

Bouldercombe to Larcom Creek Transmission Line Reinforcement Project

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

About the project

Powerlink is proposing to build a new high voltage transmission line between the existing Bouldercombe Substation and a proposed Gladstone West Substation and acquiring an easement between the proposed Gladstone West Substation and the existing Larcom Creek Substation.

This project will reinforce electricity supply to the Gladstone region, and increase network capacity and reliability to support:

- electrification of local industry
- changing generation mix.

The project is part of Powerlink's broader program of work to reinforce the transmission network in Central Queensland. More information can be found at powerlink.com.au/gladstone-project.

Gladstone West to Larcom Creek change of project scope

The project originally included a transmission line between the proposed Gladstone West Substation and the existing Larcom Creek Substation (Section D). Based on the latest electricity demand forecasts, construction of this section is no longer part of the current project scope. It remains part of Powerlink's long-term network planning, with timing to be guided by future demand.

The Gladstone West to Larcom Creek corridor is strategically important to ensure the ongoing reliability and security of electricity supply to the Gladstone region. To support any future development, Powerlink will continue to secure an easement along this corridor by 2030. No construction is planned in this corridor at this stage.

Planning and environmental approval will continue to progress for Sections A to C, from Bouldercombe to Gladstone West. This includes approximately 80km of new 275kV transmission line, associated access tracks and ancillary infrastructure, augmentation works at Bouldercombe Station, and a proposed new Gladstone West Substation.

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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Section A

The construction of a 275kV transmission line between Bouldercombe Substation and Bobs Creek Road within the existing easement, alongside existing transmission lines.

Section B

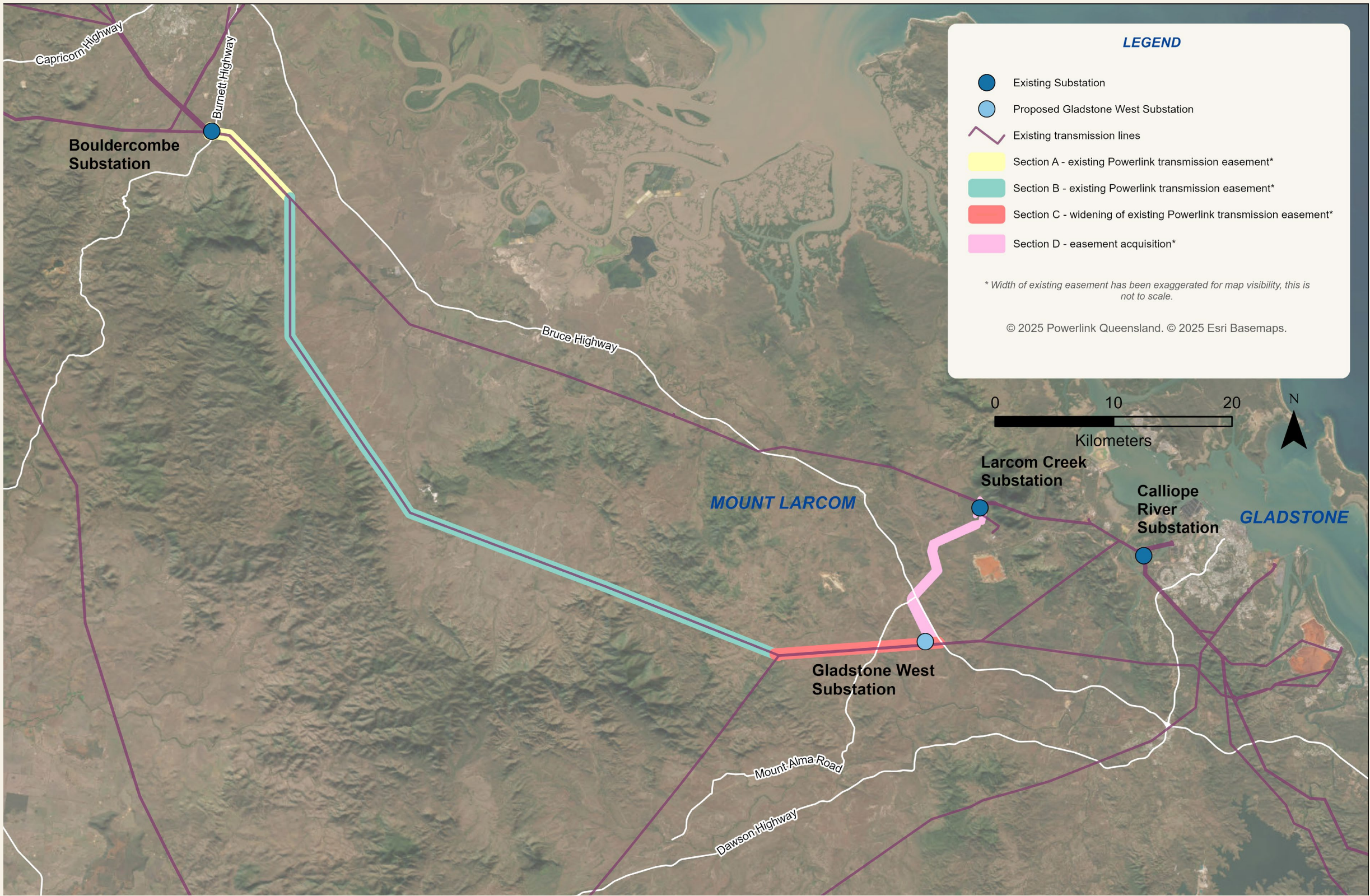
The construction of a 275kV line between Bobs Creek Road and Cedarvale Tee within the existing easement, alongside an existing transmission line.

Section C

The construction of a 275kV transmission line between Cedarvale Tee and Gladstone West, the acquisition of additional easement adjacent to existing easements and transmission lines, and the construction of a new substation at Gladstone West.

Section D

Acquisition of a new easement to connect the proposed Gladstone West Substation to the existing Powerlink easement, as well as the widening the existing easement towards Larcom Creek. It is a strategically important corridor to ensure the ongoing reliability and security of electricity supply to the Gladstone region.



Bouldercombe Substation

The proposed works at Bouldercombe Substation will be within the existing substation footprint and fenced compound. These proposed works will include civil works, foundations, structures, electrical plant and ancillary equipment.

Proposed Gladstone West Substation

Construction of the proposed Gladstone West 275kV Substation, including site earthworks, access roads, drainage, fencing and associated facilities. Works will also involve connecting the substation to the existing network to enable connections for the Bouldercombe to Gladstone West and Calvale and Calliope River transmission line.

Proposed transmission line route near Bouldercombe Substation

In October 2025, Powerlink released a Corridor Validation Report. The report recommended locating the proposed transmission line within the existing Powerlink easement. This placed the proposed transmission line to the south of the two existing transmission lines, closest to Childs Avenue in Bouldercombe. As the project was in the early stages of design and planning, Powerlink was able to refine the design, considering:

- community feedback
- landholder requirements
- network constraints
- potential cost and schedule implications.

As a result, the proposed transmission line has been relocated further from Childs Avenue, rather than closer to nearby residences as recommended in the report. This change reduces potential impacts on local residents.

The following maps below show the changes to the design - from planning through to operation.

Map 1 - Corridor validation report original alignment

The proposed investigation area shown in the October 2025 Corridor Validation Report, along with the two existing transmission lines.



Map 2 - Temporary alignment

To enable construction, three temporary transmission poles will be installed south of the existing Transmission Line 2. The two existing towers on Transmission Line 2 will then be de-energised and removed. This will allow construction of the new 275kV double circuit transmission line in the existing alignment.



Map 3 - Final updated alignment

Once construction is complete for the line (Bouldercombe to Gladstone West) and the Gladstone West Substation is energised, the three temporary poles will be removed.

The final alignment passing Childs Avenue will feature two permanent transmission lines, similar to the current alignment. This is an improvement to the proposed three transmission lines that was originally set in the Corridor Validation Report.



Electric and magnetic fields

Electric and magnetic fields (EMF) occur wherever electricity is generated, transmitted or used. EMF are produced by everyday electrical sources, including household appliances, wiring and powerlines. EMF levels are strongest near their source and decrease with distance.

The [Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency](#) (ARPANSA) advises that current scientific evidence does not show that exposure to EMF found around homes, workplaces or powerlines causes health effects.

In response to community feedback about EMF on this project, Powerlink engaged an independent consultant to assess potential project-related EMF levels. The assessment confirmed predicted levels are well within applicable Australian exposure guidelines. The maximum electric field levels at the edge of the easement are less than 5% of the limit set by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

The EMF report will be included in the Final Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) Report. If you would like further information or have any questions about EMF, please contact our project team using the contact details at the back of this newsletter.



Next steps

Planning and approval update

Powerlink is continuing to work with relevant Federal and State government agencies to progress the project's planning and environmental approvals.

State approvals

Our state planning approvals will include a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID). The MID assessment pathway is used for community-supporting infrastructure projects.

This project also passes through the Callide Infrastructure Corridor State Development Area (SDA). This means that an approval is also required under the development scheme for that SDA.

As part of the MID pre-lodgement process, Powerlink has met with the Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP).

A range of technical studies and plans will be required to support the MID Proposal Report. These studies and plans include:

- impact assessments for ecology, traffic, noise and vibration assessment, and flooding
- bushfire management plan
- stormwater management plan
- EMF assessment.

Powerlink is targeting lodgment of our MID Proposal Report in late 2026.

A formal public consultation period is expected to occur in early 2027. This public consultation period is an opportunity for landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders to provide feedback on the project. Further details regarding MID consultation will be provided closer to the time.

Federal approvals

Powerlink is preparing to refer the project to the National Environmental Protection Agency (National EPA), under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The referral is the first step in the Federal Government's assessment process for projects that may impact matters protected under the EPBC Act. Ecological surveys completed in March 2025 and April 2026 helped to identify environmental values in the project area.

The results of these studies will inform the EPBC Act referral and support the consideration of potential impacts on protected matters.

Powerlink is targeting submission of the EPBC Act referral in late 2026. Following submission, the National EPA will determine whether the project is a controlled action.

If the project is a controlled action, assessment and approval under the EPBC Act will be required.

There will be opportunities for input from landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders as part of the referral process.

Field investigations

Over the coming months, several field investigations to help inform technical studies will be undertaken, including:

- visual amenity assessments
- traffic impact assessments
- geotechnical surveys
- cadastral surveys
- Cultural Heritage surveys.

During this period, you may see teams wearing high-vis clothing in public areas, alongside roads, and within Powerlink easements and land.

Powerlink is committed to protecting land, livestock and agricultural operations, and minimising disturbance to landholders and the wider community. If access to private property is required, Powerlink will contact impacted landholders directly to discuss the proposed work and agree on access arrangements before any field activities begin.



Contact us

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

- emailing: cqprojects@powerlink.com.au
- phoning: 1800 635 369 (Monday to Friday, 7.30am – 5pm)

Scan the QR code to visit our project webpage.

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

