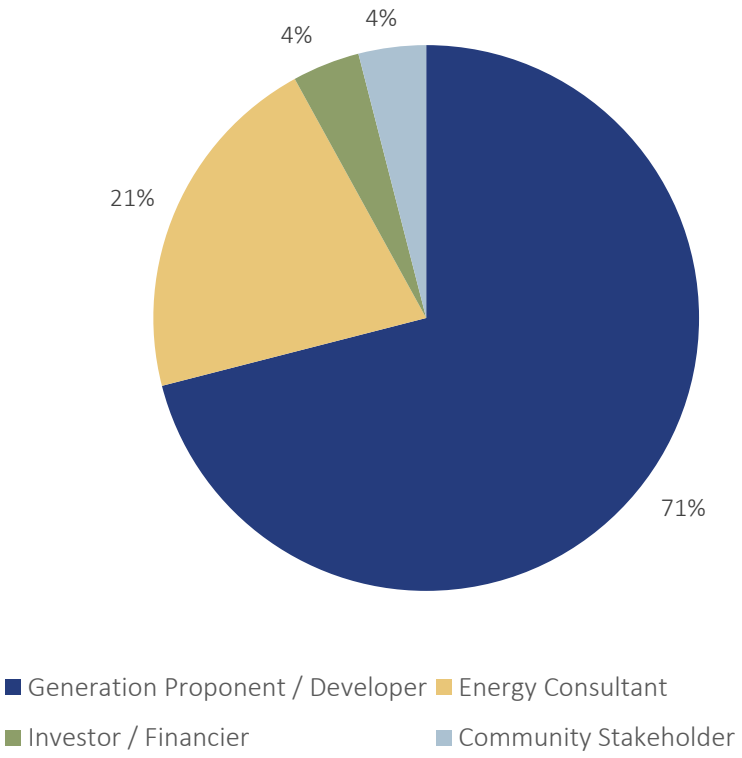
Appendix L TAPR survey

This appendix summarises the key outcomes of the 2025 Transmission Annual Planning Report (TAPR) survey.

Powerlink conducts an annual TAPR survey as a pre-planning activity to seek insights from market participants and interested parties about what can be improved to the quality of information provided in the TAPR and the format it is presented in.

Figure L.1 provides an illustration of the representation of respondents.

Figure L.1 Representation of respondents

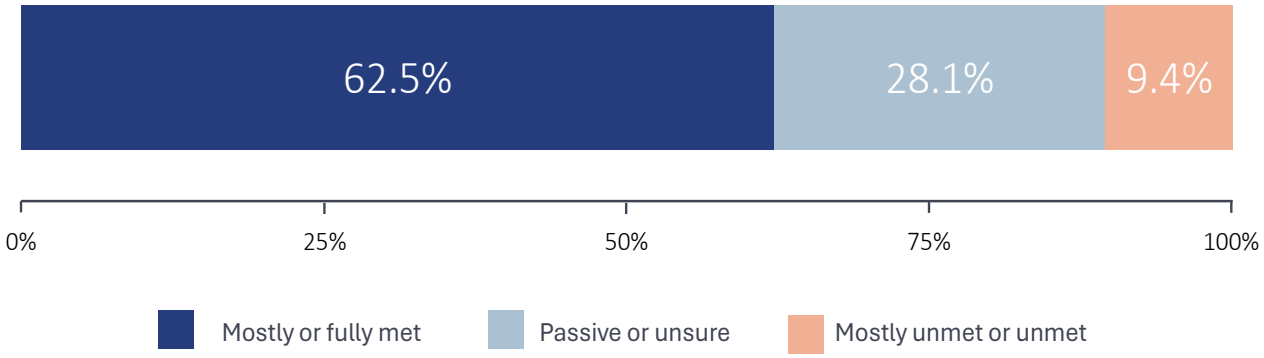


Respondents to the 2025 survey indicated the following primary uses for the TAPR:

- Understanding the best place/s to connect (i.e. connection locations and network capacity)
- Understanding current or future network constraints
- Many used the document and portal together and the most referred to chapters were to understand future network requirements, strategic planning and possible network investments for up to 10 years.

Figure L.2 provides an illustration of the TAPR usefulness according to respondents to the 2025 survey.

Figure L.2 TAPR usefulness
Extent to which TAPR met planning or decision-making needs



- Most responses (62.5%) indicated that the TAPR meets planning or decision-making needs were either mostly met or fully met
- Just over one quarter of responses were passive or unsure about the TAPR usefulness. Potentially among these responses are usability and/or accessibility issues or not knowing how to read or use the data
- Less than 10% were dissatisfied (mostly unmet or unmet).

Table L.1 outlines Powerlink's response to the main improvement requests from the 2025 survey.

Table L.1 Future improvement suggestions

No	Improvement request	Powerlink response
1	Discuss key outages over the next year	Primarily due to security concerns, Powerlink does not release outages in a forum available to the general public. Powerlink customers will continue to be notified by the outage management team and will be kept up to date with any updates. Powerlink customers can also access outage information from the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) Network Outage Scheduler.
2	Key grid constraints and how they are addressed	This is broadly addressed in Chapter 5, with links to the Queensland Energy Roadmap and AEMO's 2026 Integrated System Plan (ISP). The TAPR maintains confidentiality obligations and does not discuss the impact of grid constraints on individual customers.
3	Access to raw data for graphs used in the report	Data and graphs for the energy and demand projections, and network capability and performance, chapters, are available on Powerlink's website.
4	Portal improvements with more detail on thermal limits, loads, line utilisation, line/ substation ratings, network flow data, time series flows, key outages over the next year and grid constraints.	Summer normal and emergency line ratings are available in the TAPR Portal, accessible in Excel and located in the Useful Links section on the left side bar of the portal. Powerlink is working towards responding to stakeholder requests for more network information and will iteratively release new features. This year we have made usability improvements, and added historical feeder flow data between the regional reference nodes.
5	Two long-term forecast scenarios – 2040 and 2050. The T2040 vision could be included in the TAPR. The purpose of these scenarios is to enable consideration of efficiencies in grid development and longer-term cost optimisation in the planning within the 10-year horizon.	The Queensland Energy Roadmap and the ISP are useful sources of information developed specifically to consider long-term requirements, as opposed to the compliance requirements and purpose of TAPR under the National Electricity Rules (NER) which is bound by a 10-year planning horizon.
6	Open portal access (reduce access controls)	Powerlink's transmission network is identified as critical infrastructure under the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* (Cth). This places obligations on Powerlink to manage risks with what a threat actor could potentially do with the information to disrupt the asset or a component/ subcomponent. Scanning registration requests prior to portal access is a measure Powerlink has implemented to minimise risk, support network resilience and ensure data about our network is used for the purpose it is intended. Users can request access to TAPR portal information via our Rosetta-hosted platform by providing their business, government or education institution related contact details. Access requests from gmail, yahoo, hotmail or outlook email accounts are generally not granted, and will require additional verification. Any organisation or individual encountering difficulty obtaining access to the portal can email NetworkAssessments@powerlink.com.au for assistance.
7	More detail on connection works, recently commissioned and committed network developments; Specifically, MWac export capacity and voltage. Greater accuracy on proposed commissioning dates.	The recently commissioned and committed network developments chapter provides information on the status of connection projects since the 2025 TAPR. Available generation capacity for existing and committed generators, including megawatt capacity per year, connected to Powerlink's transmission network is available and can be downloaded in the network capability and performance data workbook published on Powerlink's website. The proposed commissioning dates may be influenced by various factors and requires close coordination between Powerlink and the customer to navigate delivery and technical testing to energise the generation asset. Powerlink has a regulatory obligation to report Key Connection Information (KCI) to AEMO quarterly, which details connection information provided to Powerlink by the connecting customer.
8	Mid-year update on key developments and/or deviations	Powerlink aligns its TAPR preparation and publication with its obligations under Clause 5.12.2 of the NER, which requires Transmission Network Service Providers to publish a TAPR by 31 October each year, reflecting the outcomes of the annual planning review. Further, since publication of the 2025 TAPR, Powerlink has provided email, LinkedIn and web-based regulatory process updates to interested stakeholders, including for our major investment program in Central Queensland.

Table L.1 Future improvement suggestions (*continued*)

No	Improvement request	Powerlink response
9	Using battery energy storage systems (BESS) for active system strength and synthetic inertia	BESS can be used to provide stable voltage waveform ('efficient') level system strength and inertia services. In June 2025, Powerlink completed a Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T) to address system strength requirements in Queensland and has established processes where new proponents can request efficient level system strength services be provided by Powerlink. Demonstrated technical and operational evidence will be required before BESS can be relied on for minimum level system strength. This is subject to ongoing broader industry detailed analysis to understand the benefits and technical contribution that BESS can provide to the minimum level and network security more broadly. Powerlink will contract for the efficient level system strength services when there is a need identified and service available in the area. BESS can also provide synthetic inertia and if there is an identified need in future, Powerlink will contract for the required services, subject to regulatory consultation, and if assessed as prudent and efficient to do so.
10	Transition of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) to Regional Energy Hubs (Hubs)	Hubs have replaced REZs for gas, renewable energy and storage development. Development of Hubs will take account of broader system requirements, such as resource availability, existing grid infrastructure and proximity to major load centres to ensure efficient outcomes for the whole system. Powerlink is ready to support the Queensland Government in ensuring Hub declarations are market-led and aligned to community expectations. Powerlink continues to progress all connections under the NER.
11	Mining load from 600MW+ demand spike of North Bowen Basin electrification	This is referred to in Chapter 6 (Table 6.4, project NQ-04) which discusses the potential for Northern Bowen Basin reinforcement and Powerlink's proposed contingent project included in the 2027-32 Revenue Proposal.
12	Integrating Social Impact Assessments (SIA) into RIT-T timelines to avoid delivery delays	The Australian Energy Regulator's RIT-T Application Guideline requires Powerlink to consider social licence issues in the identification of credible options to meet identified needs, and notes it is up to Powerlink whether and how it engages relevant communities and interested stakeholders, and that this may differ depending on the nature of the project. SIAs are a supporting input that strengthens our engagement and social performance, considered in RIT-T options and delivery timelines on a case-by-case basis. Many of our RIT-T consultations are asset replacement focused with limited external impact and may not consistently trigger an SIA. For more complex RIT-Ts, such as for actionable ISP projects, system security or for greenfield sites, Powerlink will identify SIA triggers early to inform consultation and engagement timelines. Powerlink's Community Engagement Approach outlines our approach to community engagement and the principles we commit to when maintaining our existing network, or planning and building the network of the future. Our Community Investment and Sponsorships and Community Grants support projects, initiatives and activities in communities where Powerlink operates. Powerlink is also committed to engaging with landholders, and implemented a new Landholder Payment Framework in 2023 to enhance payments for landholders hosting Powerlink infrastructure and introduce a payment for adjacent landholders.
13	Upgrading grid models to reflect extension of state-owned coal assets	For the TAPR, Powerlink's network planning assumptions are based on the Queensland Energy Roadmap, ISP, AEMO generation information and expected unit closure spreadsheet and therefore already reflect extension of state-owned coal assets.