POWERLINK QUEENSLAND: GLADSTONE PROJECT STAGE 1

Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project

Smoking ceremonies mark start of works

In early August, Powerlink and our contractors attended smoking ceremonies on the Country of the two Traditional Owner groups whose lands the project crosses – the Gaangalu Nation People (GNP) at the western end of the alignment, and the Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng and Taribelang Bunda People (BGGGTBP) at the eastern end.

Each ceremony was led by the relevant Traditional Owner group on their Country, before clearing works began. Senior leaders from Powerlink and each of our principal contractors spoke at the ceremonies, sharing their commitment to respecting and protecting cultural heritage throughout the delivery of this project.

We thank both groups for welcoming us onto Country and for generously sharing their traditions with us.

GNP Country, near Calvale Substation

BGGGTBP Country, near Calliope River 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.

powerlink.com.au/calvale-calliope

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Construction underway

Powerlink has now appointed the three principal contractors delivering Stage 1 of the Gladstone Project, with Zinfra recently appointed alongside BMD Constructions and Consolidated Power Projects (CPP).

All three have mobilised to site and started work. This map shows each contractor's scope and where they will be working.

Project vehicles and local roads

With construction works now underway, you may notice more project vehicles and machinery on roads near the alignment.

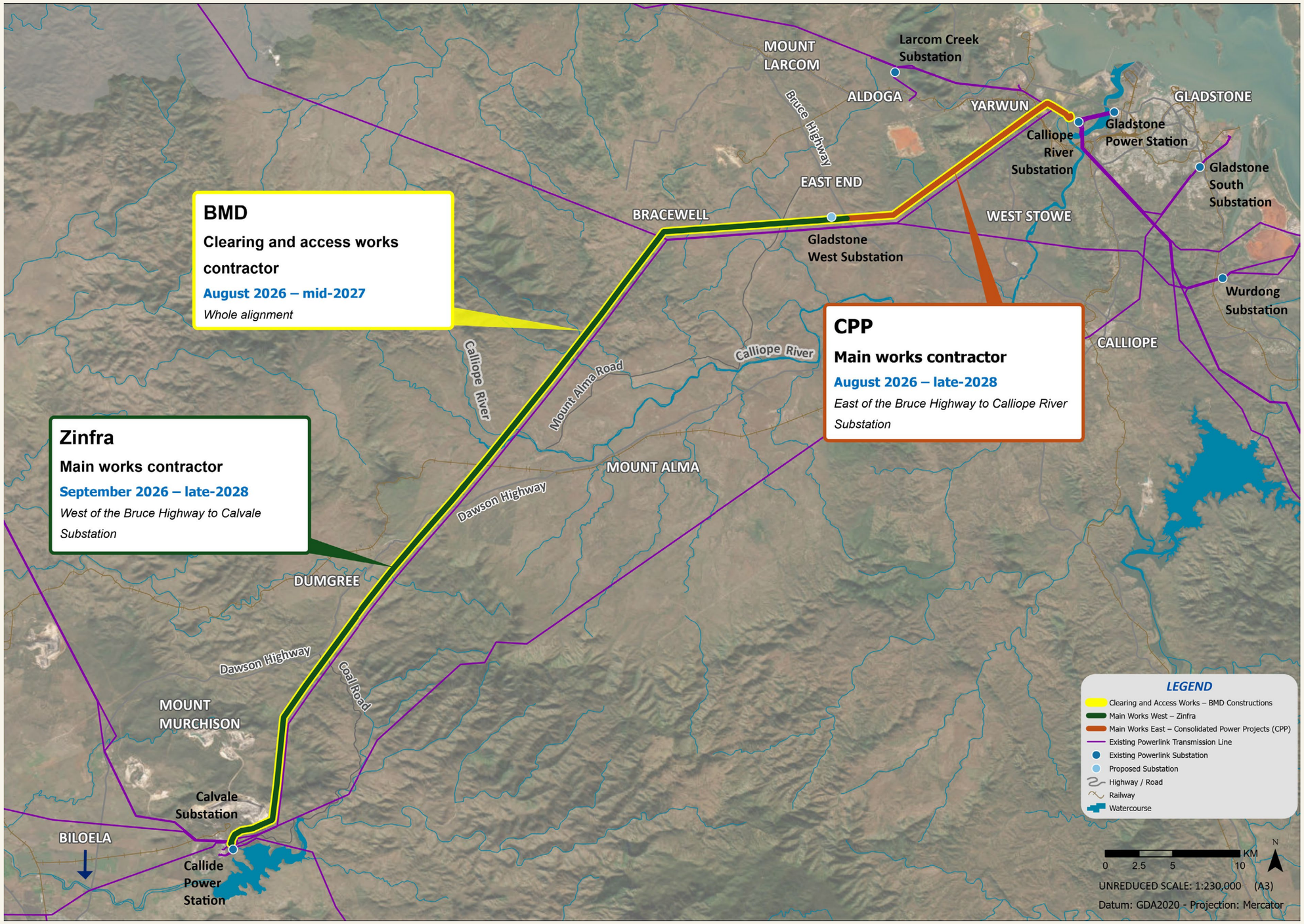
Construction traffic will use the state-controlled road network for most journeys, with local roads used for the final approach to work areas.

Movements will vary throughout construction, so some roads will have busy periods and quieter periods depending on what works are happening nearby.

Powerlink and our contractors are responsible for managing construction traffic.

Near active work areas, you may see advance warning signs, reduced speed limits and traffic control.

For more information about the roads we will be using and how we will manage impacts, visit the project's Community Hub.



Preparing the way

Before main construction works begin, a range of environmental and cultural heritage work has been underway along the alignment.

Relocating protected cycads

Ahead of clearing, our teams are working to protect one of Queensland's most ancient plant species, the slow-growing Cycas megacarpa. Described as living fossils, these cycads grow only about a centimetre a year and are protected under both Queensland and Australian Government legislation.

Where we can, the plants are left where they are. However, plants that can't be avoided, because they sit where tower foundations or access tracks are needed, are carefully salvaged and moved to a dedicated site, where they will be monitored as they establish. Seeds are also being collected and grown in a purpose-built nursery before replanting, to help build future populations (pictured above). This work is underway and is expected to be completed in late 2026.

Cultural heritage surveying and salvage

Since 2023, we have worked with the Gaangalu Nation People and the Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng and Taribelang Bunda People to plan how cultural heritage is managed on this project. During planning and approvals, our teams walked the alignment together, surveying for places and artefacts of cultural significance.

With our primary approvals now in place, we have returned to work areas with Traditional Owner representatives to salvage or relocate artefacts found during those surveys, ahead of any ground disturbance. Cultural heritage monitors from both groups will remain on site with our crews throughout the clearing and access works. Powerlink and both Traditional Owner groups recently salvaged artefacts from along the transmission easement, pictured here with representatives from BGGGTBP.

Weed surveying and biosecurity

Recently, team members from Ecosure Rockhampton completed pre-construction weed surveys near Calvale Substation as part of access track and vegetation clearing works being delivered by BMD Constructions. Managing biosecurity is an important part of how we deliver the project while protecting the surrounding environment. Ahead of construction, weed surveys helped inform planning and approvals, including the location of biosecurity zones and wash-down bays along the alignment. The surveys also helped shape measures to reduce the risk of weeds spreading through project activities and vehicle movements. These include washing down vehicles and machinery, planning vehicle movements between work areas, and keeping crews on established access tracks. Weed identification is also included in site inductions, helping everyone on site understand what to look for and how they can help manage biosecurity risks.

Contact us

If you have any questions about the Gladstone Project Stage 1, you can contact the Powerlink project team by emailing cqprojects@powerlink.com.au or by phoning 1800 635 369 (Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 5.00pm). For information about our principal contractors and how to contact them about their work on the project, visit the project's Community Hub at engage.powerlink.com.au/central-queensland. Landholders along the corridor should contact their Landholder Relations Advisor with any questions.

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