Customer Panel Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T) Update

Update prepared for the Powerlink Customer Panel meeting on **16 July 2026.**

Key points

Four Project Specification Consultation Reports (PSCR) were published in the period.

- Addressing the risk of Voltage Transformer Premature Failures in northern, central and southern Queensland. The indicative capital cost for the preferred option is $7.5 million;
- Maintaining reliability of supply and addressing condition risks at Tennyson Substation. The indicative capital cost for the preferred option is $9.69 million;
- Maintaining reliability of supply and addressing condition risks at Ashgrove West Substation. The indicative capital cost for the preferred option is $18.92 million; and
- Maintaining reliability of supply to the Atherton Tablelands and Cairns area. The indicative capital cost for the preferred option is $74.1 million

Two Project Assessment Conclusions Reports (PACR) were published in the period.

- *Maintaining Reliability of Supply at Townsville South* confirms the preferred option from the PSCR with an indicative capital cost of $20.23 million, and
- *Addressing the Risk of Current Transformer Failures* confirms the preferred option from the PADR with an indicative capital cost of $126.61 million

In progress and upcoming RIT-T consultations

There are three PSCR documents expected to be published in the next quarter:

- *Maintaining reliability of supply and addressing condition risks at Strathmore*,
- *Maintaining reliability of supply and addressing condition risks at Newlands*,
- *Maintaining reliability of supply and addressing condition risks at Townsville South and Townsville East*,
- *Maintaining reliability of supply and addressing condition risks at Callemondah.*

There are three PACR documents expected to be published in the next quarter:

- *Maintaining reliability of supply to Kamerunga, Cairns and northern beaches area*
- *Maintaining reliability of supply and addressing condition risks at Tennyson Substation;*
- *Maintaining reliability of supply and addressing condition risks at Ashgrove West Substation.*

Gladstone Project Priority Transmission Investment (PTI)

The AER engagement and review process is now complete. The Gladstone PTI is currently undergoing review by government. Works have commenced.

Current RIT-T Consultations and Engagement Levels

New consultations shown in blue

Engagement level	Project characteristics	RIT-T consultations (stage)	Potential engagement activities
Minor (PADR exempt)	• Non-network options unlikely • No material market benefits identified • Preferred option <$54 million	Addressing the risk of Voltage Transformer Premature Failures in northern, central and southern Queensland (PSCR)	• Notification to Powerlink Non-network Engagement Stakeholder Register • AEMO Notice and summary • Publication of RIT-T project details on Powerlink's website
Minor (PADR exempt)	• Non-network options unlikely • No material market benefits identified • Preferred option <$54 million	Maintaining reliability of supply and addressing condition risks at Tennyson Substation (PSCR)	• Notification to Powerlink Non-network Engagement Stakeholder Register • AEMO Notice and summary • Publication of RIT-T project details on Powerlink's website
Minor (PADR exempt)	• Non-network options unlikely • No material market benefits identified • Preferred option <$54 million	Maintaining reliability of supply and addressing condition risks at Ashgrove West Substation (PSCR)	• Notification to Powerlink Non-network Engagement Stakeholder Register • AEMO Notice and summary • Publication of RIT-T project details on Powerlink's website
Normal	• Non-network options unlikely • No material market benefits identified	Maintaining reliability of supply to the Atherton Tablelands and Cairns area (PSCR)	• Notification to Powerlink Non-network Engagement Stakeholder Register • AEMO Notice and summary • Publication of RIT-T project details on Powerlink's website
Normal	• Minor network reconfiguration/material impact on network users • Possibility of non-network options • Material market benefits identified	Maintaining Reliability of Supply to Kamerunga, Cairns and Northern Beaches Area (PADR) - Joint RIT-T with Ergon Energy	In addition to engagement activities identified at minor level: • Webinars • Stakeholder briefings • Discussion at Powerlink Customer Panel

Appendix I

What is a Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T)?

A Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T) is a cost-benefit assessment used to identify the credible network, non-network, or combination of options that delivers the greatest net economic benefit in addressing an identified need.

The process is designed to help ensure transmission investments deliver value for consumers by considering a range of potential solutions, including non-network alternatives. Stakeholders can provide input throughout the process, including proposing alternative network and non-network options.

When do we need to use it?

A RIT-T is used to assess options for addressing identified needs on the transmission network, including asset replacement, reliability and network capacity needs. It is required for prescribed transmission investments that exceed the Australian Energy Regulator's cost threshold, unless a specific exception applies.

What is a PSCR?

The Project Specification Consultation Report (PSCR) is the first stage of a RIT-T.

It explains:

- the problem or need that must be addressed
- the credible options being considered
- the reasons for considering those options
- the opportunity for stakeholders to propose alternative solutions, including non-network options.

The PSCR starts the formal consultation process.

What is a PADR?

The Project Assessment Draft Report (PADR) is typically the second stage of a RIT-T. Some RIT-Ts classified as minor are PADR exempt.*

It outlines:

- the options assessed
- the results of the cost-benefit analysis
- feedback received during consultation
- the preferred option at that stage.

The PADR is released for further stakeholder feedback before a final decision is made.

What is a PACR?

The Project Assessment Conclusions Report (PACR) is the final stage of a RIT-T.

It sets out:

- the outcomes of the assessment process
- stakeholder feedback received
- the preferred option
- the reasons it was selected.

The PACR concludes the RIT-T and identifies the option the transmission business intends to progress.

* Learn more: RIT-T stakeholder engagement matrix | Powerlink