Central Queensland Transmission Update

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

A message from our Chief Executive

I've been in the Chief Executive role for just over three months now, and I've enjoyed getting out and about across Queensland to meet people and learn more about the communities we work in.

While every region has its own character and priorities, our role at Powerlink is the same: connecting Queenslanders to safe, reliable and affordable electricity. It's important that we keep our customers and communities at the centre of our decisions, and I want this to remain a focus for me and my teams.

Central Queensland is home to some of Powerlink's most significant projects and critical network infrastructure. The region supports some of Queensland's largest industrial customers and plays an important role in the state's economy and energy future.

Since starting as Chief Executive, I've had the pleasure of visiting Gladstone, Biloela and surrounding communities. These visits have provided valuable insights into the industries, businesses and communities that make the region unique, and the opportunities our projects are creating.

As construction activity continues to grow, so too will our presence in the region. I look forward to returning to Central Queensland regularly to see our projects progress first-hand, engage with local stakeholders and ensure we're supporting the community as best we can.





Chief Executive, Seán Mc Goldrick, attended smoking ceremonies on the Country of the two Traditional Owner groups whose lands are crossed by Stage 1 of the Gladstone Project.

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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Connecting local businesses with major project opportunities

For several years, Powerlink has worked closely with local businesses across Central Queensland. Our goal has been to understand local capabilities and help suppliers prepare to tender for potential opportunities. Now, as construction begins across the region, that work is creating real results.

With works underway on the Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement, local contractor Ecosure are among the 27 local suppliers engaged by BMD Constructions. Their work included fauna spotting and pre-clearance surveys to help identify and protect wildlife and enable construction activities to progress.

> Since its appointment as the clearing and access contractor in July 2026, BMD Constructions has invested more than $1 million with local businesses.

Supplier capability support continues

Nine local businesses that attended recent workshops held by Powerlink and Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) are now in talks to secure future project work.

More than 150 attendees joined workshops in Biloela, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay and Moranbah in October. They learned about upcoming work opportunities on Powerlink's Central Queensland projects and heard from our Gladstone Project Stage 1 construction contractors: BMD Constructions, Zinfra and Consolidated Power Projects (CPP).



Workshop participants at Powerlink and DSDIP's second round of supplier capability workshops in Biloela.

Powerlink connects at major industry conference

Powerlink Chief Executive, Seán Mc Goldrick, attended this year's Gladstone Engineering Alliance (GEA) Major Industry Conference. Seán delivered an update on Powerlink's program of works in Central Queensland, with a focus on supplier opportunities for local businesses.

Among the attendees was Moranbah-based company, Impact Environmental, who has supported Powerlink's projects in Central Queensland. The local supplier has performed work on the Lotus Creek Wind Farm Connection and a new 132kV line at Moranbah North, providing services such as spotter catching, protected plant surveys and thermal drone surveys.

If you are a local business interested in registering for opportunities, visit Powerlink's ICN Gateway page or the online Community Hub to view open tenders with our main works contractors.



Powerlink team, Ellen and Alison, with Aaron Thompson from Impact Environmental.



Powerlink hosted its Central Queensland Community and Social Investment Regional Collaboration Forum in October.

Delivering community benefits across the region

Investing in Central Queensland communities

In August 2026, Powerlink committed $4 million to our Central Queensland Community and Social Investment Program. The funding intends to deliver lasting benefits for Central Queensland communities hosting major transmission projects.

In October, Powerlink held a regional workshop with over 40 community and industry representatives connected to the key priorities identified in the social impact assessment. Areas of focus included housing and accommodation, education, training and workforce and community health and well-being. Workshop participants helped identify initiatives that could deliver meaningful, long-term benefits to the region. Information to shape final investment outcomes will be shared with the community in 2027, including program priorities and funding opportunities.

Social Impact Assessment now available

Powerlink's first Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for the Gladstone Project, Banana Range Wind Farm Connection and Theodore Wind Farm Connection in Central Queensland is now available on our online Community Hub. The SIA was shaped by input received from more than 240 locals, helping identify the social impacts and opportunities that matter most to the region. We thank the Traditional Owner groups, local councils, businesses, health and community services, education and training organisations, industry representatives and community members that participated in the process.

This work will inform how Powerlink and its contractors manage social impacts and support local benefits across the three projects. The SIA has also informed the development of Social Impact Management Plans (SIMPs), which set out how these impacts and opportunities will be managed. The SIMPs will be made available through our Community Hub in the coming months.

To read the SIA report or learn more about the priorities identified by local communities, visit engage.powerlink.com.au/central-queensland.

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND'S TRANSMISSION NETWORK IN CENTRAL QUEENSLAND - NOVEMBER 2026

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LEGEND

- 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

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0 5 10 20
Kilometres

Powerlink
Bouldercombe to Larcom Creek Transmission Line Reinforcement Project (planning and approval phase)
powerlink.com.au/bouldercombe-larcomcreek

Powerlink
Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project (construction phase)
powerlink.com.au/calvale-calliope

Powerlink
Smoky Creek and Guthrie's Gap Solar Farm BESS Connections Project (design phase)

Powerlink
Banana Range Wind Farm Connection Project (approvals underway)
powerlink.com.au/bananarange

Powerlink
Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project (approvals underway)
powerlink.com.au/theodore

NEBO INSET

Central Queensland

Our projects

Gladstone Project Stage 1

Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement

The Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project reached a significant milestone in October with the final contract award of its main works contractors. BMD Constructions has begun preparation and access works, while CPP and Zinfra will deliver transmission line and substation works.

Site preparation activities are underway on the western end to prepare for main construction in 2027. Foundation works have also begun at Calliope River substation, with Calvale Substation to begin early next year. Scan the QR code to read the October 2026 Project Update and learn about what's happening on the ground.





Crews are preparing the foundations for a third transformer and future transmission towers at the Calliope River Substation.

Gladstone Project Stage 2

Bouldercombe to Larcom Creek Transmission Line Reinforcement

Powerlink is continuing to progress planning and environmental approvals for this project. In late 2026, we expect to seek formal planning approval from the state government and will also refer the project to the federal government for environmental approvals. Please refer to the latest Project Update for information on how you can provide feedback as part of these approvals processes.

Since our last update, key updates also include:

- a design change near Bouldercombe Substation, responding to community feedback, and
- a scope revision at the south-eastern end of the project.

For more information, scan the QR code to read the October 2026 Project Update and latest news.

System Strength Project

Earlier this year, Powerlink signed an agreement with Hitachi Energy to supply and install four planned synchronous condensers. The agreement marked a major milestone for the project and supports ongoing procurement activities ahead of site preparation works in early 2027.

Powerlink is also undertaking a social impact assessment (SIA) for the project, which will shape how Powerlink will deliver the project with consideration for community interests, potential impacts and opportunities. The report is expected to be released in early 2027.

The project is part of Powerlink's work to maintain system security and is expected to be completed by late 2029. For details on what synchronous condensers are and the planned locations, visit our online Community Hub.

Generator connection projects

As Queensland's energy system evolves, Powerlink continues to play an important role in connecting developer-led generation and storage projects to the electricity transmission network under the National Electricity Rules (NER).

Major projects

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

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

Powerlink is continuing planning and approvals for the Banana Range and Theodore Wind Farm connection projects, with Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) approvals expected in late 2026.

Engagement with project proponents, EDF and RWE, is ongoing. Powerlink is reviewing the timing of its major connection works, with some project activities now expected to occur later than previously planned. Both projects remain active and Powerlink will continue working with project partners, landholders and stakeholders as planning progresses. Visit the project's online Community Hub and select 'follow' to receive automatic updates on project activities.

New connection projects

Smoky Creek and Guthrie's Gap Solar Power Station

Powerlink will soon start construction of our component of works to connect Edify Energy's Smoky Creek and Guthrie's Gap Solar Power Stations and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to the grid. Powerlink will construct a new switchyard and transmission infrastructure to connect the project to the existing transmission line between Stanwell and Calvale Substations.

To prepare for these works, cultural heritage and geotechnical investigations were recently completed. The findings from these investigations will support final design and delivery planning. Visit the Powerlink website for more information.

Completed projects

Lotus Creek Wind Farm

The use of drone technology has helped Powerlink complete the transmission connection to CS Energy's Lotus Creek Wind Farm. Following drone-led transmission line stringing in July, Powerlink has now completed its testing and commissioning activities. The project also reached an important milestone with the energisation of the new Glencoe Substation, which will enable the wind farm's generation into the electricity network once operational. Powerlink is also exploring an Australian-first use of drones to install aviation marker balls on the new transmission line. These brightly coloured markers help make transmission lines more visible to aircraft.



Meet the Powerlink team

With each release of our Central Queensland Transmission Update, you'll find us at your local shopping centres, markets and community spaces. Come and meet the team, ask questions and learn more about the projects and opportunities shaping the region.

In July, we visited Gladstone, Gracemere, Biloela and Bouldercombe, connecting with more than 130 community members. To find out where we'll be next, visit the 'upcoming events' section of our online Community Hub.

You can also get in touch with our team by emailing cqprojects@powerlink.com.au or phone **1800 635 369** (Monday to Friday, 7.30am – 5pm). Landholders of our current projects are also welcome to contact their Landholder Relations Advisor.

In the community

Central Queensland Transmission Network Forum (TNF)

Powerlink recently hosted its annual TNF in Gladstone. The event brings together industry, customers and community representatives to discuss the region's evolving energy landscape. Powerlink shared updates on our portfolio of projects and discussed opportunities to strengthen local participation. Attendees also heard from an industry panel, covering practical ways to create opportunities for local and Indigenous businesses. To watch the forum discussion, visit Powerlink's online Community Hub.



Powerlink Chief Executive, Seán Mc Goldrick, presenting at the recent Transmission Network Forum in Gladstone.

Supporting Queensland's SES volunteers

Now in its 11th year, Powerlink is thrilled to announce its renewed support of the Queensland State Emergency Services (SES). In partnership with Energex and Ergon Energy, the funding program has delivered more than $2 million dollars' worth of equipment to SES units and will continue into 2027. This important partnership helps SES volunteers to have the tools and resources they need to support communities amid severe weather events.



As a long-standing partner of SES, Powerlink Chief Executive, Seán Mc Goldrick, attended the launch of the 2026-2027 Energising Queensland SES Equipment Program.

Central Region Biosecurity Forum

In September, Powerlink presented at the Central Region Biosecurity Forum in Rockhampton, hosted by the Department of Primary Industries. Powerlink's Environmental Delivery Lead, Russell McKenna, shared our approach to land access, biosecurity and working with landholders. Over the full life of our infrastructure, early collaboration and strong partnerships with our landholders are at the core of effective biosecurity management. To learn more about how Powerlink works with landholders, visit powerlink.com.au/biosecurity.

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.