actions in the plan. Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation process or shared their feedback.

We'll share an update once the SIMPs are complete on the Powerlink Community Hub: engage.powerlink.com.au/central-queensland.

Generator connection projects

As Queensland's Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSP), Powerlink plays a key role under the National Electricity Rules (NER) to connect large industry and electricity generation projects to the transmission network.

Major projects

Our two major generator connection projects in Central Queensland are the:

- **Banana Range Wind Farm Connection, and**
- **Theodore Wind Farm Connection.**

Both projects are nearing the completion of their planning phase. Early engagement with Powerlink's experienced supplier panel is currently underway. To remain up to date on the latest project activity and see feedback themes from the planning phase, visit the Powerlink Community Hub: engage.powerlink.com.au/central-queensland.



New connection projects

Smoky Creek and Guthrie's Gap Solar Power Station

Edify Energy has engaged Powerlink to connect the Smoky Creek and Guthrie's Gap Solar Power Station to the transmission network. Powerlink's scope of work includes constructing a new switchyard and associated transmission infrastructure to connect the project to the existing transmission line between Stanwell and Calvale. This connection work is currently in the design phase, with field and desktop studies underway to inform design. Powerlink's construction work is expected to start in late 2026 and be completed in 2028. The Solar Power Station itself is being developed and delivered by Edify Energy and is separate to Powerlink's connection works. For more information on the Edify Energy Project, visit edifyenergy.com/project/smoky-creek-guthries-gap.

Completed generator connection projects

Lotus Creek Wind Farm

In June 2026, Powerlink completed works to connect CS Energy's Lotus Creek Wind Farm to the transmission network. Powerlink's work involved construction of 14km of new 275kV transmission line and a new Powerlink substation named Glencoe Substation. The construction phase was completed with the use of drone technology to string the transmission line through the tower infrastructure. Over the coming months, testing and commissioning activities will take place with energisation targeted for late 2026.

Broadsound Solar Farm

Powerlink energised the connection to Iberdrola's Broadsound Solar Farm, set to provide 377MW of power generation and storage to Queensland's power system. Powerlink's work involved the installation of all high-voltage electrical equipment, aerial connections linking the equipment to the solar farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), and cable installation from the control building. This work was delivered ahead of schedule, allowing Iberdrola to proceed to the testing and commissioning stage earlier than expected.



Drone stringing completed for Lotus Creek Wind Farm connection.



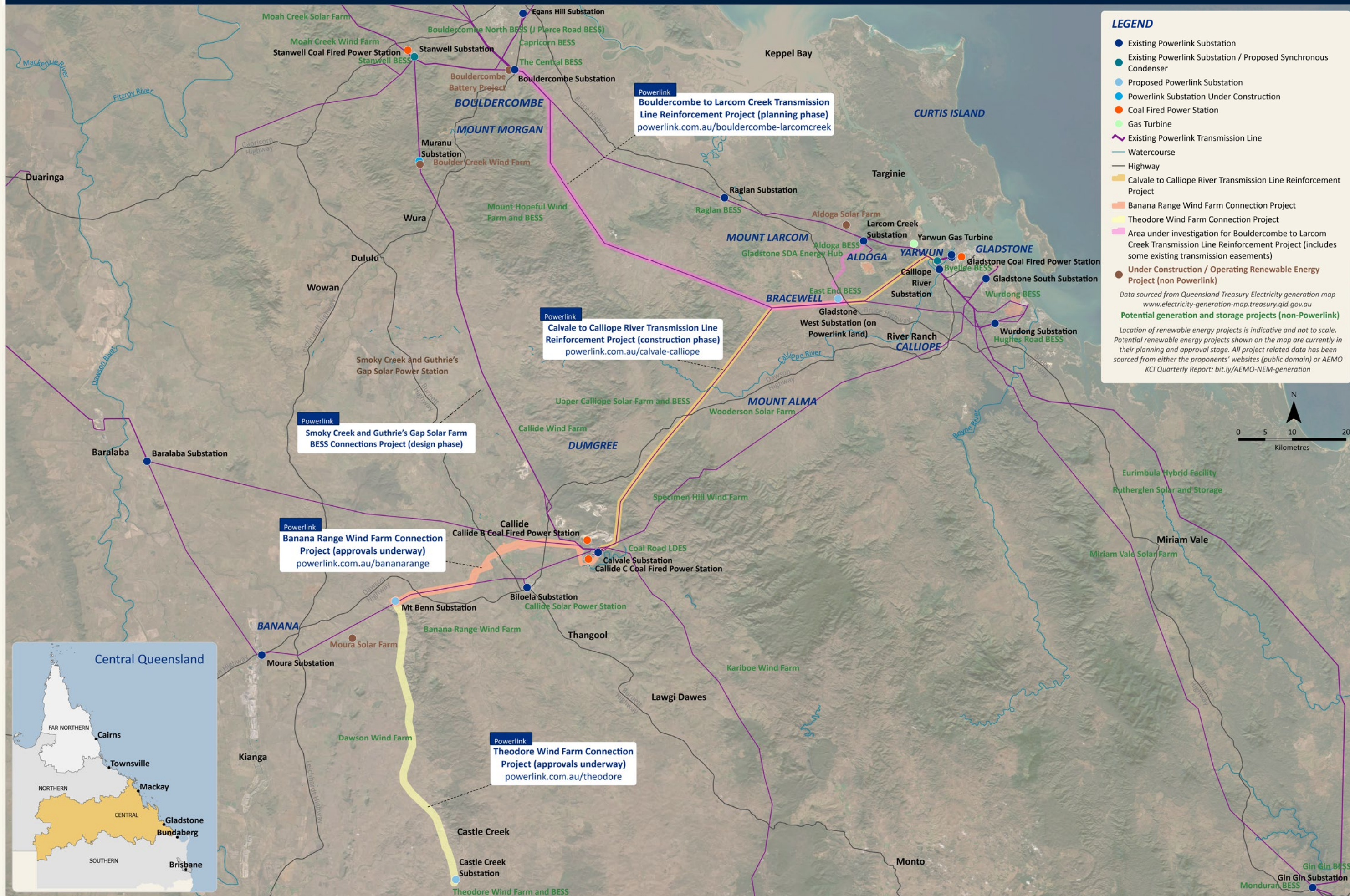
Powerlink's connection to Iberdrola's Broadsound Solar Farm is now complete.

- Existing Powerlink Substation
- Existing Powerlink Substation / Proposed Synchronous Condenser
- Proposed Powerlink Substation
- Powerlink Substation Under Construction
- Coal Fired Power Station
- Gas Turbine
- Existing Powerlink Transmission Line
- Watercourse
- Highway
- Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project
- Banana Range Wind Farm Connection Project
- Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project
- Area under investigation for Bouldercombe to Larcom Creek Transmission Line Reinforcement Project (includes some existing transmission easements)
- Under Construction / Operating Renewable Energy Project (non Powerlink)

Data sourced from Queensland Treasury Electricity generation map
www.electricity-generation-map.treasury.qld.gov.au

Potential generation and storage projects (non-Powerlink)

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



In the community

GEA Supply Chain Expo

Powerlink returned as a sponsor and exhibitor of the annual Gladstone Engineering Alliance (GEA) Supply Chain Expo in early May. Members of Powerlink's panel of construction contractors co-exhibited at the event, connecting over 150 businesses directly with Zinfra, CPP, UGL and Downer representatives to discuss opportunities in the region.

Supporting Gladstone youth at Careers Expo

The Gladstone Careers Expo, led by the Community of Gladstone Supporting Youth, brings together more than 1,300 local students each year to connect with employers and explore career pathways and training opportunities. As a third-year sponsor, Powerlink was pleased to engage with students, teachers and parents, sharing insights into our business, early careers programs and opportunities within the energy sector.

Powerlink's apprentice program

Applications are now open for Powerlink's Gladstone-based 2027 apprentice program. To find out more or lodge an application, visit powerlink.com.au/apprenticeships.



Two of Gladstone's first-year apprentices, Dallas and Isaac, joined the Powerlink team at the Careers Expo.

Powerlink celebrates 30 years of CapRescue

2026 marks 30 years of CapRescue rapid response medical care to regional Queenslanders. The famous rescue helicopter was on display at the Rockhampton Community Open Day in June, giving the community a look behind the curtain of essential services across the region. As a proud Blue-Sky Partner, Powerlink returned to the event and connected with local families about the importance of accessibility and the role of transmission in Central Queensland.



The Powerlink team at the CapRescue Community Open Day in Rockhampton.

What's happening across our network

To find out what's happening in our Northern and Southern regions, visit engage.powerlink.com.au or scan the QR code.



Contact us

For more details on our activities in Central Queensland, please contact us by:

- **email:** cqprojects@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.

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