



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	i
Abbreviations and Acronyms	1
Executive Summary	3
1.0 INTRODUCTION	12
1.1 PROJECT TITLE.....	12
1.2 PROJECT PROPONENT	12
1.3 SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT	12
1.3.1 Objectives of the EIS	13
2.0 PROJECT JUSTIFICATION AND FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES.....	15
2.1 PROJECT JUSTIFICATION	15
2.2 FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES	15
2.2.1 “Do Nothing” Option.....	15
2.2.2 The Western Downs Substation	16
2.3 TRANSMISSION LINE CONNECTION.....	16
3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION	17
3.1 PROJECT LOCATION	17
3.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	17
3.2.1 Physical Details of Structures	17
3.2.2 Construction Process	20
3.3 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	24
3.3.1 Structures, Conductors and Fittings	25
3.3.2 Easement	25
3.3.3 Weed Management	25
3.3.4 Access Tracks	26
3.4 DECOMMISSIONING DETAILS	26
4.0 RELEVANT LEGISLATION, LAWS & APPROVALS.....	27
4.1 COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATION	27
4.1.1 Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)	27
4.1.2 Australian Heritage Council Act 2003	28
4.1.3 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984	29
4.1.4 Native Title Act 1993	30
4.2 STATE LEGISLATION & POLICIES	30
4.2.1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003.....	30
4.2.2 Electricity Act 1994	31
4.2.3 Electrical Safety Act 2002.....	32
4.2.4 Environmental Protection Act 1994	32



4.2.5	Sustainable Planning Act 2009.....	33
4.2.6	Land Act 1994	35
4.2.7	Land Protection (Pest & Stock Route Management) Act 2002.....	36
4.2.8	Nature Conservation Act 1992	36
4.2.9	Plant Protection Act 1989	37
4.2.10	Queensland Heritage Act 1992	38
4.2.11	State Planning Policies	38
4.2.12	Transport Infrastructure Act 1994	39
4.2.13	Vegetation Management Act 1999	39
4.2.14	Water Act 2000.....	40
4.3	LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING SCHEMES & LOCAL LAWS.....	41
4.3.1	Local Laws.....	42
4.4	ASSESSMENT & APPROVAL PROCESS.....	44
5.0	LAND.....	46
5.1	METHODOLOGY	46
5.2	TOPOGRAPHY/GEOMORPHOLOGY	46
5.2.1	Existing Environment.....	46
5.2.2	Potential Impacts	46
5.3	GEOLOGY AND SOILS.....	47
5.3.1	Existing Environment.....	47
5.3.2	Overview.....	56
5.3.3	Salinity.....	57
5.3.4	Acid Sulphate Soils.....	57
5.3.5	Good Quality Agricultural Land.....	58
5.3.6	Mining and Petroleum.....	58
5.3.7	Potentially Contaminated Land.....	59
5.4	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	59
5.4.1	Soil Erosion	59
5.5	MITIGATION MEASURES	59
5.5.1	Soil Erosion	59
6.0	CLIMATE AND AIR QUALITY	67
6.1	EXISTING ENVIRONMENT	67
6.1.1	Climate	67
6.1.2	Air Quality.....	74
6.2	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	75
6.2.1	Climate	75
6.2.2	Regulatory Environment.....	76
6.2.3	Air Quality.....	78
6.3	MITIGATION MEASURES	78
6.3.1	Air Quality.....	78



7.0	HYDROLOGY	79
7.1	METHODOLOGY	79
7.2	EXISTING ENVIRONMENT	79
7.2.1	Surface Hydrology	79
7.2.2	Sub-surface Hydrology	79
7.2.3	Wetlands.....	80
7.2.4	Flooding.....	80
7.3	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	80
7.3.1	Surface Hydrology and Localised Flooding	80
7.3.2	Water Quality	80
7.3.3	Adjacent Water Use.....	80
7.3.4	Groundwater	81
7.4	MITIGATION MEASURES	81
7.4.1	Surface hydrology.....	81
7.4.2	Water Quality	81
7.4.3	Groundwater	82
8.0	FIRE	85
8.1	BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY	85
8.2	EXISTING ENVIRONMENT	85
8.3	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	86
8.4	MITIGATION MEASURES	86
9.0	WASTE MANAGEMENT	88
9.1	POTENTIAL WASTE GENERATION DURING CONSTRUCTION & OPERATION.....	88
9.2	MITIGATION MEASURES	89
9.2.1	Solid Waste Disposal.....	89
9.2.2	Liquid Waste.....	90
10.0	FLORA AND FAUNA	91
10.1	METHODOLOGY	91
10.1.1	Background Review.....	91
10.1.2	Field Investigations.....	91
10.2	EXISTING ENVIRONMENT	92
10.2.1	Flora	92
10.2.2	Fauna	97
10.3	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION	104
10.3.1	Flora Impacts and Mitigation	104
10.3.2	Fauna Impacts and Mitigation	106



11.0	LAND USE & PLANNING	109
11.1	SUSTAINABLE PLANNING ACT 2009	109
11.1.1	IDAS	109
11.1.2	Ministerial Designation	110
11.1.3	Reasons for Proposed Designation	112
11.1.4	Comparison of Planning Processes.....	113
11.2	EXISTING ENVIRONMENT	113
11.2.1	Current Land Use	113
11.2.2	Planning Scheme	113
11.2.3	Planning Scheme - Local Plan	120
11.2.4	Good Quality Agricultural Land.....	120
11.2.5	Future land use.....	121
11.3	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	121
11.3.1	Conflicts with Chinchilla Shire Planning Scheme	121
11.3.2	Changes in Property Value.....	123
11.3.3	Disruptions to Neighbouring Areas and Existing Environments.....	123
11.4	MITIGATION MEASURES	123
11.4.2	Planning Scheme - Local Plan	133
11.4.3	Good Quality Agricultural Land.....	133
11.4.4	Future land use.....	134
11.5	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	135
11.5.1	Conflicts with Wambo Shire Planning Scheme.....	135
11.5.2	Changes in Property Value.....	136
11.5.3	Disruptions to Neighbouring Areas and Existing Environments.....	136
11.6	MITIGATION MEASURES	136
11.7	REGIONAL PLANNING INSTRUMENT	136
11.8	STATE PLANNING SCHEME POLICIES	137
12.0	SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT.....	141
12.1	EXISTING ENVIRONMENT	141
12.1.1	Study Area Overview	141
12.1.2	Key Demographic Characteristics	141
12.1.3	Landholders and Land Use	143
12.2	POTENTIAL IMPACT	143
12.3	MITIGATION MEASURES	144
13.0	NOISE AND VIBRATION	145
13.1	EXISTING ENVIRONMENT	145
13.2	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	146
13.3	MITIGATION MEASURES	146



14.0	ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELDS	148
14.1	EXISTING ENVIRONMENT	148
14.1.1	Explanation & Sources of EMF	148
14.1.2	EMF & Health	149
14.1.3	Existing & Proposed EMF Levels	150
14.2	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	151
14.2.1	Health Concerns	151
14.2.2	Other Possible Impacts	151
14.3	MITIGATION MEASURES	152
15.0	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND VISUAL AMENITY	153
15.1	LANDSCAPE	153
15.1.1	Background and Methodology	153
15.1.2	Existing Environment	153
15.1.3	Potential Impacts	153
15.1.4	Mitigation Measures	154
15.2	VISUAL AMENITY	154
15.2.1	Background and Methodology	154
15.2.2	Existing Environment	154
15.2.3	Potential Impacts	154
15.2.4	Mitigation Measures	155
16.0	TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRAFFIC	156
16.1	EXISTING ENVIRONMENT	156
16.1.1	Road Network	156
16.1.2	Planned Road Upgrades	159
16.1.3	Rail Network	159
16.1.4	Flight Paths and Facilities	160
16.2	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	160
16.2.1	Construction Period	160
16.2.2	Operation and Maintenance Period	160
16.3	MITIGATION MEASURES	160
16.3.1	Construction Phase	160
16.3.2	Access Tracks and Construction Traffic Property Access	161
16.3.3	Maintenance Activities	161
16.3.4	Flight Paths and Facilities	161
17.0	CULTURAL HERITAGE	162
17.1	NON-INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE	162
17.1.1	Background and Methodology	162
17.1.2	Existing Environment	162
17.1.3	Potential Impacts	164



17.1.4	Mitigation Measures	164
17.2	ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE	164
18.0	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	165
18.1	BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY	165
18.2	ADAPTATION PLANNING	165
18.3	GREENHOUSE GAS FOOTPRINT.....	167
18.4	VEGETATION CLEARING	167
18.5	HEAVY VEHICLE FUEL USE	168
18.6	LIGHT VEHICLE FUEL USE.....	169
18.7	ELECTRICITY FOR TEMPORARY SITE AMENITIES	170
18.8	EMISSIONS SUMMARY	170
18.9	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	171
18.10	MITIGATION MEASURES	171
18.10.1	Direct GHG Abatement Measures undertaken for the Project.....	171
18.10.2	Other Mitigation Measures	171
19.0	CONSULTATION	172
19.1	GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	172
19.2	ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY	172
19.3	METHODOLOGY	172
19.4	STAKEHOLDERS.....	173
19.4.1	Stakeholder Identification	173
19.4.2	Landowners	173
19.4.3	Federal, State and Local Government Consultation	174
19.5	ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES AND MESSAGES	174
19.5.1	Key Messages	174
19.5.2	Engagement and Consultation Activities	175
19.6	OUTCOMES FROM ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES.....	177
19.6.1	Draft TOR Stakeholder Workshop	177
19.6.2	Initial Landowner Contact & Face to Face Meetings	177
19.7	CONCLUSIONS	178
20.0	ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN	179
21.0	ENVIRONMENTAL COST-BENEFIT SUMMARY	180
21.1	BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY	180
21.2	SHORT TERM COSTS AND BENEFITS	180
21.3	LONG TERM COSTS AND BENEFITS	181
21.4	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	182



22.0	POWERLINK ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE	183
22.1	POWERLINK ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY	183
22.2	RECENT PROJECT PERFORMANCE.....	183
22.3	GREENHOUSE CHALLENGE PLUS	184
22.4	ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH	184
23.0	REFERENCES	186



TABLES

Table 4.1	Impact of the Project on Matters of National Environmental Significance	28
Table 4.2	Summary of the Planning Scheme Provisions for the Study Alignment	42
Table 4.3	Applicable Local Laws	43
Table 4.4	Licence, Permit & Approval That May Be Required	45
Table 5.1	Comparison of Soil Mapping and Field Samples	48
Table 5.2	Summary of Soils Sample Results	53
Table 5.3	Particle Size Analysis	54
Table 5.4	Emerson aggregate Test Class Number Definitions	55
Table 5.5	Classes of Agricultural Land	58
Table 6.1	Average Climatic Data Records for Dalby Airport	68
Table 6.2	Summary of Previous Extreme Weather Events for Study Area	71
Table 6.3	CS Energy Air Quality Data	74
Table 6.4	Projected Climate Change in Project Area (CSIRO et al, 2007) (OCC, 2009)	76
Table 8.1	SPP 1/03 Hazard Rating Assessment	85
Table 9.1	Potential Wastes Generated During Construction & Operational Phases	88
Table 10.1	Regional Ecosystem Descriptions	92
Table 10.2	Likelihood of Significant Flora Species Occurrence	95
Table 10.3	Likelihood of Occurrence of Threatened Fauna Species	100
Table 11.1	Town Planning Summary Table – Former Chinchilla Shire and Wambo Shire	138
Table 14.1	Typical Magnetic Fields from Common Electrical Appliances	148
Table 14.2	ARPANSA Draft EMF Standard for Limits of Exposure – General Public	150
Table 14.3	NHMRC Limits of Exposure – General Public	150
Table 16.1	Road Information	157
Table 18.1	Climate Change Risk and Adaptation summary	166
Table 18.2	Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Sources by Scope	167
Table 18.3	Emissions Summary	170
Table 19.1	Project Stakeholders	173

FIGURES

Figure 1.1	Location	14
Figure 3.1	Indicative Tower Structures	19
Figure 5.1	Topography	49
Figure 5.2	Geology	50
Figure 5.3	Soils	51
Figure 5.4	QGAL	61
Figure 5.5a	Coal Exploration Permits	62
Figure 5.5b	Petroleum Exploration permits	63
Figure 5.5c	Petroleum Lease Applications	64
Figure 5.5d	Mining Tenements	65
Figure 5.5e	Mineral Development Licences	66
Figure 6.1	Mean Annual 9am Wind Speed Vs Direction for Dalby Airport (1992-2008) (BoM, 2005a)	70



Figure 6.2	Mean Annual 3pm Wind Speed Vs Direction for Dalby Airport (1992-2008) (BoM, 2005a).....	71
Figure 6.3	Australian Average Annual Thunder Days (BOM, 2005c)	72
Figure 6.4	Australian Average Annual Lightning Ground Flash Density (BOM, 2005b)	73
Figure 6.5	Australian Average Annual Tropical Cyclone Incidents (BOM, 2006).....	73
Figure 7.1	Rivers and Creeks	83
Figure 7.2	Floodplain Mapping	84
Figure 10.1	Regional Ecosystems in the Study Area.....	94
Figure 10.2	Survey Sites and EVR Locations.....	108
Figure 11.1	Chinchilla Planning Scheme - Zoning.....	124
Figure 11.2	Chinchilla Planning Scheme – Features Map 1	125
Figure 11.3	Chinchilla Planning Scheme – Features Map 2	126
Figure 16.1	State Controlled and Local Roads near the Study Area	156
Figure 16.2	Roads Crossed by the Transmission Line Alignment	157
Figure 16.3	Heavy Vehicle Restrictions near the Site.....	158
Figure 16.4	The Westlander Rail Route	159
Figure 16.5	Rail Line near the Study Area.....	159
Figure 18.1	Emissions Break-Down Pie Chart for Transmission Line	170

PHOTO PLATES

Plate 5.1	Significant erosion adjacent to Kogan Creek.....	52
Plate 5.2	Erosion which is likely to be associated with the Braemar Creek Dam.	53

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Final Terms of Reference	A
Appendix B	Designation Checklist	B
Appendix C	Corridor Selection Report	C
Appendix D	Transmission Line Access Tracks Standard.....	D
Appendix E	Terrestrial Species Lists	E
Appendix F	Consultation Strategy	F
Appendix G	Environmental Management Plan	G