Reid River to Hughenden 500 kV Transmission Line

Application Number: 02704

Commencement Date: 27/11/2024

Status: Locked

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Reid River to Hughenden 500 kV Transmission Line

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (non-renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Transmission Line

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/07/2026

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/12/2032

1.2 Proposed Action details

1.2.1 Provide an overview of the proposed action, including all proposed activities. *

Proposed Action Overview

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Powerlink Queensland (Powerlink) is proposing to construct a 330 kilometre (km) high-voltage overhead transmission line from south of Townsville near Reid River to Hughenden, Qld, known as the CopperString 3032 project Reid River to Hughenden 500 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line (the Project). The project includes a 500 kV transmission line plus two new substation sites.

Two distinct boundaries are referred to throughout this assessment:

- Study Area: equates to the boundaries that are assessed in this MNES report. Further information is provided in Att 1.01 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part1of5, Section 1.2.1, page 2.
- Project Footprint: represents the extent of potential direct impacts (i.e. vegetation clearing) for all Project elements foreseen at this time within the Study Area. This area represents a worst-case clearing scenario. Further information is provided in Att 1.01 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part1of5, Section 1.2.2, page 5.

The Study Area is located across four local government areas:

- Flinders Shire
- Charters Towers Regional
- Burdekin Shire
- Townsville City.

The Study Area covers approximately 142,348 hectares (ha) and extends for approximately 330 km, from Reid River in the east to Hughenden in the west.

West of the Burdekin River, the Study Area has been developed by buffering the Project Footprint either side by 1 km. East of the Burdekin River, the Study Area resembles the area put forward in the CopperString 2032 Burdekin River to Reid River Section Recommended Corridor and Substation Site Selection Report (RC&SSSR) (refer to Att 2.01 - CuS2032_Burdekin_River-Reid_River_RC&SSSR), with localised modifications to accommodate options for construction access. This area is currently under investigation by Powerlink and subject to change following consultation with stakeholders. It is anticipated that changes to the Project Footprint will only occur within the Study Area.

The Project is currently in a concept design phase, with locations and alignments for key infrastructure components still to be confirmed within the Study Area based on feedback from landholder discussions, stakeholder consultation, ecological and cultural heritage surveys and constructability assessments. The dimensions of infrastructure components are known, and impact calculations have been derived through adopting a notional 70 metre (m) wide transmission line corridor within the Study Area, coupled with the indicative siting of supporting infrastructure (substations, access tracks etc.). The resultant Project Footprint covers a total area of approximately 2,895 ha.

It is anticipated that the overall impact will decrease during the detailed design phase and through considered construction planning. The actual area of vegetation clearing is expected to be 80% of the Project Footprint at a maximum; therefore, for the purposes of the impact assessments, the 80% clearing value has been applied.

The Project components include:

- Transmission line
- Tower pads
- Access tracks
- Reid River and Pentland Substations
- Construction Camps
- Other ancillary infrastructure (i.e. roads, tracks, batching plants, site offices and laydowns).

Further detail and information can be found in Att 1.01 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part1of5, Section 2.1, page 7.

Activities in undertaking the proposed Action include:

- Transmission line construction activities
 - · Site preparation, including site set out, pre-clearance surveys and vegetation clearing
 - Establishment of laydowns and offices
 - Installation of gates, grids, clean down bays, waterway crossing, and access tracks
 - Tower site benching
 - Foundation excavation and installation
 - Establishment of brake and winch sites
 - Structure assembly and erection using large mobile crane
 - Assembly of prefabricated steel tower sections adjacent to the final site
 - Erection of towers in sections
 - Conductor and optical ground wire (OPGW) stringing is carried out as either conventional or aerial stringing
 - Site rehabilitation, including the replacement of topography, topsoil, seeding to establish a minimum 70% ground cover, and fences where disturbed
 - Reinstatement of all disturbed areas that will not accommodate permanent infrastructure.
 - Reid River and Petland substations
 - Site preparation
 - Earthworks for substation platform
 - Installation of security fences, drainage, road, cable trenches, station earthing, and foundations
 - Drainage works
 - Underground cabling trenching
 - Structure construction
 - Aerial, gentry and support structures
 - Erection of landing beams, conductors and busbars
 - Site rehabilitations.
 - Temporary infrastructure requirements for the proposed Action include:
 - Sites for water sources and extractions
 - Brake and winch sites
 - Laydown areas
 - Several concrete batching plants are anticipated to be required for construction of the Project.

Further information can be found in Att 1.01 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part1of5, section 2.2, page 10.

1.2.2 Is the project action part of a staged development or related to other actions or proposals in the region?

Yes

1.2.3 Is the proposed action the first stage of a staged development (or a larger project)?

No

1.2.4 Related referral(s)

EPBC Number	Project Title
2010/5581	CopperString Project

EPBC Number	Project Title	
2019/8416	CopperString Transmission Line Project, Nth Qld	
2024/10025	Mount Isa Connection Project	

1.2.5 Provide information about the staged development (or relevant larger project).

Overview

Powerlink is proposing the staged construction of CopperString 2032, a new high voltage overhead electricity transmission line spanning approximately 1,000 km from Mount Isa to the Powerlink transmission network in the Burdekin region, via a new connection point south of Townsville.

CopperString 2032 was previously referred to the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and approved under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Since the approval of CopperString 2032, realignment of sections of the transmission line corridor have been proposed to achieve better constructability and safety opportunities. CopperString 2032 has been separated into four distinct stages. Accordingly, in order to update expected disturbances and include contemporary listings of species, each of the stages of CopperString 2032 are being either re-referred to DCCEEW or are the subject of a separate approval and are each considered separate but related actions. The four distinct related actions, which are described as:

- Stage 1: Hughenden to Julia Creek
- Stage 2: Julia Creek to Cloncurry
- Stage 3: Mount Isa Connection Cloncurry to Mount Isa; and
- Stage 4: Reid River to Hughenden 500 kV Transmission Line Project.

This referral relates to Stage 4: Reid River to Hughenden 500 kV Transmission Line Project.

Project History

Application for primary approvals for the first iteration of the CopperString project commenced in 2010-2011 (EPBC number 2010/5581) (Copper String 1.0). A decision was made by the developer to not pursue Copper String 1.0. CopperString 2.0 (now named CopperString2032) was revived and refined in February 2019 when the Initial Advice Statement was lodged with the Queensland Government Coordinator-General (CG). In April 2019 CopperString 2032 was declared a 'Coordinated Project' by the Queensland CG under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SDPWO Act). A Referral was lodged under the EPBC Act in April 2019, and a subsequent Controlled Action decision was made in May 2019 (EPBC number 2019/8416).

CopperString 2032 progressed through a Bilateral Assessment process with the State Government and the Commonwealth Government. This required an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addressing both State and Commonwealth environmental, social and economic interests. The EIS was approved, with conditions, by the Queensland CG in September 2022 and referred to the Commonwealth Government for approval. A delegate for the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment approved the Project, subject to conditions in November 2022.

Powerlink took ownership of CopperString 2032 in March 2023. Since then, Powerlink has undertaken a process of design and construction review and further consultation with traditional owners, landowners and community, which has resulted in the need for refinements to CopperString 2032. This review identified

significant constructability, access and operational issues between the Burdekin River east to the proposed Mulgrave substation site due to very steep terrain and the requirement to construct significant access tracks and waterway crossings through areas that experience flooding and inundation.

Given these factors, Powerlink is no longer proceeding with the transmission line corridor and substation site in the location previously specified in the EIS and instead have proposed an alternative corridor and substation location for the proposed action, as documented for consultation in the RC&SSSR (refer to Att 2.01 - CuS2032_Burdekin_River-Reid_River_RC&SSSR). Following consultation with DCCEEW it was agreed that a revised referral should be made for the Reid River to Hughenden 500 kV Transmission Line to ensure all changes can be assessed appropriately.

1.2.6 What Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents are relevant to the proposed action, and how are they relevant? *

Commonwealth legislation

 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) – Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) are protected under the EPBC Act. The Proposed Action has been referred under this Act given the presence of MNES and the outcomes of significant impact assessments.

Queensland legislation

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (ACH Act) Under the ACH Act, Powerlink is required to exercise a duty of care to take all reasonable and practical measures to avoid harming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.
- Biosecurity Act 2014 (Biosecurity Act) The Proposed Action will be required meet the General Biosecurity Obligations under the Biosecurity Act, managed through the development and implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
- *Electricity Act 1994* (Electricity Act) As a transmission entity, Powerlink is required to promote a safe, efficient and reliable supply and use of electricity while also properly considering the environmental effects of its activities under the transmission authority.
- *Electricity Safety Act 2002* (Electricity Safety Act) As a transmission entity Powerlink must seek to prevent death, injury and destruction that can be caused by electricity
- Environmental Offsets Act 2014 (EO Act) The EO Act prescribes conditions and processes for offsets for impacts to prescribed environmental matters which include MNES, matters of state (MSES) and local environmental significance (MLES).
- Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act) & Environmental Protection Regulation 2019 (EP Regulation) – Powerlink will comply with the general environmental duty in the EP Act, particularly when undertaking activities with the potential to cause environmental harm.
- *Fisheries Act 1994* (Fisheries Act) Potential fisheries habitat (e.g., waterways) protected under the Fisheries Act are present within the area. Powerlink will seek to minimise impacts to waterways.
- Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NC Act) The NC Act provides for the creation and management of
 protected areas, the protection of native wildlife and regulates the clearing of native plants. The
 Proposed Action will require Protected Plant clearing permits and Species Management Programs
 (low risk and high risk) will be required to protect and manage animal breeding places.
- Planning Act 2016 (Planning Act) The Planning Act establishes a framework and overarching policy for land use planning and development assessment in Queensland. Powerlink will utilise the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) approval pathway under the Planning Act to facilitate the land use approval for the Proposed Action. Through the MID assessment process, the Proposed Action will be assessed against the applicable State interests and constraints ordinarily made assessable under the Planning Act.

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- *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (QH Act) The QH Act provides for the conservation of Queensland's cultural heritage for the benefit of the community and future generations. Should the Proposed Action unearth an archaeological artefact that is an important source of information about an aspect of Queensland history, it must be reported to the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation.
- State Planning Policy (SPP) The SPP outlines State interests that serves as the overarching policy for regional and local planning schemes. The MID assessment process will consider the SPP against the Proposed Action.
- Stock Route Management Act 2002 (Stock Route Management Act) This Act provides a framework for management of Queensland's stock routes. The Proposed Action intersects stock routes and will seek to minimise impacts to the operation of existing stock routes.
- Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 (TI Act) The TI Act provides a regime that allows for and encourages effective integrated planning and efficient management of a system of transport infrastructure. The Proposed Action will intersect State-controlled roads and railway corridors regulated under this act and will require the relevant approvals to interfere with these roads and railway corridors.
- Vegetation Management Act 1999 (VM Act) The VM Act establishes the vegetation management framework for Qld which applies to all vegetation, with the exception of state forests, national parks, forest reserves and certain other tenures defined under the NC Act and *Forestry Act 1959*. A primary purpose of the VM Act is to regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that conserves remnant vegetation identified as a Regional Ecosystem (RE).
- *Water Act 2000* (Water Act) This Act provides a framework to deliver sustainable water planning, allocation, management and supply processes to provide for the improved security of water resources in Queensland. Where required, Powerlink will obtain the relevant water licences and permits required to take or interfere with water.

1.2.7 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken regarding the project area, including with Indigenous stakeholders. Attach any completed consultation documentations, if relevant. *

Extensive stakeholder engagement was undertaken for the EIS under the previous proponent. Consultation with stakeholders is presented in Att 3.01_Cu2_EIS_Volume-3-AppendixC-Public-consultation-report, Section 2.3, Table 2, page 9 (GHD, 2019), which describes the individuals and parties consulted with. Traditional Owner engagement was also undertaken with the relevant parties. Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMP) were developed with these parties as part of the EIS.

Since taking ownership of CopperString 2032 in March 2023, stakeholder communication has continued. Powerlink is committed to effective and genuine stakeholder and landholder engagement practices. Powerlink's activities are guided by a Stakeholder Engagement Framework which is underpinned by the key principles of integrity, openness, responsiveness, accountability and inclusiveness. These principles are consistent with Powerlink's values – accountability, customer, teamwork and safety.

Landholder engagement is an essential component of the MID process under the *Planning Act 2016*. Powerlink has been working closely with landholders since the commencement of the Project in 2022, with a dedicated Landholder Relations team in place to form effective relationships, proactively provide relevant information and manage any enquiries. Consultation as a part of the MID process will be undertaken by the Queensland Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Powerlink.

Powerlink is committed to establishing and maintaining respectful and cooperative engagement with Aboriginal Parties (Native Title Holders). Traditional Owner participation with Indigenous stakeholders is currently being undertaken along to assist in the selection of preferred locations for the transmission line. Following the finalisation of the alignment, CHMP's for each Traditional Owner party will be amended where relevant, while a Cultural Heritage Management Strategy (CHMS) will be developed.

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A CopperString 2032 Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) (Powerlink, 2024) sets the benchmark for project-wide communication and engagement. It will be applied in concert with the project's other engagement and participation plans, which respectively focus on the creation of meaningful opportunities for Traditional Owners, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, landowners, local suppliers, and workers to participate in and benefit from CopperString 2032.

The CSEP details how communication and engagement activities will be carried out consistently across the CopperString 2032 project and complies with the imposed conditions on social matters included in the Queensland Coordinator-General's evaluation report on the environmental impact statement released on 28 September 2022 (Office of the Coordinator General, 2022).

Consultation schedules and published materials are available on the project webpage (CopperString 2032).

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable.

By completing and submitting this form, you consent to the collection of all personal information contained in this form. If you are providing the personal information of other individuals in this form, please ensure you have their consent before doing so.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) collects your personal information (as defined by the Privacy Act 1988) through this platform for the purposes of enabling the department to consider your submission and contact you in relation to your submission. If you fail to provide some or all of the personal information requested on this platform (name and email address), the department will be unable to contact you to seek further information (if required) and subsequently may impact the consideration given to your submission.

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See our Privacy Policy to learn more about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint. Alternatively, email us at privacy@awe.gov.au.

Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice *

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

https://epbcbusinessportal.environment.gov.au/dashboard/print-application/?id=530e6f5d-63ac-ef11-95f5-6045bdc25f56

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	18059519041
Organisation name	UMWELT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.
Organisation address	75 York Street, Teralba, NSW, 2284
Referring party details	
Name	Savvas Hatzipapas
Job title	Principal Environmental Planner
Phone	0436 436 674
Email	shatzipapas@umwelt.com.au
Address	145 Ann Street, Brisbane, QLD, 4001

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

1.3.2.1 Are the Person proposing to take the action details the same as the Referring party details? *

No

1.3.2.2 Is Person proposing to take the action an organisation or business? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details		
ABN/ACN	82078849233	
Organisation name	QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED	
Organisation address	33 Harold St, Virginia, QLD, 4014	
Person proposing to take the action details		

Name	Mark Barnett
Job title	Senior Environmental Advisor
Phone	0411 251 072
Email	mark.barnett@powerlink.com.au
Address	33 Harold St, Virginia QLD 4014

1.3.2.14 Are you proposing the action as part of a Joint Venture? *

No

1.3.2.15 Are you proposing the action as part of a Trust? *

No

1.3.2.17 Describe the Person proposing the action's history of responsible environmental management including details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against the Person proposing to take the action. *

Powerlink Queensland has a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management.

There are no past or current legal proceedings against Powerlink under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

1.3.2.18 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

Powerlink's Health, Safety and Environment Policy emphasizes the prevention or minimization of harm to the environment as a core commitment (Powerlink, 2024). The policy outlines several key areas of focus to achieve its environmental objectives:

Sustainable Decisions:

- Powerlink makes decisions informed by data and insights, considering the environmental impacts and opportunities of its actions.
- The company builds collaborative partnerships to create a positive impact on the community and the environment.

Agile Delivery:

- Powerlink constantly adapts its systems to respond to changing environmental requirements and risks.
- The focus is on improving the effectiveness of critical processes and controls, building resilience into operations, and aligning with environmental commitments.

Empowered People and Learning:

- Powerlink empowers its people to use their expertise to create improvements in their work, including environmental practices.
- The organization emphasizes continuous learning, sharing, and improvement in environmental work processes.

Healthy and Engaged Workforce:

• Powerlink fosters a constructive and engaging workplace, enabling its people to make positive health and wellness choices that also benefit the environment.

Powerlink systematically monitors its compliance obligations and business requirements related to the environment. It has systems in place to develop, resource, monitor, and continuously improve its environmental commitments and objectives. This includes planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of an electrically safe network.

1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

1.3.3.1 Are the Proposed designated proponent details the same as the Person proposing to take the action? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details		
ABN/ACN	82078849233	
Organisation name	QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED	
Organisation address	33 Harold St, Virginia, QLD, 4014	
Proposed designated proponent details		
Name	Mark Barnett	

Job title	Senior Environmental Advisor
Phone	0411 251 072
Email	mark.barnett@powerlink.com.au
Address	33 Harold St, Virginia QLD 4014

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

Confirmed Referring party's identity

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	18059519041
Organisation name	UMWELT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.
Organisation address	75 York Street, Teralba, NSW, 2284
Representative's name	Savvas Hatzipapas
Representative's job title	Principal Environmental Planner
Phone	0436 436 674
Email	shatzipapas@umwelt.com.au
Address	145 Ann Street, Brisbane, QLD, 4001

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	82078849233
Organisation name	QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
Organisation address	33 Harold St, Virginia, QLD, 4014
Representative's name	Mark Barnett
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Advisor

 Phone
 0411 251 072

 Email
 mark.barnett@powerlink.com.au

Address 33 Harold St, Virginia QLD 4014

Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

1.4.1 Do you qualify for an exemption from fees under EPBC Regulation 5.23 (1) (a)? *

No

1.4.3 Have you applied for or been granted a waiver for full or partial fees under Regulation 5.21A? *

No

1.4.5 Are you going to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under EPBC Regulation 5.21A?

No

1.4.7 Has the department issued you with a credit note? *

No

1.4.9 Would you like to add a purchase order number to your invoice? *

Yes

1.4.10 Enter purchase order number *

2114843

1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

1.4.11 Who would you like to allocate as the entity responsible for payment? *

Proposed designated proponent

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint





Maptaskr © 2025 -21.346211, 148.919108 Powered By Esri - Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, F...

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Reid River to Hughenden within North Queensland

2.2.2 Where is the primary jurisdiction of the proposed action? *

Queensland

2.2.3 Is there a secondary jurisdiction for this proposed action? *

No

2.2.5 What is the tenure of the action area relevant to the project area? *

Land tenure traversed by the Study Area is predominantly freehold land and leasehold land which is mainly used for grazing and agricultural purposes. The Study Area also intersects State Land and Reserve. Ownership of this land is primarily private freehold and State owned.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

3.1.1 Describe the current condition of the project area's environment.

The Study Area covers approximately 142,348 ha and extends for approximately 330 km, from Reid River in the east to Hughenden in the west.

The Study Area varies substantially with climate, geomorphology and land use. It grades from semi-arid environments in the west, to more coastally influenced sub-tropical environments in the east. Landform varies from broad grassy floodplains in the west to more coastally influenced woodland habitats and grasslands in the east. The dominant land use across the entirety of the Study Area is 'grazing native vegetation' per the DESI 2023 Land use mapping series (DESI, 2023). Grazing intensity and fire history both play a substantial role in determining the diversity and structural complexity of the understorey and ground layers. While much of the Study Area has been subject to generations of cattle grazing, this typically occurs at low to moderate densities. The terrain is predominantly undulating with low hills and mountains present primarily in the section of the Study Area south of Charters Towers and in the far east. In the western extent of the Study Area, the terrain is relatively flat.

The Study Area encompasses a range of habitats influenced by climate, terrain and underlying geology. Broadly, these areas are considered to support 10 habitat types:

- 1. Eucalypt woodlands and open woodlands on alluvium or sand plains
- 2. Woodlands and open woodlands dominated by *Eucalyptus spp.* or *Melaleuca spp*. on drainage lines, levees and floodplains
- 3. Corymbia spp. or Eucalyptus spp. dominated low woodland to low open woodlands on sandy soils
- 4. Dry eucalypt woodlands to open woodlands on shallow soils in hilly terrain
- 5. Acacia spp., Melaleuca spp., or mixed low woodlands on varying geologies
- 6. Acacia-dominated open forests and woodlands on residuals or cracking clays
- 7. Native grasslands, sedgelands and open areas on varying geologies
- 8. Vine-thicket
- 9. Farm dams and modified wetlands
- 10. Cleared areas and other non-remnant vegetation.

All habitat types have been impacted to some degree by disturbance including through ongoing cattle grazing and minor vegetation clearing for tracks and fence lines. However, given the rural nature of the area and the lack of development, disturbance levels are generally low.

3.1.2 Describe any existing or proposed uses for the project area.

The Study Area is located across four local government areas (LGA) being, Flinders Shire, Charters Tower Region, Burdekin Shire and Townsville City. Land use within the Study Area is grazing and modified pastures. The Project will not affect the existing land use, as grazing can continue alongside the proposed

infrastructure. The Project will introduce an additional land use specifically designated for electricity distribution.

3.1.3 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values that applies to the project area.

The Project does not impact any outstanding natural features and avoids these completely.

The White Mountain National Park is located approximately 5 km north of the Study Area between Pentland and Torrens Creek. The park contains the highest elevation areas of the Desert Uplands bioregion (450–780 m AHD) and is one of Qld's most botanically diverse parks within 14 different ecosystems. White Mountains National Park has important catchment protection values as it conserves the headwaters of the Flinders River, which flows north to the Gulf of Carpentaria, the Cape River, which flows into the Burdekin River catchment, and Torrens and Bullock creeks which flow west into Coopers Creek and Lake Eyre Basin. In addition, the park is also a recharge area for the Great Artisan Basin (Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service, 2013).

3.1.4 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

The terrain is predominantly undulating with low hills and mountains present primarily in the section of the Study Area south of Charters Towers and in the far east. In the western extent of the Study Area, the terrain is relatively flat.

The Study Area gradient ranges between 100m Australian Height Datum (AHD) to 500m AHD in section. The Project commences at 350 Australian Height Datum (AHD) near Hughenden and increase to 500m AHD near Pentland. It then reduces to 300m AHD as it moves towards Charters Towers before decreasing to 250m AHD near Mingela and further decreasing to 100m AHD near Reid River.

South of Charters Towers, Mount Farrenden (490 m AHD) intersects the Study Area while Matthews Pinnacle (370 m AHD) and Seventy Mile Mountain (435 m AHD) occur immediately south and Black Knob (415 m AHD) occurs to the north. In the eastern Study Area, Target Hill (170 m AHD) and Round Hill (143 m AHD) occur within. Additional mountains and peaks occur in the wider area at the western end of the Study Area near Hughenden. The Great Dividing Range dissects the western Study Area approximately 18 km east of Torrens Creek. The Leichardt Range is also present within the Study Area south east of Mingela.

3.2 Flora and fauna

3.2.1 Describe the flora and fauna within the affected area and attach any investigations of surveys if applicable.

Desktop and Field Assessment

A desktop assessment was firstly undertaken to broadly characterise and identify the MNES values that may be supported in the Study Area and areas adjacent. The desktop assessment included a review of literature, and searches of publicly available datasets and online mapping. A comprehensive list of sources which were reviewed in March 2024 and September 2024 is located within the MNES Report (refer to Att 1.01 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part1of5, Section 4.1, page 20). The results of the desktop assessment were used to inform the field survey approach and methods.

The entire CopperString project has previously been the subject of an EIS and SEIS. The previous EIS and SEIS was reviewed and incorporated where determined to be relevant. As part of this impact assessment process, substantial field survey effort was undertaken between 2010 – 2023. The findings of the surveys, specifically the MNES species confirmed and their locations, has been incorporated into the results and impact assessments. Please refer to Att 1.01 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part1of5, Section 4.2, Table 4.1, page 21 for a summary of previous ecological surveys for the CopperString 2032 Project. The findings of the surveys, specifically the MNES species confirmed and their locations, has been incorporated into the results and impact assessments in the MNES report.

Flora

A total of 217 flora species from 50 families and 131 genera were identified during the Umwelt field surveys. Of these flora species, the following threatened flora were confirmed present and identified as having a moderate to high likelihood of occurring within the Study Area.

- Known to occur
 - Waxy cabbage palm (Livistona lanuginosa) vulnerable
- High likelihood of occurrence
 - Pink gidgee (*Acacia crombiei*) Vulnerable
 - Black ironbox (Eucalyptus raveretiana) Vulnerable
- Moderate likelihood of occurrence
 - Leichhardtia brevifolia Vulnerable

Further information on the results of the flora surveys is discussed in Att 1.04 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 12.0, pg. H-31.

Fauna

A total of 162 fauna species were recorded within the Study Area during the Umwelt field surveys, comprising of 127 bird, 31 mammals, 3 reptiles and one (1) amphibian.

The desktop assessment identified 31 threatened fauna species as potential occurring within the Study Area. Of these fauna species, the following threatened fauna were confirmed present and identified as having a moderate to high likelihood of occurring within the Study Area.

- Known to occur
 - Squatter pigeon (southern) (Geophaps scripta scripta) Vulnerable
 - Painted honeyeater (Grantiella picta) Vulnerable
 - Black-throated finch (southern) (Poephila cincta cincta) Endangered
 - Koala (Phascolarctos cinereus) Endangered

- High likelihood of occurrence
 - Ornamental snake (*Denisonia maculata*) Vulnerable
 - Greater glider (northern) (Petauroides minor) Vulnerable
 - Fork-tailed swift (Apus pacificus) Migratory
 - Moderate likelihood of occurrence
 - Sharp-tailed sandpiper (Calidris acuminata) Vulnerable (Migratory)
 - Curlew sandpiper (Calidris ferruginea) Critically Endangered (Migratory)
 - Red goshawk (Erythrotriorchis radiatus) Endangered
 - Grey falcon (Falco hypoleucos) Vulnerable
 - Latham's snipe (Gallinago hardwickii) Vulnerable (Migratory)
 - White-throated needletail (Hirundapus caudacutus) Vulnerable (Migratory)
 - Australian painted snipe (Rostratula australis) Endangered
 - Common greenshank (Tringa nebularia) Endangered (Migratory)
 - Northern quoll (Dasyurus hallucatus) Endangered
 - Julia Creek dunnart (Sminthopsis douglasi) Vulnerable
 - Saltwater crocodile (Crocodylus porosus) Migratory
 - Common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) Migratory
 - Eastern osprey (Pandion haliaetus) Migratory

Further information on the results of the fauna surveys is discussed in Att 1.02 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Section 6.3, page 90.

A total of three (3) introduced fauna species were recorded within the Study Area which are further discussed in Att 1.02 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Section 6.5.5, page 118.

3.2.2 Describe the vegetation (including the status of native vegetation and soil) within the

project area.

Vegetation Communities

The Vegetation Management Regional Ecosystem Map (Version 13) was reviewed as part of the desktop assessment to understand the likely presence and extent of REs across the Study Area. Homogenous and heterogeneous polygons were present, totalling 83 REs excluding non-remnant vegetation. Of these REs, nine (9) are listed as Of Concern and 74 are listed as Least Concern under the VM Act.

Umwelt field surveys confirmed the presence of 32 REs across the Mitchell Grass Downs, Desert Uplands and Einasleigh Uplands bioregions in remnant and regrowth condition. Of these REs, one (1) is listed as Of concern and 31 are listed as Least Concern under the VM Act.

Further information on the Vegetation communities is discussed in in Att 1.02 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Section 6.1, page 77.

3.3 Heritage

3.3.1 Describe any Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places recognised as having heritage values that apply to the project area.

The Macrossan Airfield, an RSU (Repair and Salvage Unit) base during WWII now used as an RAAF stores depot, is located within the Study Area and approximately 10 km north-west of the Southern Corridor identified within the CopperString 2032 Burdekin River to Reid River Section Recommended Corridor and Substation Site Selection Report (RC&SSSR) (refer to Att 2.01 - CuS2032_Burdekin_River-Reid_River_RC&SSSR). This Southern Corridor has been nominated in the RC&SSSR as the preferred corridor, and thus is the basis of assessment east of the Burdekin River for this referral.

Powerlink understands the airfield is still used for infrequent flights by the Australian Defence Force. Given the Macrossan Airfield is located approximately 10 km north-west of the Southern Corridor, a transmission line within the corridor is unlikely to impact on the approach / take off path for aircraft. As such the project will not have a direct or indirect impact on the Commonwealth heritage place, or its use.

3.3.2 Describe any Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area.

The Study Area incorporates the interests of six Traditional Owner parties.

Powerlink is committed to continued management of Indigenous heritage values, with surveys proposed with Traditional Owner parties to inform the transmission line location. Powerlink intends to meet its duty of care under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*.

As the design progresses, Cultural Heritage Management Plans will be newly developed or amended, as relevant, in consultation with Traditional Owners, while a Cultural Heritage Management Strategy will be developed with each Traditional Owner group.

3.4 Hydrology

3.4.1 Describe the hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area and attach any hydrological investigations or surveys if applicable. *

Watercourses

The Study Area intersects four major catchment areas, being the:

- Haughton River catchment
- Burdekin River catchment
- Cooper Creek catchment
- Flinders River catchment.

The largest river system in the Study Area is the Burdekin River (stream order 8). Other large systems include Balfe Creek (stream order 7); and Warrigal Creek, Torrens Creek, Homestead Creek, the Haughton River, and the Campaspe River (stream order 6). Most of these systems are ephemeral and only flow

during periods of extended precipitation in the wet season (November to April). For the remaining months of the year (including July to August during field surveys), these systems were observed to be virtually dry, with only deeper perennial pools retaining water during the dry season. The Burdekin River was the only exception and was observed to have a broad, flowing channel on the eastern edge of the watercourse during both July and August 2024 surveys.

Further information is provided in Att 1.01 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part1of5, Section 5.5, page 56.

Wetlands

A number of lacustrine and palustrine wetlands are mapped throughout the Study Area (Figure 5.3) however only two are mapped as a wetland of high ecological significance. One occurs south of Homestead, near the Cape River and the other is found in the far east of the Study Area off the Haughton River.

Findings of the field survey determined that farm dams, gilgais and other modified or naturally occurring waterbodies are likely to occur more extensively across the Study Area. Dams have been constructed across the Study Area and natural waterholes occur within isolated sections of semi-permanent watercourses.

The quality of peripheral habitat and water quality in these artificial, natural or modified waterbodies varied significantly across the Study Area, with many resources becoming dry or stagnant without regular rainfall. However, during dry season surveys between July and August 2024, some waterbodies, particularly those occurring on clay-based substrate were observed to retain viable water resources and dense edge habitat

Further information is provided in Att 1.01 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part1of5, Section 5.6, page 66.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

Potential Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) relevant to your proposed action area.

EPBC Act			
section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S12	World Heritage	No	Yes
S15B	National Heritage	No	Yes
S16	Ramsar Wetland	No	Yes
S18	Threatened Species and Ecological Communities	Yes	Yes
S20	Migratory Species	Yes	Yes
S21	Nuclear	No	Yes

https://epbcbusinessportal.environment.gov.au/dashboard/print-application/?id=530e6f5d-63ac-ef11-95f5-6045bdc25f56

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EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S23	Commonwealth Marine Area	No	Yes
S24B	Great Barrier Reef	No	Yes
S24D	Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas	No	Yes
S26	Commonwealth Land	No	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas	No	Yes
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	No	Yes

4.1.1 World Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

4.1.1.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.1.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

No world heritage places are located within 20 km of the Study Area.

4.1.2 National Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

4.1.2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.2.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

No National Heritage Place is located within 20 km of the Study Area.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ramsar wetland
No	No	Bowling Green Bay
No	No	Coongie Lakes

4.1.3.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

4.1.3.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

Two wetlands of international importance (Ramsar) were identified in the PMST search:

- The Coongie Lakes Ramsar wetland, approximately 700-800 km downstream of the Study Area.
- The Bowling Green Bay Ramsar wetland, approximately 40 km northeast and downstream of the eastern end of the Study Area

The Coongie Lakes Ramsar site is located in far north-east South Australia in the Cooper Creek subcatchment of the Lake Eyre Basin. It is a complex and extensive ephemeral and semi-permanent freshwater wetland system in an arid zone, comprising channels, waterholes, lakes, internal deltas and numerous shallow floodout plains, interdune corridors and swamps. Discharge, flow and inundation within the wetland system is highly variable, with the northern reaches receiving year-round water from Cooper Creek, whilst the southern parts receiving water much less frequently. The transmission line traverses the upper reaches of the Cooper Creek catchment between Pentland and Hughenden.

The Bowling Green Bay Ramsar site is located 21 km north-east of Ayr, Qld. The Ramsar site plays a major role in protection of this area from erosion by cyclones. A diverse complex of coastal wetland systems occurs at the site including inter-tidal seagrass beds, mangrove woodlands and saline saltpan communities on the coast, and brackish to freshwater wetlands inland. Extensive areas of forest and woodland, and some closed forest, occur on the mountainous areas and the coastal dune system. The eastern end of the Study Area is located within the Haughton River catchment which drains directly to the Bowling Green Bay Ramsar site. The main transmission line will also cross the Burdekin River, the Haughton River and the Reid River, all which discharge to the southern portion of the Bowling Green Bay Ramsar site. The construction within the Study Area is unlikely to impact on the Bowling green Bay Ramsar wetland as any sedimentation will be controlled through the implement of industry standard erosion and sediment control measures.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct	les allers a f			
impact	impact	Species	Common name	
Yes	Yes	Acacia crombiei	Pink Gidgee	
No	No	Acanthophis hawkei	Plains Death Adder	
No	No	Bulbophyllum globuliforme	Miniature Moss-orchid, Hoop Pine Orchid	
Yes	Yes	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	
Yes	Yes	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper	

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name	
No	No	Charadrius leschenaultii	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover	
Yes	Yes	Dasyurus hallucatus	Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu]	
Yes	Yes	Denisonia maculata	Ornamental Snake	
No	No	Dichanthium setosum	bluegrass	
Yes	Yes	Egernia rugosa	Yakka Skink	
Yes	Yes	Erythrotriorchis radiatus	Red Goshawk	
Yes	Yes	Eucalyptus raveretiana	Black Ironbox	
Yes	Yes	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon	
Yes	Yes	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe	
Yes	Yes	Geophaps scripta scripta	Squatter Pigeon (southern)	
Yes	Yes	Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater	
No	No	Hipposideros semoni	Semon's Leaf-nosed Bat, Greater Wart- nosed Horseshoe-bat	
Yes	Yes	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail	
Yes	Yes	Leichhardtia brevifolia		
No	No	Lerista vittata	Mount Cooper Striped Skink, Mount Cooper Striped Lerista	
No	No	Macroderma gigas	Ghost Bat	
No	No	Neochmia ruficauda ruficauda	Star Finch (eastern), Star Finch (southern)	
No	No	Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew	
Yes	Yes	Petauroides minor	Greater Glider (northern), Greater Glider (north-eastern Queensland)	
No	No	Petauroides volans	Greater Glider (southern and central)	
No	No	Petrogale sharmani	Mount Claro Rock Wallaby, Sharman's Rock Wallaby	
Yes	Yes	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)	Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)	

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name	
No	No	Phlegmariurus tetrastichoides	Square Tassel Fern	
Yes	Yes	Poephila cincta cincta	Southern Black-throated Finch	
No	No	Rhinolophus robertsi	Large-eared Horseshoe Bat, Greater Large-eared Horseshoe Bat	
Yes	Yes	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe	
No	No	Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus	Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat, Bare- rumped Sheathtail Bat	
Yes	Yes	Sminthopsis douglasi	Julia Creek Dunnart	
No	No	Tephrosia leveillei		
Yes	Yes	Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank, Greenshank	
No	No	Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli	Masked Owl (northern)	

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar Bioregions

4.1.4.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

Yes

4.1.4.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters. *

The Proposed Action involves activities that have the potential to directly or indirectly impact on threatened species (Flora and Fauna). Refer to Att 1.02 - REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Section 7.0, page 130 for a detailed description of activities.

The Proposed Action's potential direct and indirect impacts to the relevant threatened species are summarised below and further detailed in Att 1.04 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 12.0 and 13.0, pages H-11 and H-45).

Direct Impacts

Clearing or loss of the following threatened flora species:

 <u>Pink gidgee (Acacia crombiei)</u>: 81.4 ha of mapped potential habitat (refer to Att 1.04 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 12.1.4, page H-11).

- <u>Black ironbox (*Eucalyptus ravertiana*)</u>: 94.6 ha of mapped potential habitat (refer to Att 1.04 REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 12.2.4, page H-19).
- <u>Leichhardtia brevifolia</u>: 7.8 ha of mapped potential habitat (refer to Att 1.04 REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, section 12.3.4, page H-34).
- <u>Waxy cabbage palm (*Livistona lanuginosa*)</u>: 3.2 ha of mapped known habitat and 77.1 ha of mapped potential habitat (refer to Att 1.04 REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 12.4.4, page H-36).

Other potential direct impacts to threatened flora species listed above include fragmentation and degradation, edge effects, soil erosion, dust generation, introduction and exacerbation of introduced flora species and increased intensity and frequency of fires.

Clearing or loss of suitable habitat for the following threatened fauna species:

- <u>Australian Painted-snipe (Rostratula australis)</u>: 16.1 ha of modelled seasonal breeding and foraging habitat (refer to Att 1.04 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 13.1.3, page H-45).
- <u>Black-throated Finch (Southern) (Poephila cincta cincta)</u>: 353.2 ha of modelled nesting and foraging habitat and 367.7 ha modelled foraging only habitat (refer to Att 1.04 REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 13.2.3, page H-59).
- <u>Greater Glider (northern) (Petauroides minor)</u>: 86.4 ha of likely or current denning habitat (refer Att 1.04 REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 13.3.3, page H-72).
- <u>Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*)</u>: 142.9 ha of nesting and foraging habitat and 241.6 ha of foraging only habitat (refer to Att 1.04 REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 13.4.3, page H-85).
- Julia Creek Dunnart (Sminthopsis douglasi): 99.2 ha of breeding and foraging habitat (refer to Att 1.04 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 13.5.3, page H-95).
- Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*): 1,896.9 ha of likely or suitable habitat (refer to Att 1.04 REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 13.6.3, page H-104).
- <u>Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*)</u>: 16.3 ha of roosting and foraging habitat (refer to Att 1.04 REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 13.7.3, page H-117).
- <u>Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*)</u>: 707.6 ha of denning, foraging and refuge habitat and 225.6 ha of foraging only habitat (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.8.3, page H-130).
- <u>Ornamental Snake (*Denisonia maculata*)</u>: 73.5 ha of suitable habitat (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.9.3, page H-140).
- <u>Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*)</u>: 757.8 ha of foraging habitat (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.10.3, page H-149).
- <u>Red Goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*)</u>: 280.8 ha of nesting and foraging habitat and 1,690.1 ha of foraging only habitat (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.11.3, page H158).
- <u>Squatter Pigeon (southern) (Geophaps scipta scripta)</u>: 421.2 ha of nesting habitat and 897.3 ha of foraging habitat (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.12.3, page H170).
- <u>White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)</u>: 58.1 ha of foraging habitat (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.13.3, page H-183).
- <u>Yakka Skink (*Egernia rugosa*)</u>: 1,682.0 ha of suitable habitat (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.15.3, page H-203).
- <u>Sharp-tailed sandpiper (Calidris acuminata)</u>, 16.3 ha of roosting and foraging habitat (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.14.3, page H-189).

- <u>Curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)</u>, 16.3 ha of roosting and foraging habitat (refer to Att 1.05 CuS MNES Report & SIAs Appendix H SIA.2 Part5of5, Section 13.14.3, page H-189).
- <u>Common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)</u> 16.3 ha of roosting and foraging habitat (refer to Att 1.05 -CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.14.3, page H-189).

Other potential direct impacts to threatened fauna species listed above include mortality from vehicle strike, and disturbance to breeding and foraging behaviours due to increased noise and activity during construction.

Indirect Impacts

• Potential indirect impacts to threatened fauna species listed above include weed and pest incursion, edge effects, elevated dust, erosion, sedimentation and reduced water quality, increased noise and artificial light and altered fire regimes.

Refer to Att 1.02 - REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Table 7.2, page 138 for further detail on indirect impacts.

Threatened Ecological Communities

The desktop assessment identified no TECs as having the potential to occur within the Study Area, and no TECs were recorded within the Study Area during the 2024 field surveys.

However, Semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar Bioregions (SEVT) TEC has been previously recorded during the 2010/2011 surveys to the south of the current proposed alignment. Refinement of the Project design has completely avoided this SEVT TEC and it occurs more than 2 km from the edge of the Study Area. No suitable habitat for this TEC occurs within the Study Area and it is not anticipated to be impacted by the Project.

4.1.4.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact?

Yes

4.1.4.5 Describe why you consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

A Significant Impact Assessment (SIA) was undertaken for each threatened flora and fauna species known to occur or likely to occur within the Study Area. The SIAs were undertaken in accordance with the Commonwealth Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – MNES (Department of the Environment 2013).

Potential and likely significant impacts

The proposed action has the potential or is likely to result in a significant impact on the following eight (8) threatened flora and fauna species:

- Waxy cabbage palm (*Livistona lanuginosa*): the SIA concluded that the Proposed Action will **potentially** have a significant impact due to the following impacts:
 - Potentially lead to a long-term decrease in the size of an important population of a species.
 - Potentially reduce the area of occupancy of an important population.
 - Potentially fragment an existing important population into two or more populations.
 - Potential to adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species.
 - Potentially interfere substantially with the recovery of the species.

It will be possible to avoid impacts to individual specimens for this species, through micro-siting of infrastructure and selective clearing. However, until further surveys have been conducted – particularly east of the Burdekin River – the potential for significant impacts to this species cannot be discounted.

Refer to Att 1.04 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 12.4, page H-35, for the SIA for the Waxy cabbage palm.

- Squatter Pigeon (southern) (*Geophaps scripta scripta*): the SIA concluded that the Proposed Action will **potentially** have a significant impact due to the following impacts:
 - Potential to adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species.

Refer to Att 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.12, page H-170, for the SIA for the Squatter Pigeon (southern).

- Painted honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*): the SIA concluded that the Proposed Action will **potentially** have a significant impact due to the following impacts:
 - Potential to adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species.
 - Potentially interfere substantially with the recovery of the species.

Refer to Att 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.10, page H-149, for the SIA for the Painted Honeyeater.

- Black-throated finch (southern) (*Poephila cincta cincta*): the SIA concluded that the Proposed Action will **<u>likely</u>** have a significant impact due to the following impacts:
 - Potentially lead to a long-term decrease in the size of a population.
 - Likely to adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species.
 - Potentially disrupt the breeding cycle of a population.
 - Potentially interfere with the recovery of the species.

Refer to Att 1.04 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 13.2, page H-58, for the SIA for the Black-throated Finch.

- Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*): the SIA concluded that the Proposed Action will <u>likely</u> have a significant impact due to the following impacts:
 - Likely to adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species.
 - Potentially disrupt the breeding cycle of a population.

Refer to Att 1.04 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 13.6, page H-103, for the SIA for the Koala.

- Ornamental snake (*Denisonia maculata*): the SIA concluded that the Proposed Action will **potentially** have a significant impact due to the following impacts:
 - Potential to adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species.

Refer to Att 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, section 13.9, page H-140, for the SIA for the Ornamental Snake.

- Greater glider (northern) (*Petauroides minor*): the SIA concluded that the Proposed Action will <u>likely</u> have a significant impact due to the following impacts:
 - Likely to adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species.
 - Potentially disrupt the breeding cycle of an important population.

Refer to Att 1.04 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, section 13.3, page H-70, for the SIA for the Greater Glider (northern).

- Northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*): the SIA concluded that the Proposed Action will **potentially** have a significant impact due to the following impacts:
 - Potentially result in the loss of habitat critical to the survival of the northern quoll.

Refer to Att 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.8, page H-130, for the SIA for the Northern Quoll.

4.1.4.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

Yes

4.1.4.8 Please elaborate why you think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

The Proposed Action has the potential or is likely to result in a significant impact on the following threatened flora and fauna species based on the SIAs undertaken.

- Waxy cabbage palm (*Livistona lanuginosa*)
- Squatter Pigeon (southern) (Geophaps scripta scripta)
- Painted honeyeater (Grantiella picta):
- Black-throated finch (southern) (Poephila cincta cincta)
- Koala (Phascolarctos cinereus)
- Ornamental snake (*Denisonia maculata*)
- Greater glider (northern) (Petauroides minor)
- Northern quoll (Dasyurus hallucatus)

On this basis, the Proposed Action is anticipated to be a controlled action.

4.1.4.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

Powerlink has implemented and will continue to implement the hierarchy of management principles in the planning for and development of the Project. These principles are: Avoid, Minimise, Mitigate, Remediate and rehabilitate, offset (where necessary). Refer to Att 1.02 - REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Section 8.0, pg. 143 for further information regarding the hierarchy of management principles.

Avoid:

During the planning phase of the Project, a number of measures will be employed to avoid and reduce the direct loss of vegetation/habitat in general as well as for listed threatened species.

Throughout all previous and future stages of Project development, a fundamental route selection criteria was considered, refer to Att 1.02 - REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Section 8.1, pg. 143. The fundamental route selection criteria have been/will be considered:

- Minimise construction impacts
- · Minimise disturbance to areas of known ecological value
- Minimise disturbance to existing landholders and land use
- Minimise the terrain constraint on the route
- Minimise corridor length
- Minimise bends in the transmission line
- Maximise ease of access for construction and operation
- · Minimise disturbance to known heritage values
- Minimise disturbance to and potential interference from existing third-party infrastructure.

Additionally, a preliminary ecological constraints assessment was undertaken at the commencement of the Project based on previous surveys and desktop information to identify and avoid areas of high ecological value wherever possible. The key outcomes of this constraints assessment were:

- Minimise construction impacts
- Minimise disturbance to areas of known ecological value

The final Project Footprint will include the following measures:

- Existing tracks will be utilised and proposed tracks will be created within previously disturbed areas wherever possible. This includes widening existing tracks that are currently maintained by the landholders.
- All laydown areas will be located in previously disturbed areas within the Project Footprint, where possible.

Refer to Att 1.02 - REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Section 8.1, page 143 for further information on avoidance measures.

Minimise

The following measures will be implemented to minimise the loss of vegetation and habitats:

- Vegetation clearing will be restricted to the minimal amount necessary for the construction and operation of the Project activities. Micro-siting of infrastructure, such as tower footprints, access tracks, brake and winch sites, and assembly areas, will be undertaken during the detailed design phase to further reduce impacts and to ensure areas of high ecological significance are avoided as a priority.
- Construction of the Project within the Study Area will occur progressively and in phases. By doing this, only a small subset of the Study Area will be impacted at one time. Indirect impacts resulting from the construction of the Project will be localised and temporary, and actively managed as detailed below. Furthermore, clearing extents detailed in Table 7.1 represent a maximum area (refer to Att 1.02 REDACTED CuS MNES Report & SIAs Main body Part2of5, Table 7.1, page 131).
- Powerlink needs clear access to and around transmission lines and substations to ensure their safe and reliable operation, and to conduct essential maintenance work. A working area for maintenance activities of at least 20 m from the outside extent of a transmission tower's footing (including foundations and anchor cables), and 5 m either side of the Conductor Shadow Area (CSA) – the area on the ground directly below and between the overhead wires – needs to be kept clear of obstructions at all times, including incompatible vegetation.
- Outside of the CSA, vegetation will only be cleared or trimmed where it does, or has potential to encroach into the exclusion zone of the conductor at maximum sag.
- Areas of high terrain will facilitate the spanning of vegetated areas, particularly in habitats of low open woodlands and grasslands that feature very sparse canopy trees of very low height. In such areas, clearing is anticipated to be limited to that required for tower footprints and access tracks. Tower footprints and access locations will be determined during the detailed design phase.
- Watercourse crossings containing riparian vegetation corridors will be spanned in most instances, and particularly where MNES ecological values have been identified by desktop mapping or surveys. Larger waterways will have taller towers and longer spans to avoid the bed and banks of waterways and position towers back beyond fringing vegetation. For access tracks across ephemeral waterways, existing crossings or clearings will be used. Any clearing required within a riparian corridor will be minimised with larger habitat trees preferentially retained.
- Reinstatement of temporary construction sites will occur progressively as the construction process advances. Disturbed areas not required for access roads and maintenance areas around structures will be restored as soon as practicable.

Refer to Att 1.02 - REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Section 8.2, page 144.

Mitigate and Manage

A comprehensive Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has been prepared for the CopperString 2032 project (refer to Att 1.03 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix A-G_Part3of5, Appendix G, page 91). The EMP sets out the relevant environmental controls required to be implemented during the Project, and includes specific commitments on the below:

- Native fauna protection
- Vegetation management
- · Biosecurity management
- Soil and water management
- Acid sulphate soils management
- Contaminated land management
- Waste management
- Hazardous materials management
- Air quality management
- Noise and vibration management
- Visual amenity
- Bushfire
- Transport and traffic management.

Refer to Att 1.02 - REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Section 8.3, page 145 for comprehensive details regarding mitigation and management measures and plans to be implemented.

Reinstatement

Nominated areas of temporary construction activities, where not required for operations, will be subject to reinstatement efforts.

Reinstatement will include the planting of species known to the region, consistent with the characteristics of surrounding retained vegetation. Reinstatement will also involve continuous monitoring and management, including erosion prevention, management of weed species and protection and enhancement of impacted water sources to achieve a condition of the historic vegetation at the reinstatement site.

In addition to the general mitigation and management measures, species-specific mitigation measures for threatened flora and fauna species are included in the Significant Impact Assessment:

- Waxy Cabbage palm (refer to Att 1.04 REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 12.4.8, page H-39)
- Squatter Pigeon (southern) (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.12.8, page H-172)
- Painted Honeyeater (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.10.8, page H-151)
- Black-throated Finch (southern) (refer to Att 1.04 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 13.2.8, page H-61)
- Koala (refer to Att 1.04 REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 13.6.8, page H-106)
- Ornamental Snake (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.9.8, page H-143)
- Greater Glider (northern) (refer to Att 1.04 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5, Section 13.3.8, page H-76)
- Northern Quoll (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 13.8.8, page H-133)

4.1.4.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

Powerlink are committed to providing suitable offsets for activities that result in significant residual impacts to MNES, in accordance with the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy. A Draft Biodiversity Offset Management Strategy was developed as part of the Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) (GHD, 2021) (refer to Att 4.01_CuS_SEIS_Attachment G-Draft Biodiversity Offset Management Strategy). Powerlink are currently in the process of identifying, validating and securing appropriate land-based offsets to address the significant residual impacts resulting from Project activities.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name	
Yes	Yes	Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper	
Yes	Yes	Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift	
Yes	Yes	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	
Yes	Yes	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper	
No	No	Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper	
No	No	Charadrius leschenaultii	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover	
Yes	Yes	Crocodylus porosus	Salt-water Crocodile, Estuarine Crocodile	
No	No	Cuculus optatus	Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo	
Yes	Yes	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe	
Yes	Yes	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail	
No	No	Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail	

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail
No	No	Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
Yes	Yes	Pandion haliaetus	Osprey
Yes	Yes	Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank, Greenshank

4.1.5.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

Yes

4.1.5.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters. *

The Proposed Action involves activities that have the potential to directly or indirectly impact on EPBC Act listed migratory species. Refer to Att 1.02 - REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Section 7.0, page 130 for a detailed description of direct and indirect impacts from construction activities.

The Proposed Action's potential direct and indirect impacts to the relevant migratory species are summarised below and further detailed in Att 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 14.0, page H-216.

Direct Impacts (Note: migratory species that are dual listed as threatened are not included in this list of migratory species)

Vegetation clearing is a direct impact that can result in the loss of vegetation values and habitat. The direct impact to suitable habitat for migratory species is as follows:

- <u>Fork-tailed swift (Apus pacificus)</u> This species were not recorded within the Study Area, however records occur in the surrounding areas, including Hughenden, Prairie and White Mountains National Park. Given the species' aerial nature, the entire Study Area is considered to provide suitable foraging habitat. The Proposed Action will result in the clearing of 2,316.2 ha of foraging habitat (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 14.2.3, page H-227).
- <u>Saltwater crocodile (Crocodylus porosus)</u>: This species was not recorded during the field survey program, however suitable habitat occurs along the larger river systems including the Reid River, Haughton River, Four Mile Creek, Pandanus Creek, the Burdekin River, and Charlie Creek. The Proposed Action will result in the clearing of 4.1 ha of suitable habitat (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 14.4.3, page H-244).
- <u>Common sandpiper (Actitis hypoleucos)</u>: This species was not recorded within the Study Area during the field surveys; however desktop records exist in the surrounding area. The Proposed Action will result in the clearing of 16.3 ha of roosting and foraging habitat (refer to Att 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 14.1.3, page H-216).
- <u>Eastern osprey (Pandion haliaetus)</u>: Suitable habitat in the Study Area includes the Burdekin River, Campaspe River, Charlie Creek, Reid River, Haughton River, Four Mile Creek and Pandanus Creek. Records from 2022 occur at the Burdekin River, north of the Study Area, and a 2021 record occurs at the Campaspe River, just south of the Study Area. The Proposed Action will result in the

clearing of 22.6 ha of nesting and foraging habitat (refer to Att 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 14.3.3, page H-236).

Indirect impacts

Potential indirect impacts on migratory species as a result of the Proposed Action include:

- Increased edge effects reducing the condition of quality of remaining vegetation communities and habitat types.
- The establishment and spread of exotic species that may displace native species, native habitat resources and alter fire regimes
- Soil exposure resulting in an increased risk of erosion and sedimentation of water bodies, reducing water quality and degrading aquatic habitats.
- Increased risk of contamination associated with activities such as refuelling or storage of chemicals.
- Generation of dust emissions leading to excessive deposition of dust on leaved of plants suppressing photosynthesis and growth.
- Increased noise and light levels affecting foraging and breeding behaviour for some fauna species or resulting in complete avoidance and displacement from habitats.
- Periodic burst of elevated noise levels may startle and disorientate fauna species within proximity.
- Although unlikely, increased anthropogenic activity may lead to temporary increased pest levels.

Refer to Att 1.02 - REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Section 7.1.2, page 134 for further details on indirect impacts.

4.1.5.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact?

*

No

4.1.5.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

A Significant Impact Assessment (SIA) was undertaken for each migratory species known to occur or likely to occur within the Study Area. The SIAs were undertaken in accordance with Commonwealth *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – MNES* (Department of the Environment, 2013). The SIA and survey effort also considered the *Draft referral guideline for 14 birds listed as migratory species under the EPBC Act* (Department of the Environment, 2015b) and the *EPBC Act Policy Statement 3.21: Industry guidelines for avoiding, assessing and mitigating impacts on EPBC Act listed migratory shorebird species* (Department of the Environment and Energy, 2017).

Fork-tailed Swift (Apus pacificus)

The SIA for the Fork-tailed Swift concluded that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact due to:

- No fragmentation impacts are anticipated due to the species high mobility capacity. The Project will not lead to the further degradation of retained habitat, as potential indirect impacts such as altered fire regimes, edge effects, weeds and pests will be actively managed via Project management plans.
- Across the Study Area, existing cleared areas created for fences, tracks, roads or for grazing
 purposes are likely to act as conduits for pest movement. Clearing for the Project is therefore unlikely
 to further facilitate the movement of any pests that occur. The Project will employ best practice
 control methods for weeds and pests and is unlikely to introduce or exacerbate weeds or pests
 beyond existing levels.
- Based on the species aerial nature and broad habitat requirements, it is unlikely the population will rely on the potential habitat within the Study Area for any part of its lifecycle. Utilisation will be limited

to the migratory period (October to April), while flocks are completing local movements and/or foraging.

Refer to Att 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Table 14.4, page H-229 for the SIA for the Fork-tailed Swift.

Saltwater Crocodile (Crocodylus prosus)

The SIA for Saltwater Crocodile concluded that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact due to:

- The Project will not lead to the further degradation of retained habitat, as potential indirect impacts such as altered fire regimes, noise and lighting will be actively managed via Project management plans. Based on the above, the Project is unlikely to substantially modify, destroy or isolate an area of important habitat for the saltwater crocodile.
- No invasive species which threaten the Saltwater Crocodile are present within the Study Area. Further, The Project will employ best practice control methods for weeds and pests and is unlikely to introduce or exacerbate weeds or pests beyond existing levels.
- Given the predicted size and wide-ranging distribution of the population, it is considered unlikely that the Project will seriously disrupt the lifecycle of an ecologically significant proportion of the population. However targeted preclearance surveys will be undertaken to identify and avoid any potential nest sites.

Refer to Att 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Table 14.8, page H-246 for the SIA for the Saltwater Crocodile.

Common Sandpiper (Actitis hypoleucos)

The SIA for Common Sandpiper concluded that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact due to:

- The Project will not impact the species or limit its mobility given the species capacity to move large distances. The Project will not lead to the further degradation of retained habitat, as potential indirect impacts such as altered fire regimes, edge effects, weeds and pests will be actively managed via Project management plans.
- Historical clearing has occurred in discrete locations across the Study Area primarily for cattle grazing purposes. It is considered likely that the farm tracks and fence lines already act as conduits for pest movement in the landscape.
- It is unlikely that any population present will rely on the potential habitat within the Study Area for any part of its lifecycle. Home ranges and territories are not maintained while the species is in Australia.

Refer to Att 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Table 14.2, page H-219 for the SIA for the Common Sandpiper.

Eastern Osprey (Pandion haliaetus)

The SIA for Eastern Osprey concluded that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact due to:

- The Project will not impact the species or limit its mobility given the species capacity to move large distances. The Project will not lead to the further degradation of retained habitat, as potential indirect impacts such as altered fire regimes, edge effects, weeds and pests will be actively managed via Project management plans.
- The Project will employ best practice control methods for weeds and pests and is unlikely to introduce or exacerbate weeds or pests beyond existing levels.
- Given the predicted size and wide-ranging distribution of the population, it is considered unlikely that the Project will seriously disrupt the lifecycle of an ecologically significant proportion of the population.

Refer to Att 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Table 14.6, page H-238 for the SIA for the Eastern Osprey.

4.1.5.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

4.1.5.9 Please elaborate why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action.

*

The Proposed Action has been assessed against the Significant Impact Assessment Guidelines 1.1 which identified that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on migratory species. Based on this information, the Project is not considered a controlled action for impacts to migratory species. Refer to Att 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 14.0, page H-216 to H-248.

4.1.5.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

Powerlink has implemented and will continue to implement the hierarchy of management principles in the planning for and development of the Project. These principles and the order in which they are applied is as follows: Avoid, Minimise, Mitigate, Remediate and rehabilitate, and Offset (where necessary). The Avoid, Minimise and Mitigate (and manage), Reinstatement approaches have been summarised below. Refer to Att 1.02 - REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Section 8.0, pages 143 to 151 for further information regarding the hierarchy of management principles.

Avoid

Throughout all previous and future stages of Project development, the following fundamental route selection criteria have been/will be considered:

- Minimise construction impacts
- Minimise disturbance to areas of known ecological value
- · Minimise disturbance to existing landholders and land use
- Minimise the terrain constraint on the route
- Minimise corridor length
- Minimise bends in the transmission line
- · Maximise ease of access for construction and operation
- · Minimise disturbance to known heritage values
- Minimise disturbance to and potential interference from existing third-party infrastructure.

The final Project Footprint will include the following measures:

- Existing tracks will be utilised and proposed tracks will be created within previously disturbed areas wherever possible. This includes widening existing tracks that are currently maintained by the landholders.
- All laydown areas will be located in previously disturbed areas within the Project Footprint, where
 possible.

Refer to Att 1.02 - REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Section 8.1, page 143 for further details regarding avoidance measures to be implemented.

Minimise

The following measures will be implemented to minimise the loss of vegetation and habitats:

- Vegetation clearing will be restricted to the minimal amount necessary for the construction and operation of the Project activities. Micro-siting of infrastructure, such as tower footprints, access tracks, brake and winch sites, and assembly areas, will be undertaken during the detailed design phase to further reduce impacts and to ensure areas of high ecological significance are avoided as a priority.
- Construction of the Project within the Study Area will occur progressively and in phases. By doing this, only a small subset of the Study Area will be impacted at one time. Indirect impacts resulting from the construction of the Project will be localised and temporary, and actively managed as detailed below. Furthermore, clearing extents detailed in Table 7.1 represent a maximum area (refer to Att 1.02 REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Table 7.1, page 131).
- Powerlink needs clear access to and around transmission lines and substations to ensure their safe and reliable operation, and to conduct essential maintenance work. A working area for maintenance activities of at least 20 m from the outside extent of a transmission tower's footing (including foundations and anchor cables), and 5 m either side of the Conductor Shadow Area (CSA) – the area on the ground directly below and between the overhead wires – needs to be kept clear of obstructions at all times, including incompatible vegetation.
- Outside of the CSA, vegetation will only be cleared or trimmed where it does, or has potential to encroach into the exclusion zone of the conductor at maximum sag.
- Areas of high terrain will facilitate the spanning of vegetated areas, particularly in habitats of low open woodlands and grasslands that feature very sparse canopy trees of very low height. In such areas, clearing is anticipated to be limited to that required for tower footprints and access tracks. Tower footprints and access locations will be determined during the detailed design phase.
- Watercourse crossings containing riparian vegetation corridors will be spanned in most instances, and particularly where MNES ecological values have been identified by desktop mapping or surveys. Larger waterways will have taller towers and longer spans to avoid the bed and banks of waterways and position towers back beyond fringing vegetation. For access tracks across ephemeral waterways, existing crossings or clearings will be used. Any clearing required within a riparian corridor will be minimised with larger habitat trees preferentially retained.
- Reinstatement of temporary construction sites will occur progressively as the construction process advances. Disturbed areas not required for access roads and maintenance areas around structures will be restored as soon as practicable.

Mitigate and Manage

A comprehensive Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has been prepared for the CopperString 2032 project (refer to Att 1.03 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix A-G_Part3of5, Appendix G, page 91). The EMP sets out the relevant environmental controls required to be implemented during the Project, and includes specific commitments on the below:

- Native fauna protection
- Vegetation management
- Biosecurity management

- Soil and water management
- Acid sulphate soils management
- Contaminated land management
- Waste management
- Hazardous materials management
- Air quality management
- Noise and vibration management
- Visual amenity
- Bushfire
- Transport and traffic management.

Refer to Att 1.02 - REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5, Section 8.3, page 145 for comprehensive details regarding mitigation and management measures and plans to be implemented.

Reinstatement

Reinstatement will include the planting of species known to the region, consistent with the characteristics of surrounding retained vegetation. Reinstatement will also involve continuous monitoring and management, including erosion prevention, management of weed species and protection and enhancement of impacted water sources to achieve a condition of the historic vegetation at the reinstatement site.

In addition to the general mitigation and management measures, species-specific mitigation measures for migratory shorebirds and the Eastern osprey are included in the Significant Impact Assessment:

- Eastern osprey (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 14.3.8, page H-237)
- Saltwater crocodile (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 14.4.8, page H-246)
- Common Sandpiper (refer to Att 1.05 CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5, Section 14.1.8, page H-219)
- Due to aerial nature of the Fork-tailed Swift, no species-specific mitigation measures have been identified.

4.1.5.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

No offset is proposed as a significant impact assessment concluded that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on migratory species.

4.1.6 Nuclear

4.1.6.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.6.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

The proposed action is for transmission infrastructure and does not involve or include nuclear actions.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

_

4.1.7.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.7.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The proposed action is for transmission infrastructure and is not directly located within a Commonwealth Marina Area.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

4.1.8.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

*

4.1.8.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

The proposed action is for transmission infrastructure and does not impact on Great Barrier Reef.

4.1.9 Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas

4.1.9.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.9.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The proposed action is for transmission infrastructure and is not a large mining development or a coal seam gas development.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Commonwealth land area
No	No	Defence - MACROSSAN CAMP

4.1.10.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.10.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The Macrossan Airfield, an RSU (Repair and Salvage Unit) base during WWII now used as an RAAF stores depot, is located within the Study Area and approximately 10 km north-west of the Southern Corridor identified within the CopperString 2032 Burdekin River to Reid River Section Recommended Corridor and Substation Site Selection Report (RC&SSSR) (refer to Att 2.01 - CuS2032_Burdekin_River-Reid_River_RC&SSSR). This Southern Corridor has been nominated in the RC&SSSR as the preferred corridor, and thus is the basis of assessment east of the Burdekin River for this referral.

Powerlink understands the airfield is still used for infrequent flights by the Australian Defence Force. Given the Macrossan Airfield is located approximately 10 km north-west of the Southern Corridor, a transmission line within the corridor is unlikely to impact on the approach / take off path for aircraft. As such the project will not have a direct or indirect impact on Commonwealth Land, or its use.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

4.1.11.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

*

4.1.11.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

The project will not be located on Commonwealth heritage places overseas.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

4.1.12.1 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth Agency? *

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will likely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

• Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will unlikely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

- World Heritage (S12)
- National Heritage (S15B)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)
- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

4.3 Alternatives

4.3.1 Do you have any possible alternatives for your proposed action to be considered as part of your referral? *

Yes

4.3.2 Do you have an alternative timeline you are proposing for your proposed action? *

No

4.3.3 Briefly describe why an alternate timeline for your proposed action was not possible.

*

The Reid River to Hughenden 500 kV Transmission Line Project will be the final piece of the CopperString 2032 Project. The timeframes proposed to deliver the Reid River to Hughenden 500 kV Transmission Line Project aligns with the commitment that the Queensland Government and, in turn, Powerlink have made to complete this important connection.

4.3.4 Do you have an alternative location you are proposing for your proposed action? *

No

4.3.5 Briefly describe why an alternative location for your proposed action was not possible. *

In March 2023, Powerlink took ownership of the CopperString 2032 project. Powerlink recently completed a review of the section of the project between the Burdekin River east to the proposed Mulgrave substation site. This review identified significant constructability, access and operational issues for the proposed transmission line corridor and substation site due to very steep terrain and the requirement to construct significant access tracks and waterway crossings through areas that experience flooding and inundation.

Given these factors, Powerlink is no longer proceeding with the transmission line corridor and substation site in the location previously specified in the EIS and SEIS. Instead, two alternative corridors (Northern and Southern) east of the Burdekin River were identified, terminating at a substation investigation area in the Reid River locality. Comparative assessment of the corridor and substation site options was documented in the RC&SSSR (refer to Att 2.01 - CuS2032_Burdekin_River-Reid_River_RC&SSSR). The assessment identified, for consultation, the Southern corridor option as the preferrable route for the transmission line, on the basis of less impact to environmental, social and existing infrastructure constraints. The corridor and site selection process is being finalised, in consideration of consultation feedback and in parallel to the referral of the Proposed Action.

4.3.6 Do you have alternative activities you are proposing for your proposed action? *

No

4.3.7 Briefly describe why an alternative activity for your proposed action was not

possible. *

The Reid River to Hughenden 500 kV Transmission Line Project will be the final piece of the CopperString 2032 transmission line connection between Queensland's North West Minerals Province (NWMP, Mt Isa region) to the National Electricity Market (east coast of Australia).

In its own right, the Reid River to Hughenden 500 kV Transmission Line Project will provide a critical connection between the newly identified Flinders Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) and the National Electricity Market, unlocking vast renewable resources near Hughenden. The Flinders REZ is forecast to host up to 2,400 MW of renewable energy generation projects, resulting in up to 450 new construction jobs (Department of Energy and Public Works, 2023). As stated in the Queensland Government's 2023 Queensland Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap:

"The CopperString 2032 project which will be delivered by Government is set to open up the Hughenden region for new renewable development and connect the North West Minerals Province to the grid, powering the critical minerals industry opportunities."

and

"A critical section of the CopperString transmission line is the connection between Townsville and Hughenden. The Hughenden region is known for its exceptional wind quality, which makes it highly suitable for establishing new wind farms in the region"

As a result, the Project will support the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments in achieving emission reduction targets by contributing to the transition to clean energy generation.

The criticality of this section of transmission line to unlocking the Flinders REZ means that no other alternatives have been considered.

4.3.4 Alternatives: Impact and mitigation

4.3.4.1 Do these alternatives have a different impact, avoidance, or mitigation measure compared to what you have already provided? *

No

4.3.5 Alternatives: Considered alternatives

4.3.5.1 Do you have any other alternative actions, including not taking the action, that you have considered but are not proposing as part of this referral? *

No

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensi	tivi G onfidence
#1.	Docum	en&tt 1.01 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part1of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part1of5	27/11/2	0 2N o	High
#2.	Docum	en&tt 2.01 - CuS2032_Burdekin_River- Reid_River_RC&SSSR.pdf CopperString 2032 Burdekin River to Reid River Section Recommended Corridor and Substation Site Selection Report		No	High

1.2.5 Information about the staged development

	Туре Name	Date	Sensitivi G onfidence
#1.	Document		

Att 2.01 - CuS2032_Burdekin_River-	No	High
Reid_River_RC&SSSR.pdf		
CopperString 2032 Burdekin River to Reid River Section		
Recommended Corridor and Substation Site Selection		
Report		

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensiti	vi G onfidenc
#1.	Docum	erAtt 3.01_Cu2_EIS_Volume-3-AppendixC-Public- consultation-report.pdf Cu2_EIS_Volume-3-AppendixC-Public-consultation-report		No	High
#2.	Link	CopperString 2032 https://www.powerlink.com.au/projects/copperstri			High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivi G onfidence
#1.	Link	Land use mapping series - Dataset - Open Data		High
		Portal Queensland Government		
		https://www.data.qld.gov.au/dataset/land-use-map		

3.1.3 Natural features, important or unique values that applies to the project area

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivi G onfidence
#1.	Link	White Mountains National Park		High
		https://parks.desi.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf		

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensit	tivi G onfidence
#1.	Docum	en&tt 1.01 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part1of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part1of5	26/11/2	024	High
#2.	Docum	er A tt 1.02 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5	26/11/2	0 24 es	High
#3.	Docum	er A tt 1.02 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5.pdf Redacted_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5	26/11/2	0 2NI O	High
#4.	Docum	er A tt 1.04 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5	26/11/2	0 24 es	High

#5. DocumerAtt 1.04 - REDACTED CuS MNES Report & 26/11/2024 High SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5.pdf Redacted_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1 Part4of5

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitiv	vi G onfidenc
#1.	Docume	en&tt 1.02 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5	25/11/20)24es	High
#2.	Docume	en&tt 1.02 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5.pdf Redacted_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5	25/11/20)24	High

3.3.1 Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places that apply to the project area

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensi	tivi G onfidence
#1.	Docum	enAtt 2.01 - CuS2032_Burdekin_River- Reid_River_RC&SSSR.pdf CopperString 2032 Burdekin River to Reid River Section Recommended Corridor and Substation Site Selection		No	High
		Recommended Corridor and Substation Site Selection Report			

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensiti	ivi G onfidenc
#1.	Docum	en&tt 1.01 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part1of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part1of5	26/11/2	024	High

4.1.4.2 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensit	ivi G onfidenc
#1.	Docum	en&tt 1.02 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5	25/11/2	024es	High
#2.	Docum	en&tt 1.02 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5.pdf Redacted_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5	25/11/2	024	High
#3.	Docum	en&tt 1.04 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5	25/11/2	0 24 es	High

#4. Document

Att 1.04 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5.pdf Redacted_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5	25/11/2024	High	
#5. Documen&tt 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_A SIA.2_Part5of5.pdf	ppendix H	27/11/20 2N o	High
CuS MNES Report & SIAs Appendix H	SIA.2 Part5of5		

4.1.4.5 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensiti	ivi 6 jonfidence
#1.	Docum	en&tt 1.04 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5	25/11/2	0 24 es	High
#2.	Docum	en A tt 1.04 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5.pdf Redacted_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5	25/11/2	02140	High
#3.	Docum	en&tt 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5	26/11/2	024	High

4.1.4.10 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensi	tivi G onfidenco
#1.	Docum	en&tt 1.02 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5	25/11/2	2024/es	High
#2.	Docum	en&tt 1.02 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5.pdf Redacted_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5	25/11/2	202140	High
#3.	Docum	en&tt 1.03 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix A- G_Part3of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix A-G_Part3of5	26/11/2	2024	High
#4.	Docum	enAtt 1.04 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5	25/11/2	20 24 es	High
#5.	Docum	enAtt 1.04 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5.pdf Redacted_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.1_Part4of5	25/11/2	202140	High
#6.	Docum	en&tt 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5	26/11/2	2024	High

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4.1.4.11 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Proposed offsets relevant to avoidance or mitigation measures

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensit	tivi G onfidenc
#1.	Docum	enAtt 4.01_CuS_SEIS_Attachment G-Draft Biodiversity Offset Management Strategy.pdf		No	High
		Management Strategy			

4.1.5.2 (Migratory Species) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensi	tivi G onfidenc
#1.	Docum	er A tt 1.02 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5	25/11/2	0 24 es	High
#2.	Docum	en&tt 1.02 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5.pdf Redacted_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5	25/11/2	02140	High
#3.	Docum	en&tt 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5	26/11/2	02140	High

4.1.5.6 (Migratory Species) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

Туре	Name	Date	Sens	itivi G onfidence
#1. Docun	ienAtt 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5	26/11/2	02140	High

4.1.5.9 (Migratory Species) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

٦	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitiv	vi G onfidence
#1. [Docume	n&tt 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5	26/11/20) 2N o	High

4.1.5.10 (Migratory Species) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensi	tivi G onfidenc
#1.	Docum	en&tt 1.02 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5	25/11/2	024es	High
#2.	Docum	en&tt 1.02 – REDACTED_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5.pdf Redacted_CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Main body_Part2of5	25/11/2	021410	High

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#3.	Documen&tt 1.03 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix A- G_Part3of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix A-G_Part3of5	27/11/20 2N o	High
#4.	Documen&tt 1.05 - CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5.pdf CuS_MNES Report & SIAs_Appendix H SIA.2_Part5of5	26/11/2024	High

4.1.10.3 (Commonwealth Land) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensi	tivi G onfidenc
#1.	Docum	enAtt 2.01 - CuS2032_Burdekin_River- Reid_River_RC&SSSR.pdf CopperString 2032 Burdekin River to Reid River Section Recommended Corridor and Substation Site Selection Report		No	High

4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivi G onfidence
#1.	#1. Link 2023 Queensland Renewable Energy Zone		High	
		Roadmap		
		https://www.epw.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_fil		

4.3.5 Why an alternative location for your proposed action was not possible

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensiti	vi G onfidence
#1.	Docume	enAtt 2.01 - CuS2032_Burdekin_River- Reid_River_RC&SSSR.pdf CopperString 2032 Burdekin River to Reid River Section Recommended Corridor and Substation Site Selection Report		No	High

4.3.7 Why an alternative activity for your proposed action was not possible

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivi G onfidence
#1.	Link	2023 Queensland Renewable Energy Zone		High
		Roadmap		
		https://www.epw.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_fil		

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	18059519041
Organisation name	UMWELT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.
Organisation address	75 York Street, Teralba, NSW, 2284
Representative's name	Savvas Hatzipapas
Representative's job title	Principal Environmental Planner
Phone	0436 436 674
Email	shatzipapas@umwelt.com.au
Address	145 Ann Street, Brisbane, QLD, 4001

Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

By checking this box, I, **Savvas Hatzipapas of UMWELT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	82078849233
Organisation name	QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
Organisation address	33 Harold St, Virginia, QLD, 4014
Representative's name	Mark Barnett
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Advisor

Phone	0411 251 072
Email	mark.barnett@powerlink.com.au
Address	33 Harold St, Virginia QLD 4014

Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

I, Mark Barnett of QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION

LIMITED, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

The Proposed designated proponent is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

I, Mark Barnett of QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION

LIMITED, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *