



APPENDIX G DRAFT EIS SUBMISSIONS AND RESPONSES

Submitter	Issue	Response
Department of Community Safety	11.8 State Planning Scheme Policies It is noted that pursuant to Schedule 1, Part 2, Section 18, subsection (5A) of the repealed Integrated Planning Act 1997, the Minister had identified the following SPP as having been appropriately reflected in both the Chinchilla Shire and Wambo Shire Planning Schemes: - SPP 1/03 Mitigating the adverse impacts of flood, bushfire and landslide Comment: The Minister has identified the SPP as being appropriately reflected for bushfire hazard only	RPS have spoken with the Department of Community Safety (31 August 2010, 11:30am) and the Department now note that the Planning Schemes appropriately reflect both bushfire and landslide in SPP1/03. Flood is the element in the SPP1/03 that has not been addressed in the Planning Schemes. Section 11.8 of EIS to be amended to incorporate landslide. Flooding has been addressed in Section 7.2.4 and Figure 7.2 of the EIS.
	Table 11.1 Town Planning Summary Table The Minister has identified the SPP as having been appropriately reflected in the planning scheme. The development is considered to be consistent with the requirements of the Airport Overlay Code in the planning scheme and is therefore considered to comply with the SPP. Comment This statement is only true for bushfire hazard not flood and landslide. Because these planning schemes do not have ministerial sign off as reflecting flood and landslide elements of SPP 1/03, the SPP itself becomes the default assessment tool for these hazards. This means the proponent must demonstrate how the development will achieve Outcome 3 of the SPP. Information to assist in this task is provided in Appendix 9 of the SPP 1/03 Guideline.	RPS have spoken with the Department of Community Safety (31 August 2010, 11:30am) and the Department now note that the Planning schemes appropriately reflect both bushfire and landslide in SPP1/03. Flooding has been addressed in Section 7.2.4 and Figure 7.2 of the EIS. RPS has amended Section 7.4.1 to identify that the towers have been developed to withstand a Q100 flood in line with the requirements of Appendix 9 and outcome 3 of the SPP 1/03 Guideline.
Department of Community Safety (Queensland Ambulance Service)	The project is likely to increase road usage by heavy vehicles carrying "oversize" loads during the construction phase. During planning for construction, QAS will need to be advised of detailed locations of construction, estimated number of people employed and duration of construction. It is recommended that following	Powerlink's construction teams to advise the QAS of contacts, project information and supply GPS coordinates of each tower to accelerate access in the event of an emergency. This has been amended in the EIS (Section 16.3.1) and the EMP (Section 5.13.3).

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	the appointment of the construction company, arrangements are made to ensure ongoing liaison will occur throughout the term of construction.	
	QFRS has a legislative jurisdiction to provide input into the design of a building or structure's fire safety systems as an advice agency. The advice provided by QFRS must be in accordance with the <i>Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009</i> , Schedule 7, table 1, for Building Work assessable against the <i>Building Act 1975</i> .	Schedule 3, Part 2 of the Sustainable Planning Regulations 2009 identifies that building works is Self Assessable Development as Powerlink is a Public Sector Entity. Therefore, building work as part of this project would be deemed self-assessable development and as such, would not be formally assessable against the SPA and consequently, QFRS cannot be a referral agency.
Department of Community Safety (Queensland Fire and Rescue Service)	QFRS has read the published document concerning the project and has no further comment at this stage. QFRS reserves the right to comment on any future documentation in relation to the project.	Statement only. Noted.
	QFRS invites the company to contact us for advice in the formulation of the final plan in the areas of fire risk identification and mitigation strategies to deal with this risk.	Section 8.4 dot point 1 amended to incorporate comments.
Department of Community Safety (Emergency Management Queensland)	EMQ has concerns in relation to the impact developments may have on existing emergency services. Many of the local emergency services are volunteer based that are used to dealing with minor incidents generally with limited resources. Increased population (work/construction crews), increased road traffic and transportation requirements have the potential to place a significant burden on local services. EMQ requests that Local Government and the local Emergency Services be kept fully informed of proposed developments and timeframes.	This request has been added to Section 16.3 of EIS. Powerlink's Construction Manager will liaise with EMQ regarding time frames and contact details.
	Appropriate regional contacts for the QFRS, QAS and EMQ have been provided by DCS.	Contacts provided have been included in the EMP Section 5.13.3.
Department of Environment and Resource	Alternative clearing techniques for erosive soils (section 3.2.2.2, p21) The EIS identifies clearing methods such as hand clearing for moderate terrain and riparian areas. Alternative clearing methods should also be	Section 3.2.2.2 and Section 5.5.1 of EIS has been amended to reflect alternative clearing methods dependent on soil conditions.

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Management	considered for sodic soils. Vegetation clearing methods such as stick raking, chaining or tree spearing and pushing that are likely to expose sodic subsoils are not suitable. Recommendation Alternative clearing methods are considered for areas where it is likely that sodic subsoils could be exposed by traditional clearing methods.	
	Removal of commercial timber on State Land (section 3.2.2.2, p21) The Transmission Line proposes to traverse three reserves (Lots 20 & 21 DY1072 and Lot 24 DY432) that may contain quantities of commercial timber. Therefore, DERM requires early notification (at least 3 months in advance) of the survey and/or construction of the transmission line to enable DERM Forest Product staff to assess and if necessary arrange for the recovery of this material or seek compensation for the material lost. Also if quarry material is proposed to be obtained from these reserves (or other state land) for construction purposes such as for tower pads or access roads, DERM Forest Products will need to be notified so that suitable arrangements for royalties can be determined. Recommendation Powerlink will provide at least three months notification to DERM of any proposed surveying/clearing within State Land so that the necessary surveys can be undertaken to determine the extent of commercial timber present	Section 3.2.2.2 of the EIS has been amended to state: <i>Powerlink will provide at least three months notification to DERM of any proposed clearing within State Land so that the necessary assessment can be undertaken to determine the extent of commercial timber present.</i> Section 5.15.3 of the EMP has been amended to incorporate comments.
	Windrows of cleared vegetation (section 3.2.2.2, p 21) The EIS mentions that “timber will be felled with the residual material normally windrowed within the easement”. Vegetation that is windrowed has	Section 3.2.2.2 of the EIS has been amended to reflect no concentration of overland flows. EMP Section 5.15.4 also amended to reflect these comments.

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	the potential to concentrate overland flows and cause erosion. Recommendation If debris is spread back over the easement or stockpiled, care must be taken to ensure the placement of timber does not concentrate overland flow that has the potential to increase erosion.	
	Corridor Clearing (section 3.2.2.2, p 21) Extensive fragmentation of vegetation along corridor means that all areas of remnant vegetation should be considered sensitive environmental areas. Broad scale clearing with a bulldozer is not the preferred method of tree removal along the corridor route. Canopy species and taller mid-storey species should be removed, where possible, using hand or mechanical clearing (chainsaw) techniques. Vegetation material cleared within the corridor should be utilised <i>in-situ</i> to provide habitat for ground dwelling species. Recommendation Include more information in the EIS in relation to the proposed Corridor clearing and clearing methods. For the new easement the clearing width should be restricted to 40m through areas of remnant vegetation. Also the extent of clearing of the new line paralleling the existing Kogan-Braemar Transmission line should be minimised.	Section 3.2.2.2 of the EIS states identifies corridor clearing methods. This section states: <i>Areas of vegetation that may need to be cleared or modified will be defined once the precise location of each tower and the respective conductor height are known. The extent and type of clearing required is dependent upon terrain, vegetation type and to some extent landowner and land use requirements. Clearing methods may vary from selective vegetation removal using chainsaws and other hand tools, bulldozer and stick rake in heavier vegetation, through to mega mulching to minimize soil disturbance. At tower sites, sufficient area will be cleared to allow tower assembly and erection. This area should be sufficient to cater for cranes and elevated work platform trucks. The tower footprint will also be "grubbed" for stumps.</i>
	Disposal of sodic material (section 3.2.2.3 p23) The EIS states that the surplus material will be spread evenly about the site or removed. Care is required in managing sodic and saline subsoils to minimise the risks of impacts on land and water resources. Sodic subsoil material, if left exposed on the surface without amelioration, can cause surface sealing, leading to reduced vegetation	Section 3.2.2.3 amended to state: <i>Where sodic soils have been identified, appropriate treatment methods are to be adopted.</i>

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	cover and increased rates of runoff, resulting in accelerated erosion. Also where sodic or saline subsoils are present, chemical analysis of the soils should also be undertaken to ensure there is no risk of corrosion of concrete footings from chlorine or sulphate material. Recommendation At locations where the towers are to be sited, salinity and sodicity of the soils should be analysed to ensure appropriate methods are used to ensure stability of concrete footings; also appropriate disposal methods can be implemented especially for sodic, saline or dispersive subsoils.	
	Rehabilitation/revegetation of Transmission Line easement (3.3 & 3.4 p24-6) Rehabilitation/revegetation should take place as soon after vegetation removal as possible. The proposed methods of revegetation (including species to be used, methods, timing, maintenance, regrowth monitoring, weed removal and monitoring, the potential use of cleared vegetation for rehabilitation/compensatory habitat, provision of ground level habitat or erosion control mulch), etc. should be considered	Issue addressed in EMP. See Section 5.15.4.
	Migratory Birds (Section 4.1.1, p28) Although no listed migratory within the Study Alignment, listed migratory species have been recorded within the local area (details in Section 10.0). Measures need to be included to prevent these species (or any other migratory species or non-migratory species) from injury from flying into the Transmission Line. Recommendation Aerial Power line markers (either spherical ones or propeller-type ones) should be put on the	A review of the potential risk of migratory and non migratory species flying into towers and associated transmission lines was undertaken. This assessment identified the highest risk of this event occurring was at Braemar Creek in the span across the dam in the creek. It is recommended aerial markers are installed on the earth wires at this location. Section 10.3.2.2 of the EIS and Section 5.9.4 of the EMP have been amended to reflect the above.

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	Transmission Line in any areas that may have migrating birds passing through them. Land Act Easements (section 4.2.6, p35) Provisions of the <i>Land Act 1994</i> - Division 8, Easements, Section 369, Public Utility Easements – require that easements for public utilities on unallocated State Land or Reserves are to be registered. Recommendation Section 4.2.6 should be amended to reflect the requirements of the <i>Land Act 1994</i>.	Section 4.2.8 in the EIS has been amended to reflect the requirements of the <i>Land Act 1994</i>.
	Consideration of the Forestry Act (section 4.0, p27-40) The provisions of the <i>Forestry Act 1959</i> may apply to this project as it traverses State land including reserves and roads. The application of the <i>Forestry Act</i> is not restricted to only state forest areas. Approvals may be required under the <i>Forestry Act 1959</i> for quarry materials and forest products obtained from State Land. Recommendation Reference to the <i>Forestry Act 1959</i> should be included in the EIS	Reference to the <i>Forestry Act 1959</i> has been incorporated into the EIS Section 4.2.6.
	Appropriate Review of available mapping (section 5.1, p46) No reference made to the <i>Central Downs Land Management Manual Harris et al. 1999</i>, which covers the eastern 6km of the proposed alignment and appears to be used in Figure 5.3 Recommendation All references used should be appropriately acknowledged throughout the EIS including the source of data used in Figures.	All references have been amended and appropriately acknowledged throughout the EIS including the source of data used in Figures.
	Appropriately detailing the impact of the proposal on GQAL (section 5.3.5, p58) Section 5.3.5 says “Cropping (with some safety	Section 5.3.5 and Section 11.4.1.1 has been amended to identify cropping that currently occurs to the east of the study area. Cropping isn’t precluded (with the exception of the tower footprint) and current land use activities can continue

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	considerations) and grazing will still be able to occur within the transmission line easement...” While section 11.4.1.1 (p130) stated ‘that Class A GQAL will be restricted to grazing purposes’. It is not clear why cropping practices would not be able to continue on Class A land following the construction of the transmission line. Recommendation Clarification is required on the potential impact on agricultural production on GQAL affected by the proposed alignment. Towers should be located, wherever possible, outside cropping areas to reduce the impact of the proposed transmission line.	unimpeded.
	Flooding (section 7.2.4, p80) Section 7.2.4 says “floodplain mapping indicates the majority of the study corridor is subject to flooding with the exception of the portion west of Kogan Creek (refer Figure 7.2). Due to the nature of this project, flooding should not be an issue.” Flood mapping of the proposed transmission line shows that approximately the eastern 6km of the route has in the past been inundated during significant flood events. Information is required on the impact that flooding could have on the transmission line infrastructure (towers, access tracks etc) and the impact the infrastructure could have on flood flows. The floodplain extent mapping is not consistent with Departmental information (no source reference has been given for the extent used) Recommendation The potential for the proposed transmission line infrastructure to alter/impact flood flows and the effect of this on other infrastructure should be detailed. Measures proposed to minimise this impact should be discussed.	Flooding has been addressed in Section 7.2.4 of the EIS and reference to the data used Figure 7.2 has been included. RPS has amended Section 7.4.1 and notes that towers have been developed to withstand a Q100 flood in line with the requirements of Appendix 9 and outcome 3 of the SPP 1/03 Guideline.

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	Sale of Mill Timber (section 9.2, p89) EIS states that cleared native vegetation will be sold as mill timber. The proponent should be aware that timber cleared from state land such as reserves and road remains the property of the State and therefore DERM Forest Products should be contacted prior to the clearing of the route. Recommendation Powerlink will provide at least 3 months notification to DERM of any proposed surveying/clearing within State Land so that necessary surveys can be undertaken to determine the extent of commercial timber present.	Section 9.2 amended to state: <i>Powerlink will provide at least three months notification to DERM of any proposed surveying/clearing within State Land so that the necessary surveys can be undertaken to determine the extent of commercial timber present.</i>
	Windrows of cleared vegetation (section 9.2, p89) Vegetation that is stacked on site has the potential to concentrate overland flows and cause erosion. Recommendation If debris is spread back over the easement or stockpiled, care must be taken to ensure the timber does not concentrate overland flow that has the potential to increase erosion.	Section 9.2 has been amended to reflect the need to for windrows to be established without concentrating flows.
	Excess spoil – sodic soils (section 9.2.1, p89) The identified disposal method in this section is to stockpile excess spoil for reuse during landscaping and rehabilitation works. Care is required in managing sodic and saline subsoils to minimise the risks of impacts on land and water resources. Sodic subsoil material, if left exposed on the surface, can cause surface sealing, leading to reduced vegetation cover and increased rates of runoff, resulting in accelerated erosion. Detailed soil surveys prior to the construction phase would help identify risk sites	The Project does not intend on disposing of sodic/saline soil. The management and location of sodic soils has been identified in the EMP Section 5.8 and discussed in Section 5.3 of the EIS.

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	and enable appropriate mitigation measures to be defined to ensure sodic and/or saline soil material are suitably managed. Recommendation The volume of sodic and saline subsoils to be disturbed are identified and suitable mitigation measures are defined to ensure the safe disposal of sodic/saline material.	
	Minimisation of topsoil storage (Section 9.2.1, p89) Topsoil should be stored for a minimum time period. Minimisation of topsoil storage is important to maintain the viability of the seed bank and soil fertility. Recommendation More detail in relation to topsoil storage and its management should be included in the EIS. Details of topsoil management should include the transport, storage and return of topsoil to disturbed areas. The minimisation of topsoil storage times (to retain the viability of the seed bank and reduce fertility degradation) should also be addressed.	Section 5.8.4 of EMP addresses top soil management.
	Reporting of information from further Fauna surveys (section 10.2.2.2 p98) EIS mentions that the fauna surveys carried out to date were not intended to be comprehensive. The report mentions that further fauna surveys using more comprehensive methods and covering a range of seasons have still to be conducted. Recommendation The findings from the further fauna surveys, as well as their associated mitigation strategies, should be reported in the Final EIS.	Section 10.2.2.2 states <i>It must be remembered, however, that this survey was not intended to be comprehensive, and that it represents only a small temporal 'snapshot' of the local fauna. Further surveys encompassing a range of seasonal conditions, and including more comprehensive methods, may yield a higher species richness than that observed during this survey.</i> The project brief does not accommodate further studies therefore additional surveys to allow seasons interpretation are not currently intended. That notwithstanding, Section 5.9.4 of the EMP addresses the use of Spotter Catchers and other fauna management strategies.
	Vegetation Clearing (section 10.3.1.3, p105) It is recommended that the route taken for the	Powerlink routinely undertakes comprehensive environmental impact assessment processes for all its essential electricity projects. The CSR/PAR (EIS Appendix C)

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	transmission line and any associated infrastructure avoids, minimises and mitigates (offsets) any remnant or regrowth vegetation that is required to be cleared.	identified the route that, on balance, had the least overall environmental, social and economic impact. In addition, the EIS itself identifies ways to avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts. Further, Powerlink supports a wide range of initiatives that seek to further 'offset' project impacts, such as the Queensland Government Environment Offset Policy.
	Spanning sensitive areas in relation to 'Endangered' and 'Of Concern' Regional Ecosystems (RE), Corridor Vegetation and any high value regrowth vegetation (Section 10.3.1.3, Flora Impact Mitigation, P105) Concerns about easement traversing or within the vicinity of endangered RE, of concern RE, riparian areas, State and Regional corridors, high value regrowth. Supports increasing tower height, particularly eastern and western end to avoid clearing ERE and OC RE. Recommends 'brushing' - putting lopped tree material along the riparian bank area instead of removing entire trees in these areas. Avoid tower placement and vegetation removal in areas of bioregional corridors. Recommendation More information should be included in the EIS in relation to the use of taller towers and placement of towers to span sensitive areas in relation to 'Endangered' and 'Of Concern' REs, Corridor vegetation and any high value regrowth vegetation. Also, consideration should be given to alternative clearing methods such as lopping in riparian zones.	Section 3.2.1.1 of the EIS amended to include comment regarding tower height and spanning sensitive environmental areas such as Endangered and Of Concern REs and riparian areas. Additional information added to Section 10.3.1.3 about tower height, placement and clearing methods.
	Vegetation and/or biodiversity offsets (Section	Powerlink routinely undertakes comprehensive environmental impact assessment

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	10.3.1.3, Flora Impact Mitigation, P105) Adequate and detailed information needs to be supplied in the Final EIS for possible/likely vegetation and biodiversity offsets. Any possible losses of endangered and/or of concern REs, corridor vegetation, remnant vegetation and threatened fauna and flora species, need to be addressed through the provision of suitable offset areas. Recommendation Include more information on vegetation and/or biodiversity offsets.	processes for all its essential electricity projects. The CSR/PAR (EIS Appendix C) identified the route that, on balance, had the least overall environmental, social and economic impact. In addition, the EIS itself identifies ways to avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts. Further, Powerlink supports a wide range of initiatives that seek to further 'offset' project impacts, such as the Queensland Government Environment Offset Policy.
	Threatened flora species (Section 10.3.1.3, Flora Impact Mitigation p105) Consideration should be given to avoiding the destruction of threatened flora species recorded. The construction EMP should identify the location of each species and instigate protective measures to avoid disturbance from machines, weeds and soil compaction. Recommendation More information needs to be included in relation to mitigation strategies to avoid destruction of threatened flora species.	Section 10.3.1.1 and Figure 10.2 identify locations of the recorded threatened flora species; <i>Philothea sporadica</i>. The project proposes to span areas that support this species. The management of this species during construction has been addressed in Section 5.15 of the EMP and will also be included in the Environmental Work Plans.
	Species for screening and landscaping (Section 10.3.1.3, flora impact mitigation, p105) More detailed required on species used for revegetation, screening and amenity plantings. Avoid exotics and source species of local provenance. Recommendation More information needed about species for screening and landscaping, as well as where they	Section 10.3.1.3 has been amended to note that natural regeneration is recommended and that where this is inadequate, planting of grasses should be completed.

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	will be obtained from and their provenance. Reference sites for monitoring rehabilitation (Section 10.3.1.3, flora impact mitigation, P105) Proponent needs to establish reference sites to provide benchmarks against which to measure the success and progress of rehabilitation activities. Recommendation Include more details on reference sites for monitoring rehabilitation. Details of reference sites (at least two for each ecosystem type being rehabilitated) that will be established and monitored to provide benchmarking for rehabilitation activities.	No detailed monitoring of references sites is proposed, however sensitive clearing and erosion and sediment control methods are to be implemented to minimise potential environmental issues.
	EMP 5.9 Erosion and Sediment Control 5.9.2 Performance Criteria P39 Amend last dot point Water gained through dewatering of holes or pits should also be tested for salinity (Electrical conductivity) prior to disposal	Section 5.8.2 of the EMP amended to reflect these comments.
	EMP 5.9Erosion and Sediment Control 5.9.3 Preconstruction phase Issue: Identification of saline or sodic soils Additional dot point to be considered in the development of the ESCP: Identify sodic soils that may require alternative clearing methods such as the use of a mega mulcher, to minimise the risk of erosion. Control measures for sodic soil impacts should limit or avoid vegetation clearing using mechanical means, stock access and grazing pressure should also be limited.	Section 5.8.3 of the EMP amended to reflect these comments.

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	EMP 5.9Erosion and Sediment Control 5.9.4 Construction Implementation Strategy P40 Suggest additional points: • In areas with sodic soils and/or extreme erosion hazard, graded banks should be constructed from the bottom side to minimise soil disturbance where water flow is concentrated. Alternatively, channels with exposed dispersive sub soils should be covered with topsoils and protected with a vegetal cover. • Sodic subsoils are not exposed in the construction of new tracks (as started in p59 of the EIS) • Sodic sub soils are no exposed to water flows during the construction of level pads for the towers. Clearing of riparian vegetation (section 5.9.4, delineation of vegetation clearing, p40) The document Powerlink Guideline for Activities in a watercourse" has not been included. Therefore, additional requirement are suggested: For minor watercourse crossings (Stream Order 1-2) a buffer of 50m to be flagged from the outside banks that contain water flows. For intermediate watercourse crossing (Stream Order 3-4) a buffer of 100m to be flagged from the outside banks that contain water flows. Clearing of vegetation that is to be removed for safety purposes, should be undertaken within the riparian areas and buffer areas, by hand clearing or machinery methods that allow for stumps	Issues concerning Sodic Soils has been addressed in Section 5.8.4 of the EMP. Section 3.2.2.2 of the EIS addresses clearing of riparian vegetation and Table 4.4 notes that if guideline threshold levels are exceeded (in accordance with the <i>Water Act 2000</i>), approval may be required. Any reference in the EIS has been made to the DERM Guideline - Activities in a watercourse, lake or spring carried out by an entity (DERM, Version 3, 2010).

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	and roots to be retained. Clearing width of this vegetation is nominally 40m within removal of marginal trees outside the area.	
	5.1 Fauna Additional information proposed (in relation to habitat connectivity, positioning of the transmission line in relation to wildlife and species specific strategies) needs to be included in the Final EIS/EMP (Section 5.10.3 Preconstruction phase, Implementation Strategy:1, 2 and 4 bullet points, P43) Recommendation • Possible opportunities to maintain vegetation links to reinforce habitat connectivity need to be identified and included in the Final EIS/EMP • Information on how the transmission line is positioned to reduce impacts to habitat and minimise harm to wildlife needs to be included in the final EIS/EMP. • If specific fauna species, listed under the EPBC Act (1999) are identified in the course of the project, species specific strategies (to minimise impact on each of these species) should be developed as early in the project as possible. It should be possible to compile species specific strategies for listed species that will possibly or likely be impacted by the project for inclusion in the Final EIS. The EIS should provide detailed descriptions of species specific impacts and mitigation measures for all state or commonwealth listed flor and fauna identified along the alignment. Generic measures can be provided for common species.	Section 10.3.2.1 of the EIS: • Notes the impacts; • Notes the fact that alignment was moved to mitigate impacts on an endangered fauna community; and • Recommends that the <i>impacts will be lessened by the provision and maintenance of ground cover through mulching, as has been done on the existing easement.</i> • In addition, Section 10.2.2.3 notes that no EPBC or NCA (with the exception of the little Pied Bat, whereby the alignment was shifted) fauna species are likely or were identified along the alignment. Section 5.9.3 of EMP also states <i>No fauna listed under the Environmental Protection, Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999 were recorded during field assessments however if listed species are identified, development of species specific strategies to minimise impact on such fauna should be undertaken.</i> • Opportunities to maintain vegetation links will be identified in the Environmental Work Plans.
	A preliminary VMP should be prepared for inclusion in the final EIS (Section 5.10.3	Vegetation management practices will be included in the Environmental Work Plans.

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	Preconstruction phase, reporting: only bullet point, P43) Recommendation A preliminary VMP to address clearing and protection of habitat vegetation along the proposed transmission line, should be prepared. Additional information needs to be included in Final EIS/EMP (Section 5.10.4 Construction Phase, implementation strategy: 2nd bullet point, p43) Recommendation Habitat trees to be retained on site should be identified by a suitable spotter/catcher/ecologist (if they will not impact on the safe operation of the line) as soon as possible/feasible and reported on in the Final EIS/EMP	Where appropriate/feasible, the Environmental Work Plans will reflect the location of habitat trees.
	Rewording of this sentence is required (Section 5.9.4 Operation and Maintenance, corrective action: 3rd bullet point , p45) Recommendation “New fauna discoveries, such as listed under the EPBC Act 1999, or NCA 1992, reported to the TEPM and appropriate management strategies for the fauna discovered prepared” Reword. Vegetation Clearing method for sodic soils (Section 5.16.3 preconstruction phase, implementation strategy, p57) In relation to sites where dispersive soils exist, the clearing method should define practices that minimise exposure of sodic soils Recommendations • The site work plans will define low impact clearing techniques required for areas where sodic subsoils occur • Careful sitting and use of taller towers in areas of endangered and of concern vegetation to reduce the impact on biodiversity and connectivity	Sentence has been rephrased. Sodic soils to be identified on the Environmental Work Plans and clearing strategies detailed.

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	5.16.4 Construction Phase, implementation strategy, p57 Suggest additional dot points • Inappropriate practices, such as chemical treatment of stumps and broadscale mechanical clearing within riparian areas will be identified • Felled debris to be used to minimise stock access to vulnerable areas • Ensure cleared debris does not concentrate on overland flow	Section 5.15.4 has been amended to reflect these comments.
	5.16.5 Operation and maintenance phase, implementation strategy p59 Suggest add dot point • Where safety regulations permit, maintain shrub and ground cover vegetation within areas of currently mapped remnant vegetation to improve connectivity	The corridor must be maintained for safety and access, including emergency access, requirements. Where practical, shrub and ground cover vegetation within areas of remnant vegetation will be maintained to improve connectivity Section 5.15.5 amended to reflect this.
	5.18 Waste 5.18.4 Construction phase, implementation strategy p62 Suggest addition dot point • Sodic excess spoil is not respread over the surface during landscaping and rehabilitation works unless it has been suitable ameliorated	Section 5.17.4 has been amended with recommended dot point.
Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Develop a stakeholder engagement plan for the construction and operation phase to address dust, noise, EMF community concerns and to promote active engagement and communication	A complaints procedure/communication strategy has been outlined in Section 3.6 of the EMP. This addresses community notification and response to complaints.
	Given the development activity in the region other issues likely to require stakeholder engagement are: • Traffic management and safety • School bus routes and pick ups/drop off • Use of property access roads • Wide load escorts • Heavy vehicle access through town and	Statement only. Noted.

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	roads • Safety of stock on properties • Worker accommodation and location of construction camps, use of local business and facilities	
	Interested stakeholder groups may include WDR Council Toowoomba RC Police Main Roads Local land owners Dep Education and training Local chambers of commerce/individual business groups	Statement only. Noted.
Western Downs Regional Council	Traffic and Transport An increase in projects in the region has put an unsustainable burden on local road network. Therefore, WDRC require: • A comprehensive traffic management study be undertaken to assess the impact of the project, particularly the local road network • The submission of a traffic management plan for approval prior to commencement of the construction phase for any temporary road closures and any variation to receive timely approvals • The development of mitigation and management measures that will minimise the impact on all WDRC roads • PQ entering into an Infrastructure Agreement with WDRC for the life of the project, wherein PQ is to be responsible for the funding of any upgrading of roads and any additional maintenance required during and after the construction phase due to increased traffic levels. • To that end, WDRC requires two joint asset condition assessments to be	New text has been added to Traffic Section 16.2.1 p166: <i>Powerlink Queensland, in conjunction with the construction contractor, will consult with the Western Downs Regional Council about the use and maintenance of local road infrastructure. Joint asset condition assessments will be held to determine the state of the road infrastructure prior to commencing the Project and agreement reached on the upkeep and rehabilitation required for the affected road infrastructure during the course of the Project.</i> New text has been added to the Environmental Management Plan, Section 5.13.3: ▪ <i>Conduct a joint asset condition assessment with the Western Downs Regional Council to determine the state of the road infrastructure prior to commencing the Project and to agree on the upkeep and rehabilitation required for the affected road infrastructure during the course of the Project.</i>

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	carried out – one prior to any construction traffic using a WDRC roads and the second at the completion of the project to determine whether any additional maintenance is required to restore the road networks to the original condition. Any identifiable works required shall be at the cost to PQld; and • That all roads providing access to work camps be constructed to an all weather access standard, with appropriate turning facilities provided from major roads.	
	Construction water 5.1.4 EMP “watering of our application of dust suppressants to work areas and access tracks will be carried out on an as required basis to prevent dust nuisance” WDRC requests the proponent advise where the water for these tasks will be sourced from as there will be no water available for construction from WDRC town supplies.	Section 5.1.4 of the EMP has been amended to reflect these comments.
	Groundwater S7.4.3 “in the event that an environmental incident occurs during construction, such as a fuel or oil spill, immediate containment, management and remediation actions “should” be undertaken.....” Replace with work “should” with “will be”	Section 7.4.3 amended to reflect these comments.
	Pest Management The proponent should reference with WDRC Pest Management Plan (October 2010)	EIS Sections 10.2.1.3 Weeds of Management Concern (p.100) and 10.2.2.4 (p.107) and EMP Sections 5.3 and 5.18 have been amended to reflect reference to WDRC Pest Management Plan (October 2010)
	Wash Down of Construction Vehicles and Equipment WDRC require all vehicles entering and leaving the construction sites be adequately washed down to prevent weed spread, e.g. Parthenium, which has been contained in the WDRC northern boundary.	EMP Section 5.18 Weed Management addresses weed spread risk with outcomes according to Council’s requirements. While Powerlink Queensland will ensure adequate wash down facilities are available to address specific project requirements as described in the EIS, it is aware that Western Downs Regional Council has a vision to establish a number of permanent facilities across the council area. Powerlink has been involved in discussions with the Western Downs Regional Council concerning identification

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	We wish to request the proponent contribute \$100 000 towards essential wash down facilities to be located at Wandoan, Chinchilla, Dalby for all vehicles and heavy equipment entering or existing the region	opportunities for contribution to establishing centralised wash down facilities. Powerlink is keen to continue with these discussions with a view of assistance facilitation of the desired outcome.
	Local Business Engagement Request that every endeavour is taken to include local business for the sourcing of supplies to service the construction accommodation facilities. WDRC request the proponent provide what measures will be undertaken to address how they intend to establish local procurement process to engage with local and regional businesses. The WDRC economic develop division is keen to work with PQ in this regard.	Noted. EIS Section 12 amended to address local economic impacts such as employment. Powerlink will comply with and report on Local Industry Participation in accordance with agreements between Powerlink and the DEEDI.
	Construction labour/camps The EIS identifies employees will be sourced from Dalby/Chinchilla and Toowoomba but it does not address accommodation camps. Issues of concern to WDRC on this matter include: a) Construction Waste Disposal Town sewage treatment plants do not have capacity for accepting large quantities of black water slugged into the systems, as this can cause overloading and subsequently affect effluent quality. If camps are to be used consider purpose built sewage disposal and treatment facility b) Construction Camp Water Town water supplies are under stress. There is no guarantee water will be available for camps. These issues will need to be discussed with WDRC	Noted. Section 12.2 of the EIS has been altered to recognise these constraints. It is proposed Powerlink staff will occupy existing motel/rental accommodation in the region. Should Powerlink or the construction contractor intend on establishing a construction camp the items noted will be considered.
	Waste Management Local waste facilities have minimal capacity to	EMP Section 5.17 amended to reflect these comments:

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	accept construction and workers camp waste. Alternative waste handling arrangement will be required. The disposal of waste at large facilities e.g. Dalby and Chinchilla	
	Chemicals WDRC request MSDS sheets for all chemical bought onto properties are provided to each landholder	The construction contractor will be the principal contractor for the construction workplace. The construction workplace will be the transmission line easement, and other specific work areas associated with these works. Material safety data sheets will be maintained by the principal contractor for chemicals used in the works. Powerlink Queensland representatives will consult with landholders affected by the construction activities during the course of the Project. Landholders wishing to see information about the chemicals to be used on their properties can request this information during these consultation activities.
	Cumulative impacts WDRC request the proponent address water supply, sewerage and waste management issues across all projects as a whole in the WDRC region.	Approved DLGP Terms of Reference for the project require the short-term, long-term and cumulative effects of the project on individual environmental values to be addressed. This EIS meets this requirement. EIS section 12.2 has been amended to include: It is recognised that Powerlink Queensland has further network developments planned that affect the Western Downs Region, and that water supply, sewerage, waste management matters and the burden on time and resources require attention across all projects. EIS section 12.3 has been amended to include: Powerlink Queensland and Western Downs Regional Council representatives are consulting on matters such as water supply, sewerage, waste management and the burden on time and resources to ensure a coordinated approach aimed at minimising these impacts.
	Burden on time and resources The WDRC must highlight the enormous time and effort that is used to respond to the EIS and in stakeholder engagement as part of their collective mechanisms to address issues from the project. This places an excessive burden on the valuable time of volunteers, local businesses, local community groups and the WDRC resources, particularly as there are up to 41 current and proposed major projects that are required to be addressed. We therefore, request that a payment of \$150 per	As above.

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	hour, per person for the preparation of the EIS responses, attendance at meetings and for travel time be provided by the proponent during the course of the project. Travel costs also to be paid on a kilometre rating for motor vehicles as set by the Australian Taxation Office. Alternatively, as discussed recently at our meeting on the 28th July, the WDRC would be happy to discuss a once off contribution towards costs or an equivalent to support infrastructure costs within the region.	
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	5.3.6 Mining and Petroleum Summarises mining tenures around the study area as at 18 January 2010. Additional tenure applications immediately adjacent the study area have been lodged since. Recommendation Include reference to competing exploration permits for Coal Application EPC 1982 (Clean Global Energy Operations Pty Ltd) and EPC 1985 (Spinifex Rural Management Pty Ltd).	EIS Section 5.3.6 has been amended to reflect recent changes in tenures.
	5.4 & 5.5 Impacts and mitigation measures Section 5.3.6 does not discuss impacts on any mineral or petroleum resources or measures to mitigate these Recommendation The Final EIS should discuss impacts on proposed exploration activities, potential impact on potential resources as well as mitigation measures. Consultation with permit holders will need to be undertaken as part of the easement acquisition.	The instillation of this essential public infrastructure has the potential to alienate a linear corridor from mineral or resource exploration or permits. Powerlink Queensland has included relevant companies in the consultation for this Project.
	Figure 5.5b Lists tenure holder ATP692 as Origin Energy CGS Ltd. This conflicts with DEEDI records which identified Australian Pacific LNG Pty Ltd. Recommendations Amend figure.	Figure 5.5b amended.
	3.2 Project Description	A cross reference in Section 3.2 has been made to Section 7.

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	Section indicates Creek and stream crossings will be required. Recommendation The final EIS should describe any creek or stream crossings proposed and include construction methodology, timing (time of year and duration) of construction and the crossings are expected to remain in place.	
	4.2 State and legislation policies Section does not refer to <i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> despite the potential requirement for waterway barrier works. Recommendation Include a reference to the Fisheries Act 1994 and its relevance to the project with regards to the construction or raising of waterway barrier works.	EIS Section 4.2 has been amended with reference to <i>Fisheries Act 1994</i>
	7.3.1 Surface hydrology and localised flooding Section does not address impacts on flow regimes from the presence of waterway crossings Recommendation Conduct an assessment of the potential impacts of waterway crossings on water velocity and turbulence during flow events.	Section 7.3.1 has been amended in accordance with the DERM comments above.
	10.2.2 Fauna Section does not address the fish fauna that occur in the project area Recommendation Include a description of the fish species that utilise habitat that may be impacted by the project	Amendment made to Section 10.1 regarding aquatic studies.
	10.3.2 Fauna impacts and mitigation Section does not address impacts to fish and fish movement from the construction of waterway crossing Recommendation Provide an assessment of the potential impacts on fish species and their ability to access habitats up or down stream of waterway crossings and any measures that will be implemented to reduce	Section 10.3.2 amended to discuss potential impacts on aquatic species.

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	these impacts.	
Telstra	Telstra network along Kogan-Warra road and Wolskis Road are likely to be impacted during single phase to earth line faults. Recommendation Examination of Low Frequency Induction (LFI) and Earth Potential rise (EPR) impacts can be undertaken when the following information is supplied: • Route plan in electronic format • Design plan showing position of towers/poles • Faults current profile Also a table of bends coordinates of the easement centreline would be of benefit to the EIS and Telstra (preferred format information provided with submission)	This information will be provided to Telstra
Queensland Health	Understood PL is discussing operational work camps with WDRC. Would be desirable these discussions continue and any proposal to establish work camps is fully investigated by WDRC.	Statement only. Noted.