Far North and North 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 really 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 right across the state.

Townsville and Cairns are vital regional centres and I'll be visiting these regions regularly to listen, build local relationships and better understand what makes each community unique.

My recent visits to the area have reinforced the importance of maintaining Powerlink's strong, enduring presence across North and Far North Queensland.

We're strengthening that commitment with a new operational hub in Townsville, expected to open in 2027. It will provide a key base for our teams and help coordinate our response when storms and cyclones affect the region.



Chief Executive, Seán Mc Goldrick, at the Woree Substation with Powerlink's Project Director – Delivery, Kyle Worthing, and Executive General Manager Delivery and Technical Solutions, Sarah Huang.



Seán visiting Barron Gorge in Cairns.

In Cairns, our projects remain essential to ensuring a safe and reliable electricity supply, with our local team set to grow as project delivery ramps up. We're also working with QIC to transition the CopperString project, along with supporting ongoing land acquisition, planning and environment approvals and bulk earthworks for the Flinders Substation.

I'm looking forward to regular visits to the north of our state to connect with our project teams and local stakeholders as we continue to deliver a range of critical activities for this important part of Queensland.

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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Kamerunga to Woree Replacement Project

Ground testing works completed

Powerlink recently completed ground testing (also known as geotechnical investigations) at 62 locations along the proposed underground cable route for the Kamerunga to Woree Replacement Project.

Small holes and narrow trenches were dug or drilled to check the soil, rock and groundwater, and locate underground pipes and cables. Each site was filled and the surface reinstated after testing was completed.

The results from the ground testing will help guide the project design.

We appreciated the patience of residents and the community while this important work was undertaken.

If additional testing at specific locations is needed, we will notify nearby residents before any work starts.



Core samples from the recent ground testing.



One of the testing locations at Goomboora Park.

Project Director appointment

Kyle Worthing has recently been appointed as Project Director, taking the lead on this important regional project.

In his role, Kyle will oversee delivery of the proposed new Barron Substation and new overhead and underground transmission lines. This infrastructure will replace Powerlink's existing Kamerunga Substation and the transmission line to Woree.

Kyle recognises the challenges ahead and says replacing this ageing infrastructure is essential to keeping the region's electricity supply safe, secure and reliable for years to come.

"This project crosses local and state roads as well as Queensland Rail's network, so close coordination with Cairns Regional Council, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Queensland Rail will be central to its successful delivery."

"We also recognise construction will take place near people's homes and along busy travel routes. We are committed to listening to the community, keeping people informed and carefully planning our work to minimise impacts."

Next steps

Approvals update

Powerlink has applied for a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID), a planning approval pathway that would allow the proposed new substation located in Barron and transmission line (overhead and underground) to be delivered as a single program of works.

The project is awaiting a decision from the State Government on the MID request. We will notify stakeholders once a decision is received.

Construction

Planning for delivery of the project is underway with activities such as procurement and detailed design continuing into 2027. Preliminary construction activities are expected to start in late 2027/early 2028 pending additional project approvals.

Before work begins, we will keep the community informed through newsletters, community information drop-in sessions and door-knocking, and speak directly with residents about property access and requirements.

For more information, visit engage.powerlink.com.au/kamerunga-woree.

New control building arrives at the Ingham South Substation

Work to upgrade key equipment at the Ingham South Substation is progressing well after starting in early 2026.

A key milestone was recently reached when the new control building arrived on site.

Built to withstand a Q200 flood, the building will help safely monitor, protect and control important substation equipment.

The Ingham South Substation helps supply electricity to the wider Ingham area and Ergon Energy's 66kV Ingham Substation.

For more information, visit powerlink.com.au/inghamsouth.



The new control building being installed with a crane at the substation site.

Works underway on the Yabulu BESS Connection Project

Work is progressing to connect Gentari's Yabulu Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to Powerlink's 132kV Yabulu South Substation near Townsville.

Powerlink's work includes:

- building a new bay in the existing 132kV substation
- building approximately 800 metres of overhead transmission line to connect the new bay to the Yabulu BESS Substation.

Construction started in June 2026. Site set-up and major earthworks are complete, with remaining work expected to finish in early 2027, weather permitting. Testing and commissioning are planned for mid-2027.

For information, visit powerlink.com.au/yabulu.

Gawara Baya Wind Farm Connection Project approvals update

Powerlink has reached a key milestone for the Gawara Baya Wind Farm Connection Project, with the approval of the amended Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID).

The approval of the amended MID (AID-0126-0990) took effect on 11 September 2026. The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning managed the process with input from other government agencies.

Construction is expected to begin in March 2027.

The project will connect Copenhagen Infrastructure Partner's Gawara Baya Wind Farm to Powerlink's transmission network through the Guybal Munjan Switching Station at Mount Fox.

For more information, visit powerlink.com.au/gawarabaya.

CopperString update

Bulk earthworks are underway at the Flinders Substation site, approximately 6km south of Hughenden on the Kennedy Developmental Road.

The works are preparing the site for future construction of the substation and include earthworks, access improvements, drainage and erosion controls, and preparation of the future substation pad.

Subject to weather conditions, these works are expected to be completed by Q1 2027.



Aerial view of the earthworks underway at the Flinders Substation site, south of Hughenden.

Storm ready: preparing for the season ahead

For communities across North Queensland, preparing for severe weather is an important part of life as storm and cyclone season approaches.

At Powerlink, preparedness is also critical to maintaining a safe and reliable transmission network. Our teams plan for severe weather, while encouraging communities to understand the risks, have a plan and know what to do when storms strike.

During October, our Townsville team did their bit to support local readiness at Townsville City Council's Get Ready Townsville event.

The event brought together emergency services and disaster preparedness organisations, with our team sharing practical storm season safety information and talking with locals about Powerlink's role in keeping Queenslanders connected.

Being prepared is a shared responsibility, and events like this are a great way for communities, emergency services and organisations to get ready before severe weather arrives.



Our Townsville team at the Get Ready Townsville event.

CE on the ground in Cairns

Powerlink Chief Executive Seán Mc Goldrick recently visited Cairns to see firsthand the progress and recent delivery of projects across the region.

During the visit, Seán toured several key sites, including the Kamerunga to Woree Replacement Project, the Bayview Heights to White Rock Underground Cable Project and the Bayview Heights to Davies Creek Refit Project.

He also met with local stakeholders, including Cairns Regional Council and Advance Cairns, to discuss regional priorities.

The visit was also a great opportunity for Seán to connect with our Powerlink team members who live and work in Cairns and signals the first of many visits to connect with the project teams and key stakeholders.



Our CE touring the Bayview Heights to Davies Creek Refit Project site.

Local projects receive industry recognition

Two local Powerlink projects have recently been recognised in leading national industry awards.

The Bayview Heights to White Rock Underground Cable Project was recently awarded Highly Commended in the Energy category at the Engagement Institute's 2026 Engagement Excellence Awards, which celebrate leadership in community and stakeholder engagement.

The Bayview Heights Refit Project is a finalist in the Australian Institute of Project Management's National Project Management Awards, recognising excellence in project delivery, leadership and innovation across Australia.

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND'S TRANSMISSION NETWORK IN FAR NORTH & NORTH QUEENSLAND - NOVEMBER 2026

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Kameruna to Woree Replacement Project (planning phase)
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powerlink.com.au/kamerunga-woree

Powerlink
Chalumbin to Turkinje Line Refurbishment Project (in progress)

Powerlink
Bayview Heights to White Rock Underground Cable Project (in progress)
Powerlink
powerlink.com.au/bayviewheightswhiterock

Powerlink
Bayview Heights to Davies Creek Refit Project (completed)
Powerlink
powerlink.com.au/bayviewheightsdaviescreek

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Gawara Baya Wind Farm Connection
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powerlink.com.au/projects/gawara-baya-wind-farm-connection-project

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Ingham South Substation Reinvestment Project (in progress)
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powerlink.com.au/inghamsouth

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Yabulu BESS Connection Project (in progress)
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powerlink.com.au/yabulu

Powerlink
Genex Kidston Connection Project (in progress)
Powerlink
powerlink.com.au/genex

Powerlink
CopperString (in progress)
QIC / Powerlink
powerlink.com.au/copperstring

Powerlink
Burdekin River Pump Station Connection Project
Powerlink
powerlink.com.au/burdekinriverpumpstation

Kuranda
CAIRNS
MAREEBA
Mt Emerald Wind Farm
Edmonton
Chillagoe
Dimbulah
Gordonvale
ATHERTON
Herberton
Malanda
Kaban Wind Farm
INNISFAIL
Mount Garnet
Ravenshoe
Kareeya and Koombooloomba Hydro Power Stations
Kurrimine Beach
Tully BESS
El Arish BESS
MISSION BEACH
Tully Heads
Mount Surprise
CARDWELL
Einasleigh
INGHAM
Gawara Baya
Kidston Pumped Storage Hydro
Mt Fox Energy Park Wind Farm
Mt Fox Energy Park BESS
Karma Wind Farm
Paluma
Bruce Highway
Sunshine State Solar Farm and BESS
Townsville BESS
TOWNSVILLE
Yabulu South BESS
Sun Metals Solar Farm
Yabulu BESS
Gurambilbarra Energy Hub
The Block BESS
Ross River Solar Farm
Haughton SF Stage 2
Pinnacles BESS
Haughton Solar Farm
Ganymirra Solar Power Station, G2
AYR
Majors Creek Solar Power Station, G1
Supernode North 1, 2 & 3
Majors Creek Energy Storage System
Clare Solar Farm
Haughton BESS
Burdekin BESS
Millaroo
Guthalungra
BOWEN
Flinders Highway
Mt Challenger Wind Farm & BESS
Collinsville Green Energy Hub
Daydream Solar Farm
Hayman Solar Farm
PROSERPINE
Hamilton Solar Farm
Whitsunday Solar Farm
Springlands Wind Farm
Bloomsbury
Nemaroo Bimbi Wind Farm
Pleystowe BESS
MACKAY
Capricornia Pumped Hydro
Pinevale
Alligator Creek BESS
Nebo BESS
Nebo BESS 2
Epsom
Mount Britton BESS1
Mount Britton BESS2
NEBO
To Mt Isa

LEGEND

- Existing Powerlink Substation
- Existing Powerlink Substation / Proposed Synchronous Condenser
- Proposed Powerlink Substation
- Power Generator
- Coal Fired Power Station
- Gas Turbine
- Genex Kidston Connection Project
- Chalumbin to Turkinje Line Refurbishment Project
- CopperString Project (Reid River)
- CopperString Project (Flinders)
- Existing Powerlink Transmission Line
- Watercourse
- Highway
- FNQ Border
- Potential generation and storage projects (non-Powerlink)

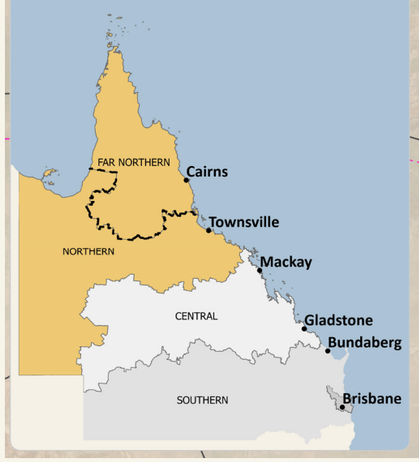
All project related data has been sourced from either the proponents' websites (public domain) or the AEMO KCI Quarterly Report: bit.ly/AEMO-NEM-generation.
Potential renewable energy projects shown on the map are currently in their planning and approvals stage.

0 12.5 25 50
Kilometres

Scale @ A1 : 1:1,050,000

N

Far North & North Queensland



Community grants

Our Community Relations Advisor Sharon recently met with two successful recipients of Powerlink's Community Grants Program in Cairns.

The Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation received $5,000 to help vulnerable patients leave hospital safely and comfortably, by providing appropriate footwear when they need it most.

The Foundation raises funds to support the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service and the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service, which care for almost 285,000 people from Tully to the Torres Strait.

She Shed Cairns also received $5,000 to create a colourful mosaic table for patients in Cairns Hospital's sub-acute dementia ward, providing a calming and engaging focal point.

We received 19 applications from the Cairns Local Government Area for our 2026 Community Grants Program. Successful applicants will be notified later this year.

For more information about Powerlink's Community Grants program, visit powerlink.com.au/community-grants.



Our Community Relations Advisor Sharon with representatives from She Shed.

Local Government Association of Queensland Conference – Cairns

Our Powerlink team recently attended the 130th Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Conference, held in Cairns in late October.

The event enabled our team to connect directly with local councillors and local government representatives from across Queensland.

Our team shared updates on Powerlink projects and discussed the issues, priorities and opportunities shaping communities across the state, including in Far North and North Queensland.

What's happening across our network

To find out what's happening in our Central and Southern Queensland regions, visit engage.powerlink.com.au and or scan the QR code and select 'follow' to receive updates.

Further information

If you would like further information or to register to receive future Transmission Updates, please contact us on the details opposite:

Far North Queensland

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Phone: 07 4034 7600

North Queensland

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