CopperString 2.0

Legislation and approvals

Volume 1 Chapter 4

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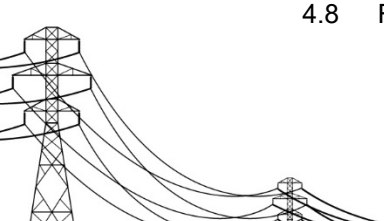

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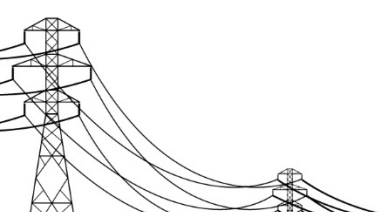


4. Legislation and approvals

4.1 Introduction

This chapter of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) aims to summarise the Commonwealth, State, and local government approvals, permits and licences applicable to the CopperString 2.0 Project (the Project).

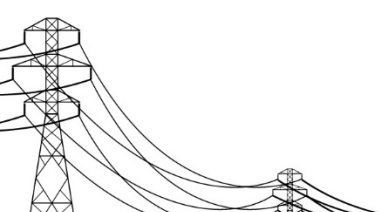
4.1.1 Purpose of chapter

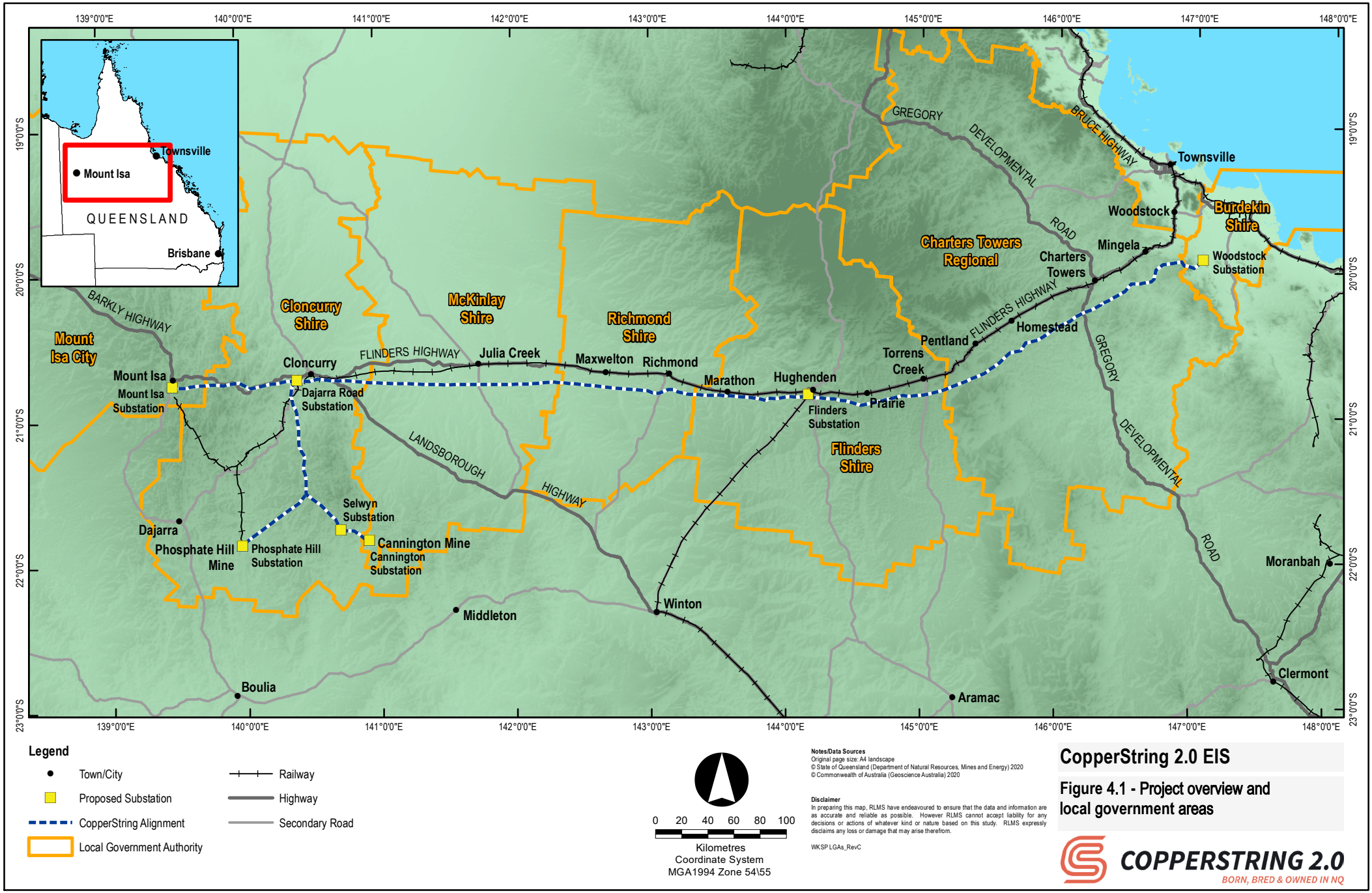
The purpose of this chapter is to discuss the key project legislative requirements within the context of an overarching approval pathway. The assessment identifies all approvals sought to be coordinated and approved by the Coordinator-General in assessing the Project EIS. It outlines approvals which are expected to be submitted and assessed post-EIS and those which are independent from the EIS process. Each section provides a description of the legislation, policies, or statutory plans and how they are applicable to the planning, construction, or operational stages of the Project.

An assessment of State, regional and local government planning policies and schemes applicable to the Project have also been covered by this chapter (refer to Section 4.7 and Section 4.9). A summary register including post-EIS permits and approvals including the regulatory authorities, legislative triggers or exemptions, self-assessment or code requirements with reference to the various components of the Project is provided in Section 4.9.9.

4.1.2 Study area

The study area for the legislation and approvals assessment includes localities that have the potential to be directly or indirectly impacted by activities proposed during the planning, design, construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the CopperString Project. This includes areas within and adjacent to the corridor selection (Figure 4-1) and is determined by applicable legislation, planning instruments, and planning policies as discussed in this chapter.





Legend

- Town/City
- Proposed Substation
- CopperString Alignment
- Local Government Authority
- Railway
- Highway
- Secondary Road

0 20 40 60 80 100

Kilometres

Coordinate System
MGA1994 Zone 54\55

Notes/Data Sources
Original page size: A4 landscape
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Disclaimer
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WKSP LGAs_RevC

CopperString 2.0 EIS

Figure 4.1 - Project overview and local government areas

COPPERSTRING 2.0
BORN, BRED & OWNED IN NQ

4.1.3 Methodology

A desktop assessment was undertaken using information in the EIS chapters, Commonwealth, State and local government websites, and consultation with agencies undertaken during the preparation of the EIS in order to identify the legislation, policies and plans applicable to the Project and the approvals triggered by the Project. The following data sources were used as part of this assessment:

- Technical information contained within other chapters of the EIS.
- Queensland Government (Office of Queensland Parliamentary Counsel) Queensland Legislation website.
- Australian Government Federal Register of Legislation website.
- Queensland Government (Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) 2020 – Queensland's Planning System website.
- Burdekin Shire Council IPA Planning Scheme 2011
- Draft Burdekin Shire Planning Scheme 2020
- Charters Towers Regional Town Plan 2020
- Shire of Flinders Planning Scheme 2018
- Planning Scheme for the Shire of Richmond 2005
- Draft Richmond Shire Planning Scheme 2020
- McKinlay Shire Planning Scheme 2019
- Cloncurry Shire Planning Scheme 2016
- City of Mount Isa Town Planning Scheme 2019
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- Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation. 2019. State Infrastructure Plan. Accessed from: https://www.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/infrastructure/infrastructure-planning-and-policy/state-infrastructure-plan.html
- Department of Energy and Water Supply, 2017, Powering Queensland Plan. Accessed from: https://www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/energy/initiatives/powering-queensland.

4.2 Project approval pathway

The Project's approval pathway will involve an assessment of the CopperString 2.0 EIS under the Queensland *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SDPWO Act) and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) under the bilateral agreement between the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments. The purpose of the EIS is to provide adequate information of the Project's likely impacts on each of the prescribed environmental matters, namely matters of national environmental significance (MNES), matters of state environmental significance (MSES) and matters of local environmental significance (MLES) and as further defined under the Queensland *Environmental Offsets Act 2014.*

The EIS must suitably describe the area, duration and frequency of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and proposed mitigation measures designed to ensure the Project's environmental impacts are properly managed. The Coordinator-General and Commonwealth Minister for the Environment must be satisfied that the Project can proceed subject to conditions and recommendations in the Project Evaluation Report and as conditioned under the EPBC Act.

The approvals being sought as part of the EIS process under the SDPWO Act and Coordinator-General's evaluation report include:

- Stated Conditions regarding the total impact area for each of the prescribed matters (namely regulated vegetation, connectivity areas, wetlands and watercourses, designated precinct in a strategic environmental area, protected wildlife habitat, protected areas and waterway providing for fish passage).
- Imposed Conditions regarding Social, Economic and Consultation requirements.
- Recommended Conditions relating to the Commonwealth including Biodiversity Offsets (if required).
- Recommended Conditions and requirements for an Infrastructure Designation under the *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act).
- General Recommendations relating to approvals under other legislation to be obtained post the EIS process including:
    - General Biodiversity Impacts – Verify the total impacts of the project on flora and regional ecosystems, including MSES prior to clearing/inundation.
    - *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) – Species Management Program for particular species.
    - NC Act – Acknowledgement of likelihood of occurrence that Protected Plants will be avoided not requiring Offset.
    - *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VM Act) – Significant residual impacts should a Permit be required.
    - *Fisheries Act 1994* (Fisheries Act) – bed level crossings are constructed in accordance with the ADR or a separate application will be made.
    - *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) – ERA 63 Sewerage Treatment associated with workers accommodation camps.
    - *Water Act 2000* (Water Act) – Riverine Protection Permit.
    - *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994* (TI Act) – work in a State controlled road and infrastructure agreements with Road and Rail Authorities.

The approvals being sought as part of the EIS process under the EPBC Act include:

- Approval for taking a controlled action in relation to the following controlling provisions:
  - Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A)
  - Listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A).

On the basis that the Project is given EIS approval to proceed, CuString will seek an Infrastructure Designation under the provisions of the Planning Act. It is anticipated that a request that the Project be considered for infrastructure designation to the Planning Minister during the later stages of the EIS process (post public notification of the draft EIS and all consultation responses made by agencies and other stakeholders have been received and considered). The request will seek the Ministers' approval for the Project to be assessed under a streamlined approach. This is the most efficient pathway to obtain the necessary land use planning approvals within the seven local government areas (LGAs). It is also anticipated that this process will be utilised to seek other permits and approvals coordinated under the Planning Act.

4.2.1 State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971

The SDPWO Act facilitates coordinated infrastructure planning and development to support economic and social progress; and provides for the appointment of a Coordinator-General as a corporation sole, representing the Crown.

The SDPWO Act gives the Coordinator-General the power to:

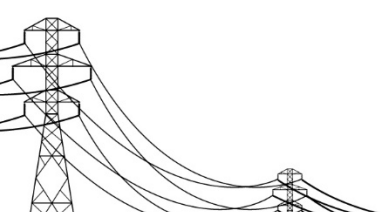
- Manage major infrastructure projects.
- Declare a project to be a 'coordinated project' and coordinate the environmental impact assessment of the Project.
- Coordinate and regulate programs of works.
- Enter and authorise entry onto land to undertake works.
- Compulsorily acquire land.
- Implement and manage state development areas.

The Project requires assessment under the SDPWO Act as a coordinated project requiring an EIS. In addition to this, the Coordinator-General may designate the Project as a prescribed project. These are discussed in more detail below.

Coordinated project

In accordance with the SDPWO Act, an initial advice statement (IAS) was lodged with the Coordinator-General for the Project, in February 2019. The purpose of the IAS was to provide the Coordinator-General with sufficient information to make a 'coordinated project' declaration under Section 26(1)(a) of the SDPWO Act. The Project was declared a coordinated project under the provisions of the SDPWO Act on 26 April 2019. This decision was published in the Queensland Government Gazette [vol 380, No. 93 of 26 April 2019].

Following further engagement with key stakeholders, CuString made some minor amendments to the proposed development which were provided to the Coordinator-General on 25 June 2019 with reference to the Project designation and gazettal. The Coordinator-General subsequently confirmed that the Project was still in accordance with the IAS and could proceed to finalise the Draft Terms of Reference (Draft ToR). A Draft ToR for an EIS was prepared and publicly displayed on 8 July 2019, providing governments and the community opportunity to provide comments until the 2 August 2019. The Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) was also informed of these minor changes to the action on 26 July



2019. All written submissions received were considered before the issue of the Final ToR on 4 September 2019.

The assessment of the CopperString 2.0 EIS under the SDPWO Act and EPBC Act will be undertaken under the assessment bilateral agreement between the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments (refer to Section 4.2.2).

Under Section 35 of the SDPWO Act, once the Coordinator-General has reviewed the EIS, the Coordinator-General must prepare an evaluation report. The Coordinator-General can coordinate subsequent approvals within this report by preparing the relevant conditions for various aspects of the Project. This will reduce the regulatory burden on the relevant assessing agencies and the proponent and streamline the public notification requirements which would otherwise be required for separate development permits. This EIS aims to provide the Coordinator-General with sufficient information regarding subsequent approvals to enable the Coordinator-General to prepare conditions for the Project. A summary of the approvals sought post the EIS for the components of the Project is provided in Table 4-7.

Prescribed project declaration

Projects can be declared prescribed projects under section 76 E (1) (d) of the SDPWO Act. A prescribed project is one which is of significance, particularly economically and socially, to Queensland or a region. Declaring a prescribed project allows the Coordinator-General powers to ensure timely decision-making in relation to prescribed processes and prescribed decisions (e.g. under the processes and decisions under the Planning Act).

In deciding whether to declare a prescribed project the Coordinator-General may consider:

- Public interest
- Potential environmental effects
- Other matters considered relevant.

A written request to the Coordinator-General for a prescribed project declaration enables the Coordinator-General, if necessary, to intervene in state and local government approval processes to ensure timely decision-making for the prescribed project. A prescribed project declaration is given after the EIS approval for projects with complex secondary approval requirements.

4.2.2 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The EPBC Act is the principle environmental legislation administered by the Commonwealth Government. Part 3 of the EPBC Act determines that an action cannot be taken that is likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance (MNES) without approval from the Minister for the Environment who administers the EPBC Act. An action that the Minister decides is likely to have a significant impact on MNES is deemed a ‘controlled action’ and requires assessment under the provisions of the EPBC Act.

MNES protected by the EPBC Act include:

- World heritage properties
- National heritage places
- Wetlands of international importance (listed under the Ramsar Convention)
- Listed threatened species and ecological communities
- Migratory species (protected under international agreements)
- Commonwealth marine areas

- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- Nuclear actions (including uranium mines)
- A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining developments
- The environment, where actions proposed are on, or will affect commonwealth land and environment
- The environment, where Commonwealth agencies are proposing to take an action.

Assessments of potential impacts on MNES by controlled actions are carried out by DAWE. The Minister, or a delegate thereof, then makes a decision regarding the controlled action and may refuse, approve or approve with conditions.

Approval trigger(s) – EPBC Act

An approval under the EPBC Act is required where the Project is likely to have an impact on any MNES.

Relevance to project – EPBC Act

The CopperString Transmission Line Project was referred to DAWE on 31 March 2019 (EPBC Act Referral 2019/8416). The referral decision made on 14 May 2019 was that the Project is a 'controlled action'.

The controlling provisions determined to be of relevance to the Project are:

- Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A)
- Listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A).

The CopperString 2.0 Project EIS requires approval from the Minister who administers the EPBC Act; the assessment will be carried out under the requirements of Division 6 of the EPBC Act.

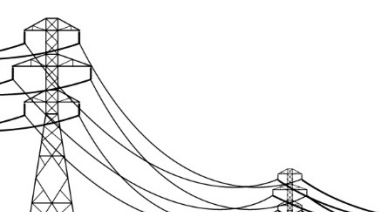
DAWE was also informed on 26 July 2019 of the minor changes to the action made after 'controlled action' determination (which included adding options to investigate additional spur lines). Following a review of the additional material, DAWE issued a Notification of Variation of Proposal to Take an Action on 24 September 2019.

EIS Bilateral Agreement

The Commonwealth and Queensland governments are committed to working cooperatively across shared responsibilities to strengthen intergovernmental cooperation on the environment and to minimise costs to business while maintaining high environmental standards.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding, the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments committed to the establishment for a bilateral environmental approvals process under the EPBC Act. The Bilateral Agreement provides accreditation of the Queensland environmental assessment processes and allows environmental assessment to be undertaken without duplication between governments of the assessment and approval processes, whilst strengthening intergovernmental cooperation and promoting a partnership approach to environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.

The assessment of the CopperString 2.0 EIS under the SDPWO Act and EPBC Act will be undertaken under the assessment bilateral agreement between the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments.



The Coordinator-General's EIS Project evaluation report (under the SDPWO Act), which includes recommendations regarding MNES aspects, is provided to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment, for consideration prior to their decision and issuing of conditions under the EPBC Act.

EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy

The purpose of the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy (the EPBC offsets policy) is to outline the Australian government's position on the use of environmental offsets to compensate for residual adverse impacts on MNES protected by the EPBC Act.

Under the EPBC Act, environmental offsets can be used to maintain or enhance the health, diversity and productivity of the environment as it relates to MNES. However, environmental offsets do not apply where the impacts of a development are considered to be minor in nature or could reasonably be mitigated and would not result in a significant residual impact to listed threatened species and communities or listed migratory species.

Clearing of high conservation status regional ecosystems that are listed components of threatened ecological communities under the EPBC Act may carry offset obligations under the EPBC offsets policy; this requirement will be considered in parallel to the Queensland Government Environmental Offsets Policy.

As the Project is a controlled action under the EPBC Act, the EPBC offsets policy applies to the Project and its activities, to the extent that residual impacts on MNES are unavoidable. Clearing for the Project that will require offset obligations under the EPBC offsets policy and the quantity of offsets required is discussed in Volume 2 Chapter 21 Environmental offsets.

4.2.3 Infrastructure Designation under the *Planning Act 2016*

Due to the considerable length of the Project and the seven LGAs traversed by the Project, part of the CuString approvals strategy is to seek an Infrastructure Designation under the provisions of the Planning Act. The designation of premises by the Planning Minister for deployment of infrastructure will be sought in accordance with the Coordinator-General's recommendations and the Planning Act, Chapter 2, Part 5. The Minister can identify a premises for one or more types of infrastructure that are prescribed by regulation, including the following relevant to the Project:

- Electricity operating works - Planning Regulation, Schedule 5, Part 2, Item 7
- Storage and works depots and similar facilities, including administrative facilities relating to the provision or maintenance of infrastructure - Planning Regulation, Schedule 5, Part 2, Item 18.

In designating premises for deployment of infrastructure under Section 36 (7) of the Planning Act, the Minister must have regard to:

- All planning instruments that relate to the premises.
- Any assessment benchmarks, other than in planning instruments, that relate to the development that is the subject of the designation or amendment.
- Any properly made submissions made as part of the consultation carried out.
- The written submissions of any local government.

This infrastructure designation process will run concurrently with the EIS process and will formally commence during the later stages of the EIS process. This is the most efficient pathway to obtain the necessary land use planning approvals within the seven LGAs. The EIS is to include sufficient information to address all aspects required by the Environmental

Assessment Report highlighting environmental values, potential impacts and mitigation measures. This has been demonstrated as per Volume 3 Appendix M Infrastructure designation and planning. The Environmental Assessment Report will be submitted after the Coordinator-General has accepted the final EIS and is anticipated that this process will be utilised to seek other permits and approvals coordinated under the Planning Act.

If the Project is granted an infrastructure designation, the development will not require approval under the local planning schemes regulating land use in the area nor need to meet any scheme requirements.

4.3 State land legislation and native title

4.3.1 Land Title Act 1994

Relevant provisions of the *Land Title Act 1994* (Land Act) will be applicable in dealings related to obtaining a legal interest over land required for the construction and operation of the Project. This will predominantly consist of options to grant an easement with landowners affected by the new transmission network infrastructure or new tenure over or reconfiguring parcels of land required for establishment of substations or associated ancillary infrastructure required as part of the Project. This process with individual landholders is currently well advanced.

Should a landowner/stakeholder not agree to grant an easement after commercial negotiations have been exhausted, CuString may pursue options in respect of acquisition of land for the Project, in accordance with any rights conferred by virtue of the *Electricity Act 1994* and/or the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*.

Further information regarding how the Land Act applies to the project has been detailed in Section 4.5.8.

4.3.2 Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993

The *Native Title Act 1993* (NT Act) recognises the rights and interests of Indigenous people in respect of land on which they historically resided. Where a proposed development impacts on a parcel of land which is subject to a native title claim, and the impact will alter the existing rights and interests of Indigenous people in respect of that land, the proponent is required to enter into an Indigenous land use agreement (ILUA). The ILUA is between the proponent and the relevant native title holders or claimants about how land and waters in the area covered by the agreement will be used and managed in the future.

Further information regarding how the NT Act applies to the project has been detailed in Section 4.6.8.

4.4 Other Commonwealth legislation and policies

This section outlines the other approvals required for the Project under Commonwealth legislation.

4.4.1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (ATSIHP Act) aims to preserve and protect places, areas and objects of particular significance to Aboriginal people, in accordance with Aboriginal traditions, from injury or desecration. The ATSIHP Act stipulates that an Aboriginal person or a group of Aboriginal people may apply to the Minister for the preservation or protection of a specified area or object. This includes general and emergency declarations that may be made in relation to significant Aboriginal areas or objects in threat of harm or desecration. The ATSIHP Act makes it an offence to contravene a declaration.

An application can be made to DAWE, the department administering the ATSIHP Act, to declare a 'significant Aboriginal area' or 'object' under the ATSIHP Act. For an application to be successful it would need to demonstrate a specific, material threat due to a planned or current activity.

Approval trigger(s) – ATSIHP Act

A desktop assessment was undertaken for the Project to identify any declared 'significant Aboriginal area' or 'object' (refer to Volume 2 Chapter 15 Cultural heritage). The Project will seek to avoid any impact on any declared 'significant Aboriginal area' or 'object' under the ATSHIP Act.

Relevance to project – ATSIHP Act

The specific requirements relating to the management and mitigation of unearthing an item or place of cultural heritage significance will be appropriately managed in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal parties under the Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) that will be developed for the Project. A CHMP is an agreement between a land user and Traditional Owners developed under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (ACH Act) that explains how land use activities can be managed to avoid or minimise harm to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.

4.4.2 *Airports Act 1996*

The *Airports Act 1996* (Airports Act) and *Airports (Protection of Airspace) Regulations 1996* establish a framework for the protection of airspace at and around airports. The Airports Act defines any activity resulting in an intrusion into an airport's protected airspace to be a "controlled activity" and requires that controlled activities cannot be carried out without approval. Controlled activities include the following:

- Permanent structures, such as buildings, intruding into the protected airspace
- Temporary structures such as cranes intruding into the protected airspace
- Any activities causing intrusions into the protected airspace through glare from artificial light or reflected sunlight, air turbulence from stacks or vents, smoke, dust, steam or other gases or particulate matter.

Relevance to project – Airports Act

Volume 3 Appendix Y Assessment of the impact to aviation, identified several airports and aerodromes in proximity to the Project. The majority will not be impacted by the Project however the Project is located within Mount Isa Airport's horizontal extent of the approach and take-off surfaces for Runway 16/34. Objects located within the approach and take-off surfaces have height restrictions, which will apply to any Project infrastructure. The Project will also be located within the minimum safe altitude of Trepell Airport that defines the height at which aircraft can fly. Volume 3 Appendix Y Assessment of the impact to aviation outlines the maximum heights for Project infrastructure to avoid impacts to Mount Isa and Trepell airports.

4.4.3 *Airspace Act 2007*

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) manages the regulation of airspace in Australia through the Office of Airspace Regulation (OAR). The OAR is responsible for the administration of the Australian airspace architecture under the *Airspace Act 2007* and *Airspace Regulations 2007*.

Changes to Australian airspace architecture are made through the airspace change process. CASA can also declare protective airspace after receipt of an airspace change proposal (ACP). This includes changes due to:

- Emergencies
- Temporary activities such as military training exercises and air shows
- Permanent airspace changes.

Changes may also be considered following an airspace review. The OAR reviews airspace to ensure aircraft operations are safe and airspace architecture is fit-for-purpose. Reviews are triggered by an airspace change proposal or an aeronautical study. For any change or protective airspace declaration to occur, an ACP needs to be submitted to the OAR.

Relevance to project – *Airspace Act 2007*

The transmission towers will be designed to maintain a mid-span clearance of the transmission line above local terrain in compliance with Queensland legislation. Nominal transmission tower heights will range from 50 m to 75 m (approximately 246 feet). An aviation assessment has been conducted including consultation with the Department of Defence, CASA and local airport operators at Mt Isa and Trepell (refer Volume 3 Appendix Y Assessment of impact to aviation) The corridor selection and design of tower heights will be cognisant of CASA constraints and safety requirements and are not considered to change the volume of airspace and therefore will not trigger an ACP from OAR.

4.4.4 *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007*

The *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* (NGER Act) establishes the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme under which liable entities are required to report on their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Regulations 2008* provide details that enable compliance with National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme, including the content of the reports that are to be provided. The Regulations also provide information that enables an entity to determine if it is liable to report under National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme. Liable entities report on their GHG emissions using the methods provided in the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination 2008.

Approval trigger(s) – NGER Act

Under the NGER Act, companies with GHG emissions, energy use, or energy consumption greater than specified thresholds are obliged to report their emissions, energy use and energy production.

Relevance to project – NGER Act

GHG emissions associated with the Project may need to be reported under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme; a detailed assessment of GHG emissions associated with the Project is provided in Volume 2, Chapter 10 Air and greenhouse gas of the EIS.

4.4.5 *Native Title Act 1993*

The *Native Title Act 1993* (NT Act) recognises the rights and interests of Indigenous people in respect of land on which they historically resided. The NT Act provides for the determination of Native Title claims, the treatment of future acts that may impact Native Title rights and the requirement for consultation and/or notification to relevant claimants where future acts are involved. Under Section 3 of the NT Act, the main objects are:

a. to provide for the recognition and protection of Native Title; and

b. to establish ways in which future dealings affecting Native Title may proceed and to set standards for those dealings; and

c. to establish a mechanism for determining claims to Native Title; and

d. To provide for, or permit, the validation of past acts, and intermediate period acts, invalidated because of the existence of Native Title.

Approval trigger(s) – NT Act

The Project fulfils the requirements of s24KA of the NT Act. Where a proposed development impacts on a parcel of land which is subject to a native title claim, the project will supress the existing rights and interests of Indigenous people in respect of that land, until such time as the infrastructure is decommissioned.

Relevance to project – NT Act

A native title assessment was undertaken for the Project which identified Aboriginal parties for the Project area are outlined below:

- Birriah People – Determined native title exists.
- Jangga People #2 – Native Title Claimant – Accepted for registration.
- Yirendali People Core Country Claim – Determined native title exists.
- Wanamara People Core Country – Native Title Claimant – claim discontinued.
- Mitakoodi People #3 – Dismissed.
- Mitakoodi People #5 – Native Title Claimant – Accepted for registration.
- Kalkadoon People #4 – Determined native title exists.
- Yulluna People – Determined native title exists.

At this stage, the Project will be established predominantly without the need to alter existing tenure under the *Land Act 1994*. CuString will be engaging with all native title parties over the project, including providing detailed survey plans and project descriptions. The State will be administering any requirements under s24KA of the NT Act.

4.5 State legislation associated with the Planning Act

This section outlines the overarching approvals required for the Project under the state of Queensland (Qld) legislation. The relevant overarching state legislation for which an approval is required includes the SDPWO Act, the Planning Act and the *Electricity Act 1994* (Electricity Act).

4.5.1 Planning Act 2016

The Planning Act is the principle planning legislation administered by the Queensland Government. The Planning Act seeks to establish an efficient, effective, transparent, integrated, coordinated, and accountable system of land use planning, development assessment and related matters that facilitates the achievement of ecological sustainability.

Section 44 of the Planning Act identifies the relevant categories of development which include:

- Prohibited development - development for which a development application may not be made.
- Assessable development - development for which a development approval is required.
- Acceptable development - development for which a development approval is not required.

The Planning Act defines 'development' as any of the following:

- Carrying out building work
- Carrying out plumbing or drainage work
- Carrying out operational work
- Reconfiguring a lot
- Making a material change of use (MCU) of premises.

Schedule 7 of the *Planning Regulation 2017* (Planning Regulation) lists the development that is 'accepted development'. Schedule 10 of the Planning Regulation lists development that is 'prohibited development' and 'assessable development'.

Where the 'development' is to be undertaken as part of the Project and is considered assessable development, a development permit will be required under the Planning Act for that activity.

The process for which 'assessable development' is assessed is not found in the Planning Act but in the Development Assessment Rules (DA rules), which is a statutory instrument made under section 68(1) of the Planning Act. The DA rules outline the process for lodging, assessing and deciding an application and the public notification requirements.

The State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) sets out the matters of interest to the state and provides the criteria for assessing development applications where the state government is the assessment manager or referral agency for a development application (refer to Section 4.7.2).

The Planning Act aims to coordinate all assessable development under other acts to minimise the legislative burden on regulatory agencies. The legislation managed under the Planning Act is discussed in the following sections.

Material change of use under local planning scheme

Where development aspects required for the construction of the project have not been included in the EIS or ID process, the Project element may require an approval as a MCU under a local planning scheme. Under the Planning Act a MCU refers to:

- The start of a new use of the premises.
- The re-establishment on the premises of a use that has been abandoned.
- A material increase in the intensity or scale of the use of the premises.

Applications for a MCU are assessed against the relevant local planning schemes within the Project footprint and include the Burdekin Shire Council, Charters Towers Regional Council, Flinders Shire Council, Richmond Shire Council, McKinlay Shire Council, Cloncurry Shire Council, Mount Isa City Council. Further detail regarding the assessment of the Project against aspects of these planning documents is provided in Sections 4.9.

The requirements for MCU applications are based on the relevant activities to be undertaken for a project and the associated planning scheme zoning for the affected areas.

Legislation coordinated under the Planning Act

The Planning Act includes provisions to govern assessable development under a number of Queensland Acts, including:

- *Acquisition of Land Act 1967* (AL Act)
- *Building Act 1975* (Building Act)

- *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002* (Plumbing and Drainage Act)
- *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* (Coastal Act)
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act)
- *Fisheries Act 1994* (Fisheries Act)
- *Land Act 1994* (Land Act)
- *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (QHA)
- *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994* (TI Act)
- *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VM Act)
- *Water Act 2000* (Water Act).

All applications are required to be lodged through the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) which will coordinate the referral of the application to other relevant agencies as required. SARA will comprise the single point of contact for proponents and will incorporate feedback from the relevant agencies in approval conditions.

Approval trigger(s) – Planning Act

Where the Project comprises code or impact assessable development defined under Section 45 of the Planning Act, a development permit will be required.

Relevance to project – Planning Act

The activities associated with the Project are subject to development assessment under the Planning Act; assessable development is likely to include a MCU under the relevant local planning schemes (code or impact assessable), building works, reconfiguration of a lot and operational works including excavating or filling that materially affects a premise or its use (bulk earthworks, road works), and clearing vegetation.

4.5.2 Acquisition of Land Act 1967

The AL Act is concerned with the procedures by which land may be taken and the assessment of compensation subsequent to its taking. These arrangements allow for projects of significance to the community and economy to be delivered on land acquired, where necessary, by the State Government on the developer's behalf. This ensures that projects can be delivered with significantly reduced risks, whilst the interests of landholders are addressed through the checks and balanced enshrined in the statutory resumption process.

Approval trigger(s) – AL Act

Where the state recognises a project can benefit from the State's powers of land acquisition under the process prescribed in the AL Act.

Relevance to project – AL Act

The final corridor selection for the Project will require an easement of 120 m (to allow for future duplication) or 60 m in width. The easement is a registered interest in a parcel of land for which the Project may offer compensation options to the relevant landholder, with the landholder retaining ownership and most uses of the land. As part of the land acquisition process a registered valuer will conduct an assessment of the property and determine the impact of any transmission line on the value of the property. The Project will document a detailed landholder engagement strategy to consult affected landholders and provide a path for comments to feed into the refined design and alignment of the transmission line.

There are restrictions placed on any activities that are permitted on a transmission line easement to ensure the safety of the public is maintained and the line can operate reliably.

4.5.3 *Building Act 1975* and *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002*

The Building Act and Plumbing and Drainage Act classifies and regulates certain aspects of buildings and structures both of a commercial and/or domestic nature.

Approval trigger(s) – Building Act and Plumbing and Drainage Act

Under the Planning Act assessable building work or plumbing and drainage work is taken to be acceptable development and will require a permit to be issued by a private building certifier.

Relevance to project –Building Act and Plumbing and Drainage Act

Various aspects of the Project may require approvals under these acts. These approvals will be associated aspects of buildings, structures or regulated plumbing and/or drainage within permanent or temporary premises to be established as part of the Project.

4.5.4 Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995

The Coastal Act provides for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and management of the coast including its resources and biological diversity. The Coastal Act designates coastal management districts (CMDs) over certain coastal areas for various reasons including the occurrence of erosion prone areas, undeveloped areas and areas that may be subject to high impacts in the future.

Relevance to project –Coastal Act

The Project is not located on the coast or within a CMD or erosion prone areas and therefore the Coastal Act does not apply to the Project.

4.5.5 Environmental Protection Act 1994

Part 2 of the EP Act describes the objective of the Act as:

> *To protect Queensland's environment while allowing for development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends (ecologically sustainable development).*

The EP Act utilises a number of mechanisms to achieve its objectives. These include creating a 'general environmental duty', licencing of Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERAs) and issuing the Environmental Protection Policies (EPPs) and Regulations under the Act.

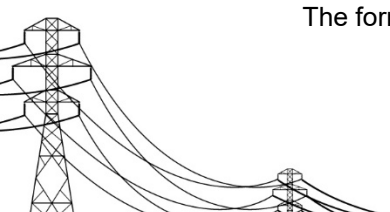
Section 319 of the EP Act conveys the general environmental duty, which states:

> *A person must not carry out any activity that causes, or is likely to cause, environmental harm unless the person takes all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm.*

An ERA is defined under the EP Act as:

- An agricultural ERA as defined in Section 79 of the EP Act
- A resource activity as defined in Section 107 of the EP Act
- An activity prescribed under Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008* (EP Reg) which includes water treatment services (63 Sewage treatment/64 Water Treatment).

The formation of EPPs under the EP Act is discussed later in this section.



Environmentally relevant activities

ERAs are predominantly industrial activities which have potential to release contaminants to the environment. Section 19 of the EP Act makes provision that an ERA may be prescribed where the Governor in Council is satisfied that a contaminant will be released and cause harm to the environment when undertaking an activity.

The EP Act makes provisions for the registration of 'suitable operators' to undertake ERAs. A suitable operator is a person or corporation who has been registered by the Department of Environment and Science (DES) as being suitable to carry out an ERA; an application for an environmental authority (EA) to carry out an ERA will not be approved unless the proponent is registered as a suitable operator.

Schedule 2 of the EP Regulation identifies ERAs and details the applicable thresholds and aggregate environmental scores (AES).

There are two levels of ERAs, namely:

- ERAs with an AES, which are considered to present a higher environmental risk
- ERAs without an AES, which are considered to present a lower environmental risk.

Different annual fees apply to each ERA and vary depending on the type of ERA and the individual threshold or the intensity of the ERA.

Approval requirements for ERAs

The EP Act provides for a single, staged EA process for all ERAs. Under the EP Act, a proponent must make a single application for an EA which covers all relevant activities that form an ERA project. An ERA project is defined in the EP Act as all prescribed ERAs carried out, or proposed to be carried out, as a single integrated operation.

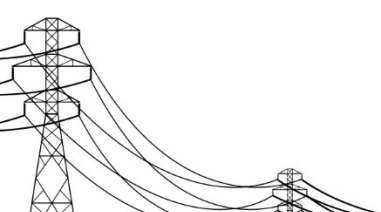
Chapter 5, Part 2 outlines the staged application process for EAs for all ERAs. The stages are generally as outlined below:

- Application stage—where the application will be validated as properly made
- Information stage—where the information contained in the application will be assessed to enable the administering authority to decide the application and where further information may be requested from the applicant
- Notification stage—where the application documents will be made available for the public to make submissions
- Decision stage—where a decision is made to approve with conditions or refuse the application
- Post-decision dealings—where processes such as amending, amalgamating, suspending and cancelling an environmental authority are dealt with.

Not all ERA applications are subject to all stages outlined above. Depending on the level of risk of the relevant activity, the application for the ERA may undergo only the application and decision stage with an approval being granted subject to standard conditions.

An application for an EA will be one of the following types.

- Standard application
- Variation application
- Site-specific application.



A standard application is made where an ERA project is subject to the eligibility criteria and standard conditions for component ERAs. A variation application is made where the component ERAs are compliant with the eligibility criteria but the proposed ERA seeks to change the standard conditions. A site-specific application is made where the component ERAs are noncompliant with the eligibility criteria. A standard application may be lodged where the proposed ERA can meet both the eligibility criteria and standard conditions prescribed for the activity. Where the eligibility criteria can be met for an eligible ERA, but a change is required to one or more of the standard conditions based on operational needs, a variation application must be lodged. Where the eligibility criteria cannot be met, a site-specific application must be lodged with DES which outlines detailed information regarding the proposed activity and the potential environmental impacts which may occur as a result of the activity.

Table 4-1 outlines the ERAs that may be required for the temporary infrastructure associated with the Project based on the Project description (Volume 1 Chapter 2 Project description). The table indicates which ERAs will be subject to a standard application.

Table 4-1 Schedule ERAs

ERA	Trigger/threshold	Project activities
63 Sewage treatment	Operating 1 or more sewage treatment works at a site that has a total daily peak design capacity of at least 21 equivalent persons (EP). Subject to a standard application.	Temporary construction camps may treat sewage
64 Water treatment	Treating 10 ML or more raw water in a day. Carrying out, in a day, advanced treatment (i.e. treatment of water that has been treated in a sewage treatment plant) of 5 ML or more of water, allowing the release of waste to the environment.	Treatment of raw water (harvested from surface or groundwater) for use as potable water.

Approval trigger(s) – EP Act (ERAs)

Where the Project activities proposed comprise an ERA under the EP Act, an environmental authority will be required to undertake the relevant activities.

Relevance to Project –– EP Act (ERAs)

The temporary infrastructure associated with the Project including construction camps may treat sewage. However to trigger an ERA 63, the sewage treatment involves operating one or more sewage treatment works at a site that has a total daily peak design capacity of a least 21 EP. This is therefore unlikely to be triggered.

The temporary infrastructure associated with the Project including construction camps may treat water, however an ERA for water treatment is unlikely to be triggered as the threshold trigger is treatment of 10 ML or more of raw water per day.

The permanent infrastructure associated with the Project does not propose activities deemed to be ERAs. The temporary infrastructure associated with the Project does not propose activities deemed to be ERAs and will therefore not require an EA prior to commencement of any activities.

Wetlands

Wetlands within the Great Barrier Reef catchments are protected under the Environmental Protection Regulation and the Planning Regulation and are assessed against SDAP - State Code 9: Great Barrier Reef wetland protection areas (State Code 9). State Code 9 forms the basis of state assessment of high impact earthworks in wetland protection areas in certain catchments of the Great Barrier Reef.

State Code 9 applies to development involving high impact earthworks which is triggered for assessment if it is located within wetland protection areas mapped on the Map of Referrable Wetlands. High impact earthworks are defined in Schedule 24 of the Planning Regulation and means operational work that changes the form of land, or involves placing a structure on land, in a way that diverts water to or from a wetland in a wetland protection area and involves excavating or filling:

(i) if the work is carried out in the wetland or within 200m of the wetland—more than 100m^3; or

(ii) otherwise—more than 1,000m^3;

Relevance to project – EP Act (Wetlands)

The Project area intersects mapped wetland protection areas, however the activities associated with the Project are not anticipated to require filling and/or excavation of more than 100m^3 within a wetland or within 200m of the wetland or more than 1,000m^3 therefore, State Code 9 is not applicable to the Project.

Contaminated land

Activities with the potential to cause land contamination are listed as ‘notifiable activities’ under Schedule 3 of the EP Act. Under Section 371 of the EP Act, the owner or occupier of the land on which a ‘notifiable activity’ takes place must notify DES of the activity within 22 business days of becoming aware of the activity. Land on which a notifiable activity has taken place is recorded in the Environmental Management Register (EMR). Furthermore, land is recorded in the Contaminated Land Register (CLR) when scientific investigation proves it is contaminated and action must be taken to remediate or manage the land. Actions associated with land on the CLR may include measures to prevent migration of contaminants or removal of contaminants and off-site treatment.

Approval trigger(s) – EP Act (Contaminated Land)

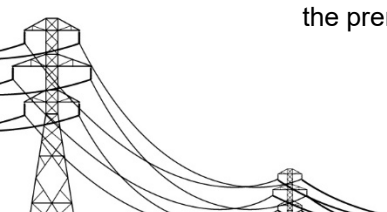
Where development occurs on a property listed on the EMR or CLR, supporting information associated with any MCU for sensitive land use activities will be required to demonstrate that the land is either not contaminated, can be remediated to enable the proposed use to occur with limited risk through a site management plan, or the new development is not located in the vicinity of potential contamination.

Relevance to project – EP Act (Contaminated Land)

An assessment of potential contaminated land relevant to the Project is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 5 Land, including a comprehensive search of the EMR/CLR. 17 sites on directly impacted land parcels across the corridor selection are listed on the EMR. The EMR listed sites are predominantly stock dips which can be avoided during construction.

There are also seven properties that have been identified as having potential unexploded ordnance.

In the event that contaminated material is located during construction it will not be removed from the premises and so a disposal permit is not required.



4.5.6 Environmental protection policies

Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2019

The purpose of the *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2019* (EPP Air) is to achieve the objectives of the EP Act in relation to air quality. Section 7 of the EPP Air lists the following environmental values to be protected:

- The qualities of the air environment that are conducive to protecting the health and biodiversity of ecosystems
- The qualities of the air environment that are conducive to human health and wellbeing
- The qualities of the air environment that are conducive to protecting the aesthetics of the environment, including the appearance of buildings, structures and other property
- The qualities of the air environment that are conducive to protecting agricultural use of the environment.

Section 8 of the EPP Air identifies the following management hierarchy for an activity involving air emissions:

- Firstly—avoid
- Secondly—recycle
- Thirdly—minimise
- Fourthly—manage.

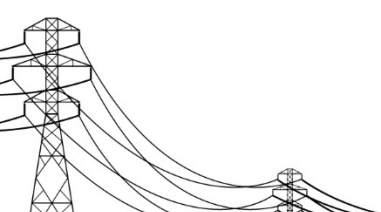
Schedule 1 of the EPP Air details the air quality objectives for protecting those environmental values listed under Section 7 of the EPP Air.

An assessment of the Project against the EPP Air and air quality objectives is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 10 Air and greenhouse gas.

Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2019

The purpose of the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2019* (EPP Noise) is to ensure the objective of the EP Act is upheld in relation to the acoustic environment. Section 6 of the EPP Noise lists the following environmental values to be protected:

- The qualities of the acoustic environment that are conducive to protecting the health and biodiversity of ecosystems
- The qualities of the acoustic environment that are conducive to human health and wellbeing, including by ensuring a suitable acoustic environment for individuals to do any of the following:
  - Sleep
  - Study or learn
  - Be involved in recreation, including relaxation and conversation
- The qualities of the acoustic environment that are conducive to protecting the amenity of the community.



The management hierarchy for noise is detailed in Section 8 of the EPP Noise and involves the following:

- Firstly – avoid
- Secondly – minimise, in the following order of preference:
  - Orientate an activity to minimise noise
  - Use best available technology
- Thirdly – manage.

Schedule 1 of the EPP Noise details the acoustic quality objectives for sensitive receptors.

An assessment of the Project against the EPP Noise and acoustic quality objectives is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 11 Noise and vibration.

Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019

The purpose of the *Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019* (EPP Water) is to ensure the objective of the EP Act is upheld in relation to all Queensland waters and wetlands. Environmental values and water quality guidelines are determined according to a process detailed in the National Water Quality Management Strategy, Implementation Guidelines and Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC). Environmental values and water quality objectives are categorised by region and sub-basin and documented under Schedule 1 of the EPP Water.

An assessment of the Project against the EPP Water and water quality objectives is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 9 Water resources and water quality.

4.5.7 Fisheries Act 1994

The purpose of the Fisheries Act is to provide for the use, conservation and enhancement of the community's fisheries resources and fish habitats through the application of the principles of ecologically sustainable development. The Fisheries Act and the *Fisheries Regulation 1995* (Fisheries Regulation) are administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and provide for the management, use, development and protection of fisheries resources and fish habitats and the management of aquaculture activities. Where a polluting matter is likely to affect fisheries resources or a fish habitat, the Chief Executive of DAF may issue a notice to restore fish habitat requiring the responsible person to take action to manage the situation.

The Planning Regulation assigns the Chief Executive administering the Fisheries Act as the assessment manager for fisheries development in certain situations.

Approval trigger(s) – Fisheries Act

The following activities require approval under the Fisheries Act through the Planning Regulation:

- Aquaculture in tidal water, marine and freshwater
- Removal, destruction or damage of marine plants
- Building or operational works in a declared fish habitat area
- Waterway barrier works.

Relevance to project – Fisheries Act

The corridor selection traverses a number of waterways (94 Major or High Risk waterways) that are mapped on the Queensland Waterways for Waterway Barrier Works spatial layer, as waterways where fish habitats are at risk of impact from waterway barrier works. During the

construction phase of the Project, existing waterway crossings will be utilised where practicable. Where temporary crossings are required, the Project will be required to meet the Accepted development requirements for operational work that is constructing or raising waterway barrier works 2018. Where the works are undertaken in accordance with the Accepted development requirements for operational work that is constructing or raising waterway barrier works 2018, then an operational works development permit for constructing or raising waterway barrier works is not required (refer to Volume 2 Chapter 9 Water resources and water quality).

There are no components of the Project that are defined as waterway barrier works, as towers will not be constructed within any waterways. In addition, conductors and earth wire pull cables will be strung over the waterways using helicopters to avoid riparian impacts. Vehicle access across waterways are likely be in the form of a bed level crossings which can be established in accordance with the accepted development requirements. New bed level waterway crossings will be constructed within timeframes specified by the *Accepted development requirements for operation work that is constructing or raising waterway barrier works* (DAF, 2018) (i.e. within 180 days for major impact (purple) or high impact (red) waterways, or 360 days on moderate impact (amber) or low impact (green) waterways). As such, assessable waterway barrier works do not apply to this project.

The DAF will be consulted should quarry material extraction be required that has the potential to impact on fish movement.

The Project will not require the removal of marine plants during the construction of waterway crossings as it is not located within a coastal area.

4.5.8 Land Act 1994

The objective of the Land Act is for land administered under the Land Act to be managed for the benefit of the people of Queensland on the basis of principles of sustainability, evaluation, development, community purpose, protection, consultation, and administration.

The application process for reconfiguring a lot is administered under the Planning Act. The ability to create new titles and subdivide these titles is provided for under the Land Act. An application under the Land Act is also required for temporary or permanent closure of a road that is not a state-controlled road.

Approval trigger(s) – Land Act

The following activities require approval under the Land Act:

- Subdivision of land otherwise known as reconfiguring a lot
- Changes of tenure
- Leasing of tenure
- Temporary or permanent road closure not involving a state-controlled road.

Relevance to project – Land Act

Relevant provisions of the Land Act will be applicable to any works or access requirements on land not owned by the proponent, including:

- Easement agreements
- Land access agreements
- Entry notifications.

Temporary or permanent closure of local roads may be required for establishment of site access roads, in which case an application under the Land Act will be required. Road closures will be

required as per the procedures under the Land Act. They require an application to State Land outlining the area of road to be closed either temporarily or permanently. Applications may require public notification.

4.5.9 Queensland Heritage Act 1992

The QHA is the principle legislation protecting non-Indigenous cultural heritage in Queensland. The QHA establishes the Queensland Heritage Council, which administers the Queensland Heritage Register and various local heritage registers.

To be entered as a State Heritage Place in the Queensland Heritage Register, a place or item must satisfy one or more of the following criteria listed under Section 35 of the QH Act:

- The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Queensland's history.
- The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Queensland's cultural heritage.
- The place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Queensland's history.
- The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places.
- The place is important because of its aesthetic significance.
- The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.
- The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
- The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in Queensland's history.

Approval trigger(s) – QHA

Under the QHA, penalties can apply for damage caused to places or items on the Queensland Heritage Register or a local heritage register. Additional protection may be provided through local government planning schemes.

Relevance to project – QHA

An assessment of any existing heritage listed places along the Project alignment has been undertaken (refer to Volume 2 Chapter 15 Cultural heritage).

The National Heritage List and Commonwealth Heritage List did not contain any non-Indigenous heritage places relevant to the study area. A search of the Queensland Heritage Register identified a number of non-Indigenous heritage places within proximity of the Project however none of these are within the corridor selection and the project is unlikely to have any impact on any heritage places.

The specific requirements relating to the management and mitigation of unearthing an item or place of heritage significance will be detailed in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) prepared for the Project. In the event that an archaeological artefact is unearthed during excavation works DES are required to be notified as per Part 9, Item 89 of the QHA.

The Project is unlikely to impact any known places of non-Indigenous heritage value and there is low potential for previously unidentified non-Indigenous heritage places to be impacted.

4.5.10 Transport Infrastructure Act 1994

The objective of the TI Act is to provide a regime that allows for and encourages effective integrated planning and efficient management of a system of transport infrastructure.

Under Section 46 of the TI Act, approval is required from the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) to conduct works within a state-controlled road corridor. Interruption to traffic flow on a state-controlled road, will also require a traffic control permit. Prior to applying for a traffic control permit, the applicant will be required to obtain a road corridor permit which grants the user permission to access the state-controlled road to undertake relevant activities.

Approval trigger(s) – TI Act

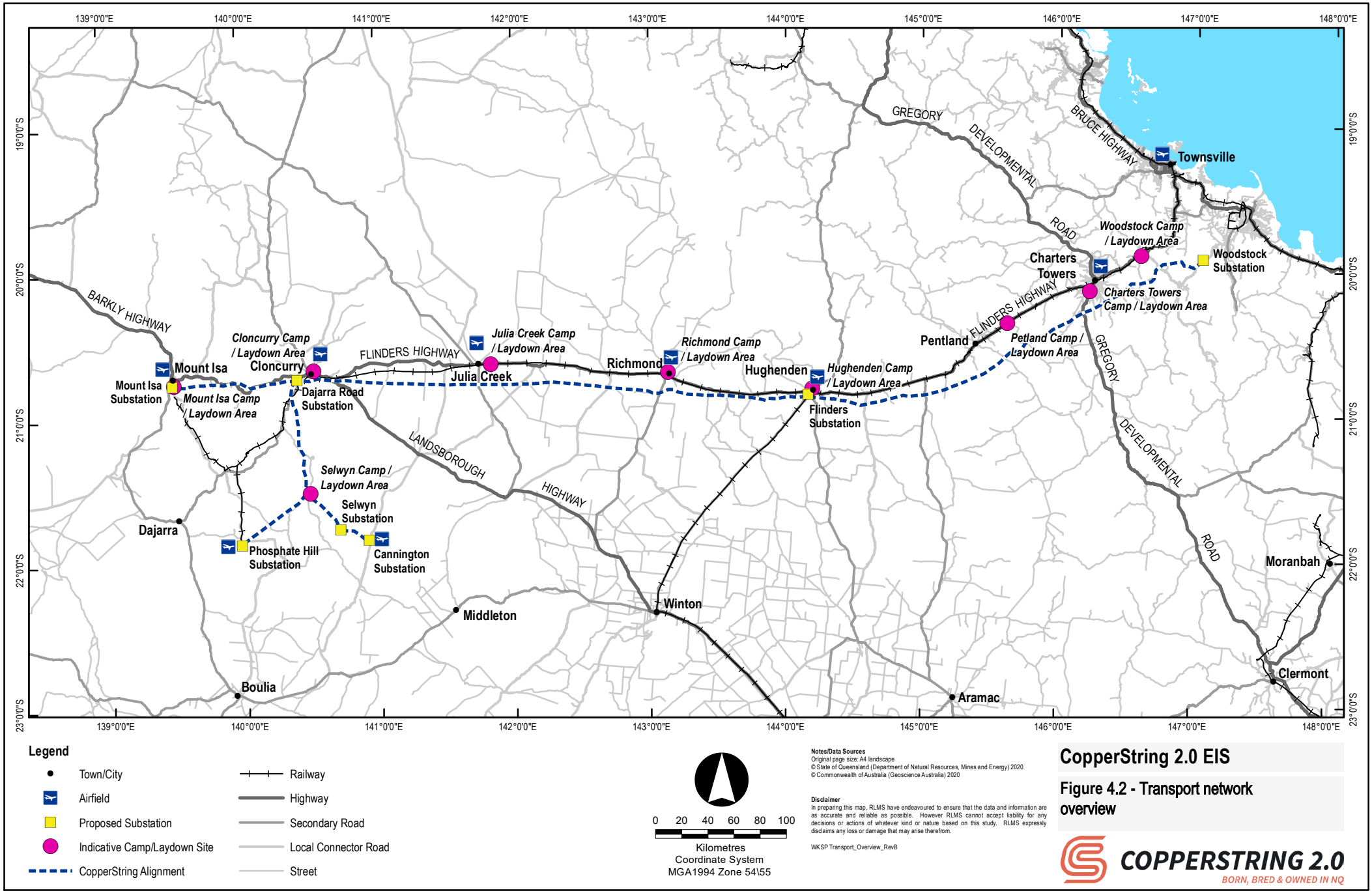
Where the use of state-controlled roads during construction, and where existing access points require augmentation or upgrades or new access points may need to be established, an approval from DTMR under the TI Act will be triggered. This may also include the temporary closure resulting in interference to traffic flows.

Additionally, the installation of public or private third-party utility infrastructure in a state-controlled road corridor will trigger an approval requirement under the TI Act. Third-party utility infrastructure located in the state-controlled road network must be designed and constructed in accordance with the DTMR Technical Note 163 Third Party Utility Infrastructure Installation in State-Controlled Roads Technical Guidelines.

Relevance to project – TI Act

The Project intersects 14 state-controlled road reserves as shown in Figure 4-2. Where construction of the Project will result in the interference of traffic flows along state-controlled roads, a permit to undertake works in accordance with the TI Act will be required from DTMR. Approvals will also be required under the TI Act for the installation of private third-party utility infrastructure in the state-controlled road reserves.

The Project intersects three railway crossings and will involve works within existing rail corridor land as defined by the TI Act. Approval will be required to undertake these works in accordance with the TI Act. No new rail crossings are proposed for the access tracks. Where access tracks are required to cross a railway line, existing operational crossings will be utilised.



Legend

- Town/City
- Airfield
- Proposed Substation
- Indicative Camp/Laydown Site
- CopperString Alignment
- Railway
- Highway
- Secondary Road
- Local Connector Road
- Street

0 20 40 60 80 100
Kilometres
Coordinate System
MGA1994 Zone 54\55

Notes/Data Sources
Original page size: A4 landscape
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WKSP Transport_Overview_RevB

CopperString 2.0 EIS

Figure 4.2 - Transport network overview

COPPERSTRING 2.0
BORN, BRED & OWNED IN NQ

4.5.11 Vegetation Management Act 1999

The VM Act in conjunction with the Planning Act, regulates the clearing of native vegetation, excluding grasses and mangroves (which are administered under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) and Fisheries Act, respectively). Under the Planning Regulation, operational work that is the clearing of native vegetation is to be assessed against the purposes of the VM Act.

Clearing native vegetation is regulated under the VM Act and made assessable through the Planning Act. Schedule 10 Part 3 of the Planning Regulation states that operational work that is clearing native vegetation is prohibited development, unless it is for a relevant purpose (under the VM Act section 22A), exempt clearing work (under the Planning Regulation Schedule 21) or accepted development (under the VM Act Schedule 7).

Approval trigger(s) – VM Act

Exempt clearing work (Planning Act Schedule 21)

Exempt clearing work is listed in Schedule 21 of the Planning Regulation and depends on tenure, mapped vegetation category and clearing purpose. Of note, exemptions that were investigated as being of potential relevance to the works included the following:

- An activity under the Electricity Act, section 101 or 112A; or the Electricity Regulation, section 17. (Planning Regulation Schedule 21 (10a) (10b)).
- Clearing vegetation for the construction or maintenance of infrastructure stated in Schedule 5 of the Planning Regulation, if the clearing is on designated premises (Planning Regulation Schedule 21 (14)).

Where it can be demonstrated that the proposed activities are undertaken by an electricity entity or transmission entity or undertaken on a designated premises under the Planning Act, then the clearing works would be exempt and a development approval for clearing native vegetation under the Planning Act would not be required. CuString have commenced the regulatory process with the Queensland state government to be endorsed as an electricity entity under the Electricity Act and therefore clearing of native vegetation for the project may occur as exempt clearing work.

Accepted development (Planning Act Schedule 7)

Some vegetation clearing activities can be undertaken using an accepted development vegetation clearing code and a notification process.

Clearing of vegetation in Category B, C and R areas can be undertaken under the accepted development vegetation clearing code for Clearing for infrastructure, dated 7th February 2020 (Planning Regulation, Schedule 7, Part 3, 12).

Vegetation can be cleared under this code to establish or expand infrastructure in accordance with requirements designed to meet the objectives of the code. If the clearing does not comply with the code, it is classified as either assessable or prohibited development under the Planning Act.

Clearing of vegetation for infrastructure must comply with the following:

- Avoid and minimise practice outlined in the code
- Meet clearing requirements in the code, if clearing on land other than a dedicated road
- Meet clearing requirements in the code, if clearing on a dedicated road
- Follow soil and water quality protections in the code

- Must provide exchange areas (if applicable).

For this exemption to apply the contractor is to avoid vegetation removal and is required to comply with the requirements of the code.

Relevant purpose- assessable development

If the above exemptions or accepted development are deemed not applicable, the proposed clearing of the native vegetation would be 'assessable development' requiring an application to be submitted and approved prior to clearing native vegetation regulated under the VM Act. It is anticipated that this assessment would be undertaken in conjunction with the ID Process under the Planning Act and that an application can be submitted if it meets one of the relevant purposes listed under section 22A of the VM Act, and the clearing cannot reasonably be avoided or minimised.

The Project has been declared a coordinated project under the SDPWO Act and therefore is considered a relevant purpose under the VM Act and an approval under the Planning Act can be applied for as a relevant purpose.

Relevance to project – VM Act

The Project will require clearing of remnant native vegetation regulated under the VM Act within the corridor selection. It is likely that this clearing is considered exempt or acceptable development, however, should there be unavoidable clearing which does not satisfy exempt or acceptable development criteria, a vegetation clearing permit will be required prior to any clearing activities.

Clearing for construction laydown areas and the corridor selection establishment is likely to meet the exemptions under Planning Regulation Schedule 21, Part 1, (10 (a) and (b)) or if included on a designated premises under the Planning Regulation Schedule 21, Part 1, (14).

Therefore the impacts to regulated vegetation for the transmission corridor can be assessed as part of the EIS process and the approval will be obtained post-EIS as part of the ID process, will be exempt or accepted development.

Additional clearing activities that are not included in the above (e.g. for accommodation camps may require operational works development application for clearing of native vegetation or as included as part of an MCU application assessed under the Planning Act post the EIS approval process.

4.5.12 Water Act 2000

The Water Act controls the allocation and sustainable management of water resources in Queensland. The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) administers the Water Act and controls access to water through a system of water authorisations, including water licences, water permits, water allocations and interim water allocations. These authorisations allow the holder to take or interfere with water.

Riverine protection permit

A riverine protection permit (RPP) may be required under the Water Act to destroy vegetation, excavate or place fill in a watercourse, lake or spring. Watercourses are defined under Section 5 of the Water Act, whereas lake and spring are defined under Schedule 4 of the Water Act. A permit is not required if the Project can undertake the works in accordance with Section 4 - minimum requirements of the Riverine Protection Permit Exemptions Requirements - WSS/2013/726 Version 2.01 dated 2019 (RPP exemption requirements).

The purpose of the RPP exemption requirements is to outline when it is permitted to excavate, place fill or destroy vegetation in a watercourse, lake or spring without the need for a riverine protection permit under the Water Act. The RPP exemption is applicable to approved entities listed in Schedule of the RPP exemption and this includes electricity entities under the Electricity Act.

As CuString will be an electricity entity under the Electricity Act and therefore will be approved to use the RPP exemption requirements. For the exemption to apply, vegetation clearing must be:

- Carried out under an accepted development vegetation clearing code (other than category A), or
- Of an area that is less than 0.5 ha of a least concern RE in a category B area, or
- Of an area that is less than 0.5 ha in a category C, R or X area.

The exemption requirements are considered likely to apply to any clearing of vegetation required to be undertaken within a watercourse, provided that clearing can meet the conditions of the exemption requirements.

For approved entities using the RPP exemption, there are no volumetric limits associated with excavation and/or placement of fill in a watercourse, lake or spring, provided the approved entity meets the criteria outlined in Section 3 and Section 4 of the RPP exemption. Where compliance with the RPP exemption cannot be achieved, then a RPP is required, either for clearing of vegetation or excavating within a watercourse, the application to DNRME must include a plan denoting area of disturbance.

The RPP exemption is based on CuString becoming an electricity entity under the Electricity Act. This process has commenced; however may not be decided until commencement of construction. Accordingly, the timing of CuString becoming an electrical entity may impact the projects ability to comply with the RPP exemption requirements.

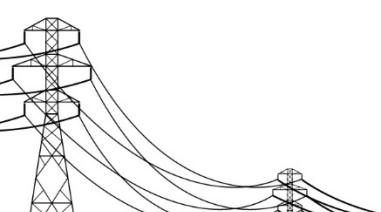
Operational works - quarry material

Removal of ‘quarry material’ from a watercourse triggers referral to DNRME and assessment under the Water Act. However, removal of quarry material in a watercourse or lake does not require a permit if the material removed from a watercourse or lake is not considered quarry material. The material is only considered quarry material if it is sold or used for any productive purpose, such as for manufacturing, building, or as fill.

No material is proposed to be removed from a watercourse for construction of the Project. If material is sourced from a watercourse for construction, in addition to requiring approval under the Planning Act, a quarry material allocation notice under the Water Act will need to be applied for and granted prior to the material being sourced. If required, an application to DNRME and/or DAF outlining the type and quantity of material to be extracted, the intended purpose, length of time required, and a report will be required.

Operational works – taking or interfering with water

Under the Planning Regulation, Schedule 10, Part 19, (29) (a) (i), a development permit is required for operational work that involves taking or interfering with water in a watercourse. Operational works involving the take or interference with underground water may also require a development permit.



This permit would be triggered if:

- Taking of water is required for construction
- Water is diverted
- Flow of water is interfered (impoundment by dam, weir or excavation that stores water).

It is not anticipated that water will be taken or interfered with as part of the construction of the Project and therefore will not trigger an operational works approval. Potable town water supplies will be required for construction and to supply temporary accommodation camps. No new groundwater bores are proposed under this Project description.

Water resource planning

The Water Act prescribes water plan areas by which water plans (WPs) are made. WPs are developed under the Water Act to sustainably manage and allocate water resources in Queensland.

WPs may apply to rivers, lakes, springs, overland flow and underground water. Each plan details the following:

- Water covered by the plan
- Desired outcomes, measures and strategies for achieving the outcomes
- Performance indicators
- Amounts of water available for consumptive use and future use
- Specifications of water management areas and trading zones
- Criteria for deciding water licences.

WP areas covered by the corridor selection includes:

- Burdekin Basin — covers the corridor selection from KP 0WD to 220WD
- Cooper Creek — covers the corridor selection from KP 221WD to 297WD
- Gulf — covers the corridor selection from KP 298WD to 723WD, KP 0DM to 100.9DM and KP 0DS to 86DS
- Georgina and Diamantina — covers the corridor selection from KP 87DS to 96DS, KP 0SP to 60.2SP and KP 0SC to 154.9SC
- Great Artesian Basin and Other Regional Aquifers (GABORA) – covers the corridor selection from KP 179WD to 689WD and from KP 143SC to 154.9SC.

Groundwater Management Areas

A number of management areas have been established throughout Queensland to protect underground water resources. These include groundwater management areas and sub-artesian management areas. Within these areas, a water licence is generally needed to take groundwater. An authorisation to construct works may also be required. Details regarding water licenses are within individual WPs that apply to the Project.

Relevance to project – Water Act

Several watercourses and drainage lines are crossed by the Project. It is not anticipated that surface water, groundwater or quarry material will be taken or interfered with as part of the construction of the Project and therefore will not trigger an operational works approval under the Planning Act or a water licence allocation under the Water Act. If access to existing groundwater

bores are required to source groundwater, agreements with licence holders will be made. No additional groundwater bores are proposed to be developed as part of the Project.

A riverine protection permit will not be required as the disturbance to the bed and banks of any freshwater streams can be undertaken in accordance with the RPP exemption requirements. The RPP exemption is based on CuString becoming an electricity entity under the Electricity Act. This process has commenced; however may not be decided until commencement of construction. Accordingly, the timing of CuString becoming an electrical entity may impact the projects ability to comply with the RPP exemption requirements.

4.6 Other State legislation

4.6.1 *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*

The ACH Act regulates the management and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage. The ACH Act imposes a 'duty of care' on the proponent of a development to take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure they do not harm or, to the extent that harm cannot be avoided, minimise harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage. This applies whether or not such places are recorded in the DATSIP Cultural Heritage Database and Register. Under Part 7 of the ACH Act, a CHMP is required as part of an EIS.

Approval trigger(s) – ACH Act

An assessment was undertaken for the Project to identify any declared 'significant Aboriginal area' or 'object' (refer to Volume 2 Chapter 15 Cultural heritage).

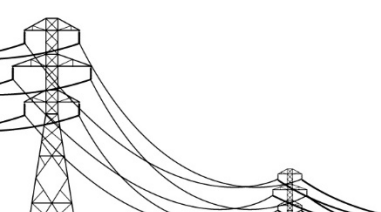
A search was conducted of the DATSIP Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register on 20 February 2020 of the centreline of the Project corridor selection and substation footprints, with a 500 m buffer. This search identified 294 registered cultural heritage sites and two registered cultural heritage polygons. The DATSIP search returned sites only within the Birriah People, Yirendali People Core Country Claim, Mitakoodi People #5, Kalkadoon People #4 and Yulluna People native title claim boundaries.

Additional detailed field studies in these areas will assist in locating the registered sites to ensure they are managed appropriately.

Other Aboriginal sites are known to exist in the area but are not registered on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register. In general, registered DATSIP Indigenous cultural heritage sites reflect more where previous study has been conducted; it does not reflect the extent of heritage in the search area. It is certain that further cultural heritage field studies will identify more Indigenous cultural heritage sites.

Relevance to project – ACH Act

CuString has a responsibility under the ACH Act to report the discovery of anything reasonably suspected to be Aboriginal remains to the Minister who administers the ACH Act. The specific requirements relating to the management and mitigation of unearthing an item or place of cultural heritage significance will be appropriately managed in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal parties under the CHMPs that will be developed for the Project.



4.6.2 *Biosecurity Act 2014*

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Biosecurity Act) aims to provide comprehensive biosecurity measures to safeguard the economy, agricultural and tourism industries, environment and way of life, from:

- Pests (e.g. wild dogs and weeds)
- Diseases (e.g. foot-and-mouth disease)
- Contaminants (e.g. lead on grazing land).

The Biosecurity Act ensures a consistent, modern, risk-based and less prescriptive approach to biosecurity in Queensland.

Under section 23 of the Biosecurity Act, all people have a 'general biosecurity obligation' (GBO). This means that everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks that are:

- Under their control
- That they know about, or should reasonably be expected to know about.

Under the GBO, individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk must:

- Take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk
- Minimise the likelihood of causing a 'biosecurity event', and limit the consequences if such an event is caused
- Prevent or minimise the harmful effects a risk could have, and not do anything that might make any harmful effects worse.

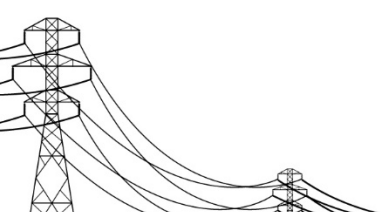
The Biosecurity Act classifies species as 'restricted matters' and places them in categories rather than classes. In accordance with the Biosecurity Act, CuString has a responsibility to manage various plants and animals on land that it owns or manages, in accordance with the relevant category.

Relevance to project – Biosecurity Act

The ecological assessment (refer to Volume 2 Chapter 8 Biosecurity) undertaken for the Project identified a number of declared pest species. Weed Management and Pest Management objectives and performance criteria has been prepared for the Project (refer Volume 3, Appendix U Concept Biosecurity plan). This will be incorporated into the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to manage weeds during the construction phase. Weed and Pest Management Plans will also be developed and implemented for the Project's operation phase. The management plans will include mitigation measures to address invasive plants and species encountered during construction and operational phases of the Project.

4.6.3 *Disaster Management Act 2003*

One of the main objectives of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* (Disaster Management Act) is to mitigate the potential adverse effects of an event. This is achieved primarily by establishing disaster management groups and plans for the State, disaster districts and LGAs. The regional study area of the Project complies with the Disaster Management Act through the provision of the Queensland State Disaster Management Plan 2018 and the local disaster management plans from the relevant local governments.



Relevance to project – Disaster Management Act

An Emergency Response Plan and a Disaster Management Plan will be developed for the Project in consultation with the relevant disaster management planning groups and state/local government agencies. Information about the Emergency Response Plan and Disaster Management Plan is included in Volume 2 Chapter 17 Hazards, health and safety.

4.6.4 *Electricity Act 1994*

The Electricity Act is the main legislation governing Queensland's electricity industry. The Electricity Act and the *Electricity Regulation 2006* (Electricity Regulation) deal with:

- Regulating the electricity industry and electricity use, including licensing of electricity industry participants and monitoring of license compliance.
- Making and approving industry codes, such as the Electricity Industry Code, which deals with supply reliability, standard customer contracts of electricity distributors and retailers, and other customer service matters.
- Approving electricity prices for standing offer customers.
- Assisting in settling disputes between electricity entities and between electricity entities and public entities.
- Administrating electricity restrictions and electricity rationing procedures.

The Electricity Act is supported by the Electricity Distribution Network Code, which sets out rules for electricity distributors and is administered by the Queensland Competition Authority, which is also responsible for administering some matters under the Electricity Act.

The Electricity Act also allows the owner, occupier or user of premises to become an on-supplier who can supply electricity to the occupants of the premises (the receivers). The legislation contains provisions that must be followed in the on-supply of electricity to receivers.

Relevance to project – Electricity Act

To operate the new transmission network and connect to the distribution network, CuString require regulatory approval to be licensed as a transmission authority and an electricity entity.

This process with the Queensland Government regulators has substantially commenced and is expected to be issued prior to the Project's financial close before commencement of construction.

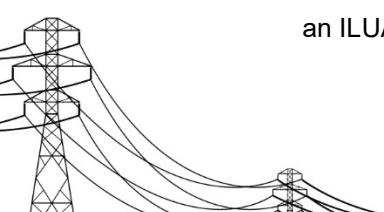
4.6.5 *Forestry Act 1959*

The purpose of the *Forestry Act 1959* (Forestry Act) is to provide for forest reservations, the management, silvicultural treatment and protection of state forests, and the sale and disposal of forest products and quarry material, the property of the state forests, timber reserves and on other lands; and for other purposes.

All forest products and quarry materials on all state lands are the property of the state. In accordance with Section 45 of the Forestry Act, all forest products or quarry material on land that is under a lease or other entitlement granted is also the property of the state.

Relevance to Project – Forestry Act

A sales permit may be required for use of forest products or quarry material from any land, including certain freehold lands, where the State of Queensland owns such products as defined in the Forestry Act (including State Forests). It is noted that a sales permit cannot be issued until an ILUA or s24KA suppression of has occurred in accordance with the NT Act.



The Project area intersects a number of parcels including state land and spoil material will be excavated during the establishment of the tower foundations, and the establishment of access tracks and other ancillary activities. However, the excavated material will remain in the Project area and will not be used for commercial purposes. It is yet to be determined if the project will disturb harvestable timber, therefore, a sales permit may be required for the Project.

4.6.6 *Stock Route Management Act 2002*

The *Stock Route Management Act 2002* (SRM Act) provides the framework for the management of Queensland's stock route network.

Under the SRM Act the management of the state stock route network is shared between the state government and local government. Local governments are responsible for day-to-day administration and management as well as network maintenance, while the DNRME is responsible for providing policy and legislative advice, operational guidelines, and compliance support, reviewing decisions, managing asset maintenance, and training local government stock route officers.

A stock route is defined as a road or route ordinarily used for travelling stock or declared under a regulation to be a stock route. Stock routes do not have a separate title or tenure as does a road reserve. Once a stock route's declaration is removed it remains a road but is no longer named a stock route. Stock routes are managed by the relevant local governments over which they traverse.

Approval trigger(s) – SRM Act

Where a project impacts on existing stock routes, negotiations with the relevant state / local regulatory authority will be required in conjunction with affected stakeholders to determine the requirements for appropriate crossings and other relevant infrastructure.

Relevance to project – SRM Act– SRM Act

The Project intersects 32 gazetted stock routes, of which 28 are minor routes, three are secondary routes and one is a primary route (refer to Volume 3 Appendix K Land use and tenure). The Project will avoid locating towers near or where unavoidable within the stock routes. Where the Project intersects these stock route networks, mitigation and management measures will be developed in consultation with relevant state and local government agencies to protect its inherent values and to ensure it is available to serve its intended purpose.

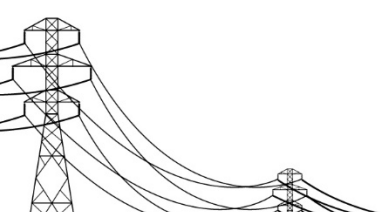
4.6.7 *Local Government Act 2009*

The purpose of the *Local Government Act 2009* (LG Act) is to provide for:

- The way in which a local government is constituted and the nature and extent of its responsibilities and powers
- A system of local government in Queensland that is accountable, effective, efficient and sustainable.

The LG Act empowers local governments to make local laws that are suitable to their particular needs and resources, and that achieve the purpose and principles of Local government, without unnecessary administrative red tape. Local laws are created under Chapter 3 of the LG Act.

The Project is located within seven LGAs and the applicable local laws will be applicable to the Project, most notably those related to the management of local roads, facilities and pests.



4.6.8 *Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993*

The purpose of the *Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993* is to validate past acts of the Queensland government in response to the recognition of Native Title by the High Court of Australia in 1992. For example, under Section 17 of the *Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993*, the ownership of natural resources by the Queensland government is validated.

Native Title claims and determinations and ILUAs are controlled under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. A Native Title assessment of the Project is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 5 Land.

4.6.9 *Nature Conservation Act 1992*

The NC Act is the framework for the establishment and management of protected areas, native flora and native fauna. In accordance with the definitions sets out in Part 5, Division 2 of the NC Act, wildlife, including native flora and fauna, may be prescribed under the NC Act as extinct in the wild, endangered, vulnerable, near threatened or least concern – all of which are considered protected wildlife. To 'take' native flora and fauna has a broad meaning under the NC Act, which includes removal, injury or destruction. Under Section 62 of the NC Act, a person must not take, use, keep or interfere with a cultural or natural resource of a protected area, including protected flora and fauna. Furthermore it is an offence under Sections 88 and 89 of the NC Act to take protected flora and fauna that are outside of a protected area, without a licence, permit or other authority.

The NC Act allows for the preparation of conservation plans at the discretion of the Minister administering the NC Act, or where a person applies for a licence to take or use protected flora and fauna. The NC Act allows for protected animals to be taken in accordance with conservation plans. A conservation plan made under the NC Act may prescribe offences and the use or development of land and activities in an area identified under the plan as, or including, a critical habitat or an area of major interest.

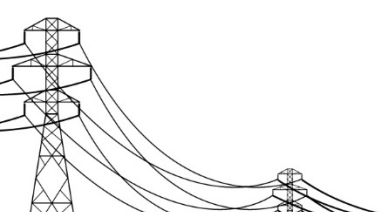
Under Section 332 of the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006* an activity that will 'tamper' with the confirmed breeding place of a protected animal must be undertaken in accordance with an approved species management program. To tamper under the Regulation means to damage, destroy, mark, move or dig up. The *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006* also controls the granting of damage mitigation permits where an animal:

- Is causing, or may cause, damage to property, or
- Represents a threat to human health or wellbeing.

Approval trigger(s) – NC Act

Any activity that may have, or may have the potential to, impact on wildlife or its values in an area, may be seen as a threatening process and may require an application under the NC Act commensurate or subsequent to the development approval process (applications under the NC Act are outside of the Planning Act process). In particular, the effect of the Project on endangered, vulnerable, or rare wildlife, or the habitat on which that wildlife depends, will be considered with regard to the obligations under Section 73 of the NC Act.

Under Section 89 of the NC Act, a licence, permit or authority (issued under the NC Act), or an exemption, is required to 'take' protected plants. When clearing in areas identified as being within the protected plants flora survey trigger map this means that there is the potential for endangered, vulnerable or near threatened plants to be present. A flora survey must be undertaken in accordance with the NC Act Flora Survey Guidelines –Protected Plants and a clearing permit or exemption notice obtained.



Furthermore, to undertake the clearing of endangered, vulnerable or near threatened plants outside of protected plants flora survey trigger map, a protected plant survey will need to be undertaken in accordance with the Flora Survey Guidelines –Protected Plants and a clearing permit would be required.

To build infrastructure and structures within a protected area, an approval is required under Section 34, 35 and 36 of the NC Act in the form of a lease, agreement, license, permit or other authority from Chief Executive of the DES) Approval can be granted by DES for works that are inconsistent with the management principles of the plan associated with the area provided the following criteria is met:

- The basic principle for the management of national parks will be observed as far as possible (if the land is in a national park)
- The use will be in the public interest
- The use is ecologically sustainable
- There is no reasonable alternative to the use.

Relevance to project – NC Act

The Project intersects Ballara Nature Refuge, a protected area under the NC Act. Nature refuges are voluntary agreements negotiated between DES and the landholder to provide additional conservation benefits through a covenanting program. There are no specific approval mechanisms or authorities for transmission line infrastructure traversing through a nature refuge. Where the Nature Reserve cannot be avoided by the Project (as justified by an assessment of alternatives), the landholder may be required to apply for an amendment to the agreement with DES. Under Part 4, Section 48(1)-(2) of the NC Act, the State and the landholders bound by a conservation agreement for a nature refuge or coordinated conservation area (the earlier agreement) may enter into another conservation agreement for the nature refuge or coordinated conservation area (the later agreement) that varies, or terminates and replaces, the earlier agreement. CuString has advised the landholder has provided informal agreement to construct the project within the nature refuge.

The ecological assessment (refer to Volume 3 Appendix P Ecological Assessment) provides a description of the values associated with the Ballara Nature Refuge and describes the impact of the project on the values of the Ballara Nature Refuge.

There are a number of protected fauna species that are located within the corridor selection that could be impacted by the Project. Therefore, a Species Management Program will be required. A Species Management Program authorises activities that will impact on breeding places of protected animals classified as endangered, vulnerable, near threatened, special least concern, colonial breeder or least concern.

Parts of the corridor selection are mapped within the protected plants flora survey trigger map area. These areas have the potential to support threatened flora species protected under the NC Act. In addition, there is also the potential for endangered, vulnerable or near threatened plants to be outside of protected plants flora survey trigger map areas and within the corridor selection area. Therefore, a flora survey will need to be undertaken where the Project traverses a mapped protected plants flora survey trigger area to determine whether the works are exempt clearing works requiring notification or whether a Clearing Permit under the NC Act would be required. If outside of a protected plants flora survey trigger area, and a known endangered, vulnerable or near threatened plant will not be cleared, a flora survey in accordance with the flora survey guidelines is not required and a clearing permit would not be required (the 100 m buffer to the protected plant does not apply in this scenario), as per Section 259 (1) (a) of the Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006. If protected plants will be cleared

outside of a flora survey trigger area, a clearing permit will be required with documentation identifying all plants known to exist within the clearing area (not required to be in compliance with the Flora Survey Guidelines).

4.6.10 *Environment Offsets Act 2014*

The Queensland environmental offsets framework includes:

- *Environmental Offsets Act 2014* (EO Act), which coordinates the delivery of environmental offsets across jurisdictions and provides a single point-of-truth for offsets in Queensland.
- *Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014* (EO Regulation), which provides details of the prescribed activities regulated under existing legislation and prescribed environmental matters to which the EO Act applies.
- The Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy Version 1.8 which provides a single, consistent, whole-of-government policy for the assessment of offset proposals to satisfy offset conditions.

An environmental offset compensates for unavoidable impacts on significant environmental matters, (e.g. valuable species and ecosystems) on one site, by securing land at another site, and managing that land over a period of time, to replace those significant environmental matters which were lost.

Under the *EO Act* an *environmental offset* is defined as an activity undertaken to counterbalance a significant residual impact of a prescribed activity on a prescribed environmental matter. A list of prescribed activities are identified in Schedule 1 of the EO Regulation. A list of prescribed environmental matters are outlined in Schedule 2 of the EO Regulation.

An environmental offset may be required as a condition of approval where, following consideration of avoidance and mitigation measures, a prescribed activity is likely to result in a significant residual impact on a prescribed environmental matter(s).

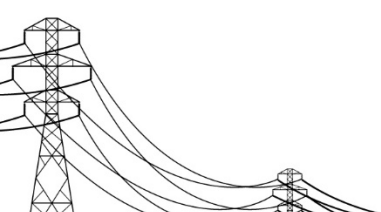
Relevance to project – EO Act

Environmental offsets will be required where there are residual impacts following the removal of fauna, flora and habitat that cannot be avoided after applying mitigation and management measures for the Project.

Potential or likely prescribed activities that may trigger offsets for the Project include:

- Taking a protected plant within the meaning of the NC Act under a protected plant clearing permit granted under the Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006, or in accordance with section 15 in an area outside a protected area
- A development approval for which an environmental offset may be required under any of the following modules of the State development assessment provisions—
  - State Code 16: Native vegetation clearing for the clearing activities associated with temporary infrastructure for the project outside of the transmission corridor and outside of the infrastructure designation area.

If offsets are required for the Project, they may be either proponent-driven (land-based) or financial settlement and in accordance with the Environmental Offsets Policy.



4.6.11 *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*

The *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014* (RPI Act) was drafted to protect areas of regional interest from the impacts of resource activities or a regulated activities. The RPI Act identifies each of the following as an area of regional interest:

- Priority agricultural areas
- Priority living areas
- Strategic cropping areas
- Strategic environmental areas.

A priority agricultural area is an area identified on relevant mapping and includes one or more areas used for priority agricultural land use and may include other features such as significant water sources.

A priority living area is an area identified on relevant mapping and includes existing settled areas of a city, town or other community. A priority living area also includes other areas necessary or desirable to accommodate future growth of existing settled areas or act as a buffer between existing and future settled areas and resource activities.

A strategic cropping area includes land identified on relevant mapping that is likely to be highly suitable for cropping due to soil, climate and landscape characteristics.

A strategic environmental area is an area identified on relevant mapping and includes 1 or more environmental attributes.

Approval trigger(s) – RPI Act

Where a resource activity or regulated activity is likely to impact on regional interests, a Regional Interests Development Approval is required. The application is assessed by the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, with assessment undertaken in accordance with the relevant regional plan and criteria assessment identified in the regional planning interests legislation.

DNRME has developed regional planning interest mapping which identifies areas throughout Queensland that includes regional interests. DNRME's GeoResGlobe, an on-line interactive mapping system, also includes information about regional interests in a layer associated with constrained land. The Queensland Government's Spatial Catalogue (QSpatial) includes datasets which identify regional planning interests throughout Queensland.

Relevance to project – RPI Act

It has been identified that regional interests are not impacted by the Project and the Project does not include a 'resource activity' or a 'regulated activity 'as defined under the RPI Act. Therefore a Regional Interests Development Approval will not be required for the Project.

Table 4-2 provides a summary with respect to the Project and regional interests.

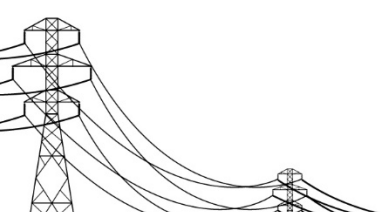


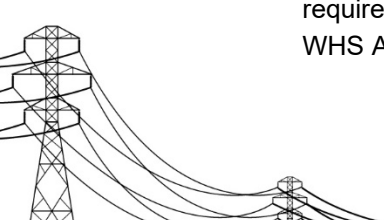
Table 4-2 Regional interests

Regional interest	Mapping source	Relationship to project
Priority agricultural areas (PAA)	NW Regional Plan	The NW Regional Plan does not include PAA
	NQ Regional Plan	The NQ Regional Plan identifies a PAA on the northern side of the Flinders Highway at Balfes Creek. This area is well clear of the corridor selection.
	QSpatial	QSpatial does not identify PAA within the corridor selection.
	GeoResGlobe	The interactive mapping does not identify PAA within the corridor selection.
Priority living areas (PLA)	NW Regional Plan	The NW Regional Plan does not include PLA
	NQ Regional Plan	The NQ Regional Plan includes Charters Towers and Pentland as PLA
	QSpatial	QSpatial does not identify PLA within the corridor selection
	GeoResGlobe	The interactive mapping does not identify PLA along the corridor selection
Strategic cropping areas (SCA)	NW Regional Plan	The NW Regional Plan does not include SCA within the corridor selection
	NQ Regional Plan	The NQ Regional Plan does not include SCA within the corridor selection
	Strategic cropping land zone map (DNRME)	The Strategic cropping land zone map does not identify strategic cropping land zones within the corridor selection
	GeoResGlobe	The interactive mapping does not identify SCA within the corridor selection.
Strategic environmental areas (SEA)	NW Regional Plan	The NW Regional Plan does not include SEA within the corridor selection
	NQ Regional Plan	The NQ Regional Plan does not include any SEA within the corridor selection
	QSpatial	QSpatial does not identify SEA within the corridor selection
	GeoResGlobe	The interactive mapping does not identify SEA within the corridor selection

4.6.12 *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*

The *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act) regulates dangerous goods and major hazard facilities within Queensland. A licence for storage and handling of hazardous materials, particularly dangerous goods and combustible liquids may be required where the storage of hazardous materials on-site exceeds the relevant thresholds outlined in the WHS Act

This licence is administered by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and will be required for the storage and handling of fuel and other chemicals in quantities listed under the WHS Act.



Approval trigger(s) – WHS Act

The storage of dangerous goods and combustible liquids will require a licence where the relevant thresholds are exceeded.

Relevance to project – WHS Act

During construction and operation of the Project a number of hazardous substances will be used. Volume 2 Chapter 17 Hazards, health and safety provides an indicative list of the hazardous substances that will be used, the likely quantities that will be stored on site and the purpose for the substance. Where these quantities exceed the relevant thresholds under the WHS Act, relevant permits / licences will be required.

4.6.13 *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*

The *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* (WRR Act) establishes a framework which modernises waste management and resource recovery practices in Queensland. The WRR Act promotes waste avoidance and reduction and encourages resource recovery and efficiency.

The WRR Act defines a waste management hierarchy, as the preferred order in which waste and resource management options should be considered. The waste management hierarchy is as follows.

- Avoid unnecessary resource consumption
- Reduce waste generation and disposal
- Re-use waste resources without further manufacturing
- Recycle waste resources to make the same or different products
- Recover waste resources, including the recovery of energy
- Treat waste before disposal, including reducing the hazardous nature of waste
- Dispose of waste only if there is no viable alternative.

Approval trigger(s) – WRR Act

The key provisions of the WRR Act relevant to the Project include:

- A requirement to prepare waste management plans.
- Product stewardship arrangements for any waste products that are identified as a growing problem for landfill in the future.
- Strengthened litter and illegal dumping offences, including public reporting of vehicle related littering offences.
- Potential application for approval of resource for beneficial use where a resource is considered to have a beneficial use other than disposal by the chief executive.

Relevance to project – WRR Act

The waste management hierarchy has been considered in the development of the waste management for the Project (refer to Volume 2 Chapter 12 Waste management).

4.7 State and regional planning policy

4.7.1 State planning policy

The current State Planning Policy (SPP) commenced in July 2017 and is a single statement of planning principles and guidance for planning schemes and development assessment in Queensland. It defines the Queensland Government's policies about matters of state interest in land use planning and development. These apply to the making or amending of a local planning instrument/regional plans, designating premises for infrastructure and also has application for certain types of development or developments in areas where the SPP has not yet been integrated into the relevant local planning scheme.

The following state interests are considered applicable to the CopperString 2.0 Project:

- Liveable communities and housing (liveable communities)
- Economic growth (extractive resources – Key Resource Areas)
- Environment and heritage (biodiversity, cultural heritage and water quality)
- Safety and resilience to hazards (natural hazards risk and resilience)
- Infrastructure (energy and water, infrastructure integration and transport infrastructure).

The State interest for liveable communities requires that our communities are vibrant, prosperous, diverse, inclusive, accessible, attractive, healthy and safe.

The SPP requires liveable, well-designed and serviced communities are delivered to support wellbeing and enhance quality of life.

The Planning Schemes are required to integrate the State interest by ensuring:

1. High quality urban design and place making outcomes are facilitated and promoted

- Vibrant places and spaces, and diverse communities that meet lifestyle needs are facilitated
- Development is designed to value and nurture local landscapes, maintain or enhance cultural landscapes, maintain or enhance opportunities for public access and use of the natural environment
- Communities are connected to infrastructure and services.

The construction of the corridor selection will involve the establishment of workers camps to provide accommodation for non-resident workers during this phase. The design and location of

these camps should support liveable communities for the duration of construction. Where a construction camp is located within an existing township, the design of the camps will allow for integration with local communities.

The State interest for economic growth (extractive resources) requires that extractive resources are considered in land use planning and ensure the protection of important extractive resources from incompatible land uses. The corridor selection does not traverse any key extractive resource areas (KRA). The closest KRA to the corridor selection is greater than 40 km from the corridor selection.

The State interest for environment and heritage requires that the State's environment ad heritage values are protected through sustainable planning for current and future generations.

The SPP requires the following with respect to:

- Biodiversity – matters of environmental significance are valued and protected and the health and resilience of biodiversity is maintained or enhanced to support ecological processes.

The Planning Schemes are required to integrate the State interest by ensuring:

- Development is located in areas to avoid significant impacts on matters of national environmental significance and considers the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- Matters of state environmental significance are identified and development is located in areas that avoids adverse impacts; where adverse impacts cannot be avoided, they are minimised.
- Matters of local environmental significance are identified and development is located in areas that avoid adverse impacts; where adverse impacts cannot be avoided, they are minimised.
- Ecological processes and connectivity is maintained or enhanced by avoiding fragmentation of matters of environmental significance.

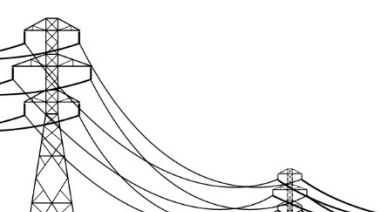
The SPP requires the following with respect to:

- Cultural heritage – the cultural heritage significance of heritage places and heritage areas, including places of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, is conserved for the benefit of the community and future generations.

The Planning Schemes are required to integrate the State interest by ensuring:

- Matters of Aboriginal cultural heritage and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage are appropriately conserved and considered to support the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and the *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003.*
- Adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of world heritage properties and national heritage places heritage places prescribed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 are avoided.
- Adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of state heritage places are avoided.
- Local heritage places and local heritage areas important to the history of the local government area are identified, including a statement of the local cultural heritage significance of the place or area.

The corridor selection integrates the biodiversity State interest by ensuring impacts to conservation significant ecological values with the Project area are avoided by locating the proposed corridor in areas of cleared open land wherever possible.



Indigenous cultural heritage sites and other cultural heritage features have been identified and will be managed through the avoidance of known sites and development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

The SPP requires the following with respect to:

- Water quality – the environmental values and quality of Queensland waters are protected and enhanced.

The Planning Schemes are required to integrate the State interest by ensuring:

- Development facilitates the protection or enhancement of environmental values and the achievement of water quality objectives for Queensland waters.
- Development is located, designed, constructed and operated to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on environmental values of receiving waters arising from:
  - Altered stormwater quality and hydrology
  - Wastewater (other than contaminated stormwater and sewage)
  - The creation or expansion of non-tidal artificial waterways
  - The release and mobilisation of nutrients and sediments.
- The construction phase development achieves the applicable stormwater management design objectives in the SPP
- At the post-construction phase, development:
  - Achieves the applicable stormwater management design objectives on site as identified in the SPP.
  - Achieves an alternative locally appropriate solution off-site that achieves an equivalent or improved water quality outcome to the relevant stormwater management design objectives in the SPP.
  - Development in water resource catchments and water supply buffer areas avoids potential adverse impacts on surface water and groundwater to protect drinking water supply environmental values.

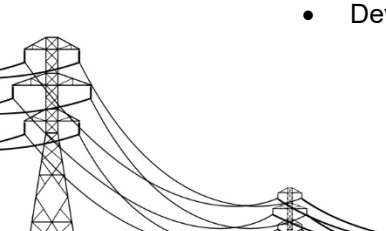
The State interest for safety and resilience to hazards requires planning and resilience to hazards to ensure the continued wellbeing of people, property and infrastructure.

The SPP requires the following with respect to:

- Natural hazards, risk and resilience – the risks associated with natural hazards, including the projected impacts of climate change, are avoided or mitigated to protect people and property and enhance the community's resilience to natural hazards.

The Planning Schemes are required to integrate the State interest by ensuring:

- Natural areas are identified including:
  - Bushfire prone areas
  - Flood hazard areas
  - Landslide hazard areas
  - Storm tide inundation areas
  - Erosion prone areas
- Fit for purpose risk assessment is undertaken to identify and achieve an acceptable or tolerable level for personal safety and property in natural hazard areas
- Development in bushfire and flood prone natural hazard areas:



  - Avoids the natural hazard area
  - Where it is not possible to avid the natural hazard area, development mitigates the risks to people and property to an acceptable to tolerable level
- Development in natural hazard areas:
  - Supports, and does not hinder disaster management capacity and capabilities
  - Directly, indirectly and cumulatively avoids an increase in the exposure or severity of the natural hazard and the potential for damage on the site or to other properties
  - Avoids risks to public safety and the environment from the location of storage of hazardous materials and the release of these materials as a result of a natural hazard
  - Maintains or enhances the protective function of landforms and vegetation that can mitigate the risks associated with the natural hazard
- Community infrastructure is located and designed to maintain the required level of functionality during and immediately after a natural hazard event.

The corridor selection and associated construction camps may be located within bushfire hazard areas. Infrastructure will be designed and constructed to function effectively in the event of a bushfire. A Bushfire Management Plan will also be prepared to address the matters outlined in the SPP for natural hazards.

The State interest for infrastructure requires successful planning of infrastructure to drive the economy and provide essential service to the community.

The SPP requires the following with respect to energy and water supply:

- Energy and water supply – the timely, safe, affordable and reliable provision and operation of electricity.

The Planning Schemes are required to integrate the State interest by ensuring:

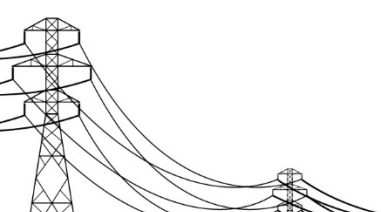
- Existing and approved future major electricity infrastructure locations and corridors (including easement and electricity substations) are protected from development that would compromise the corridor integrity and the efficient delivery and functioning of the infrastructure.
- Major electricity infrastructure and electricity substations are protected from encroachments by sensitive land uses where practicable.
- Development of major electricity infrastructure avoids or otherwise minimises adverse impacts on surrounding land uses and the natural environment.

The SPP requires the following with respect to:

- Infrastructure integration – the benefits of past and ongoing investment infrastructure are maximised through integrated land use planning.

The Planning Schemes are required to integrate the State interest by ensuring:

- The outcomes of significant infrastructure plans and initiatives by all levels of government are considered and reflected, where relevant.
- Development achieves a high level of integration with infrastructure planning to:
  - Promote the most efficient effective and flexible use of existing and planned infrastructure
  - Realise multiple economic, social and environmental benefits from infrastructure investment



  - Ensure consideration of future infrastructure needed to support infill and greenfield growth areas
  - Optimise the location of future infrastructure within communities to provide greater access to facilities and services and enable productivity improvements.
- Development occurs:
  - In areas currently serviced by state and/or local infrastructure and associated services; or
  - In a logical and orderly location, form and sequence to enable the cost effective delivery of state and local infrastructure to service development.
- Existing and planned infrastructure is protected from development that would compromise the ability of infrastructure and associated services to operate safely and efficiently.

The SPP requires the following with respect to:

- Transport infrastructure – the safe and efficient movement of people and goods is enabled, and land use patterns that encourage sustainable transport are supported.

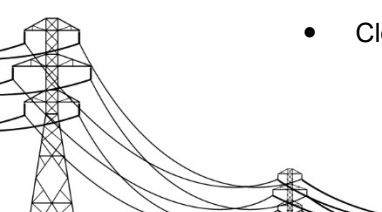
The Planning Schemes are required to integrate the State interest by ensuring:

- Transport infrastructure and existing and future transport corridors are reflected and supported through compatible land uses.
- Development is located in areas currently serviced by transport infrastructure, and where this cannot be achieved, development is facilitated in a logical and orderly location, form and sequence to enable cost-effective delivery of new transport infrastructure to service development.
- Development achieves a high level of integration with transport infrastructure and supports public passenger transport and active transport as attractive alternatives to private transport.
- Development is located and designed to mitigate adverse impacts on development from environmental emissions generated by transport infrastructure.
- A road hierarchy is identified that reflects the role of each category of road and effectively manages all types of traffic.
- The safety and efficiency of existing and future state transport infrastructure, corridors and networks is not adversely affected by development.

The CopperString 2.0 project is a major electricity infrastructure project that will connect the communities of Mount Isa and the North West Minerals Province to the National Electricity Grid to facilitate supply and delivery of electricity to existing and new customers in North-west Queensland and provide opportunities for new industry including industrial activities and large agricultural and renewable energy projects.

The selection corridor will also utilise a number of State controlled road networks during the construction phase to transport equipment, materials and personnel including:

- Flinders Highway
- Barkley Highway (that part located in Queensland)
- Gregory Developmental Road
- Hughenden Muttaburra Road
- Landsborough Highway
- Cloncurry to Dajarra Road.



The project will not affect the safety and efficiency of state transport infrastructure. Volume 2 - Chapter 13 Transport provides further details regarding the characteristics of the transport network and corridors.

Other State interests as detailed in the SPP are not considered relevant to the corridor selection because the project does not impact on these State matters or are not considered relevant to the proposal. For example, the corridor selection is not located in a coastal hazard area - erosion prone area; therefore does not require this State matter to be integrated into the proposal or an assessment undertaken in accordance with the relevant assessment benchmarks contained in the SPP.

The planning schemes applicable to the Project have been prepared under various planning legislation including repealed legislation. Accordingly, the level of integration of state interests in the planning schemes varies according to the relevant legislation under which each planning scheme was prepared. Table 4-3 identifies the level of integration of state interests in each of the planning schemes applicable to the corridor selection. Planning schemes are further discussed in section 4.9 and in Volume 3 Appendix K Land use and tenure.

Where a state interest has not been integrated into a local government's planning scheme, an assessment in compliance with the relevant provisions of the SPP is required

Table 4-3 State interest integration

Planning scheme	State interests – State Planning Policy 2017				
	Liveable communities	Economic growth	Environment and heritage	Safety and resilience	Infrastructure
Burdekin Shire IPA Planning Scheme	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Draft Burdekin Shire Planning Scheme	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Charters Towers Regional Council Town Plan	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓**
Shire of Flinders Planning Scheme	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓**
Richmond Shire Council Planning Scheme	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

Planning scheme	State interests – State Planning Policy 2017				
	Liveable communities	Economic growth	Environment and heritage	Safety and resilience	Infrastructure
Draft Richmond Shire Planning Scheme	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓**
McKinlay Shire Planning Scheme	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓**
Cloncurry Shire Council Planning Scheme	✓	✓	✓***	✓	✓**
City of Mount Isa Planning Scheme	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓**

* excludes coastal environment - this state interest is not relevant to the local government area

** excludes strategic ports – this state interest is not relevant to the local government area

*** excludes cultural heritage – this state interest is not been integrated into the planning scheme

4.7.2 State Development Assessment Provisions

The State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) Version 2.6 (effective February 2020) sets out the matters of interest to the state for development assessment, where the Chief Executive administrating the Planning Act, (being the Director-General of Queensland Treasury), is responsible for assessing or deciding development applications. The SDAP is prescribed in the Planning Regulation.

The SDAP identifies the following matters of state interests potentially applicable to the Project:

- Native vegetation clearing.
- State transport network functionality
- Environmentally relevant activities.

Development approvals required for the Project which involve the above matters will require assessment against the corresponding modules of the SDAP. The following state codes are applicable:

- State code 1: Development in a state-controlled road environment
- State code 2: Development in a railway environment
- State code 6: Protection of state transport networks
- State code 16: Native vegetation clearing.

Assessment against State code 22 is not considered relevant to the Project if ERAs are not required for the project.

Development approvals required for the Project which involve the above matters will require assessment against the corresponding modules of the SDAP. Table 4-4 provides a summary of

each SDAP and outlines the Project relevance and consistency. An assessment of each SDAP Code has been provided in Volume 3, Appendix N SDAP Assessment Report.

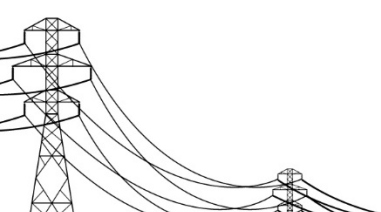
Table 4-4 State development assessment provisions

State code	Purpose and outcomes	Relevance to the Project
1 – Development in a state-controlled road environment	The purpose of this code is to protect state-controlled roads, future state-controlled road and other infrastructure in state-controlled roads from adverse impacts of development.	The Project will need to ensure the assessment criteria in this module are appropriately addressed particularly in relation to the protection of existing and future state transport infrastructure.
2- Development in a railway environment	The purpose of the code is to protect railways, future railways and other infrastructure in a railway corridor from adverse impacts of development. The purpose of this code is also to protect the safety of people using, and living and working near, railways	The Project will need to ensure the assessment criteria in this module are appropriately addressed particularly in relation to the protected of existing and future railway corridors.
6 – Protection of state transport networks	The purpose of this code is to protect state transport infrastructure, public passenger transport infrastructure and public passenger services from adverse impacts of development, maintain operational performance of the transport network and ensure development enables safe and convenient access to pubic passenger transport.	The Project will need to ensure the assessment criteria in this module are appropriately addressed. Particularly in relation to the safety, function and operational efficiency of the state road network.
16 – Native vegetation clearing	The purpose of this code is to ensure that development avoids impacts on clearing, or where avoidance is not reasonably possible, minimises and mitigates impacts.	The proposed transmission line may involve native vegetation clearing.

4.7.3 Regional plans

Regional Plans provide the framework for the management of growth and development in a region to 2031. Regional plans can be either:

- A statutory planning instrument which has been signed off by the Planning Minister and gives effect to the policies and direction of the regional plan; or
- A non-statutory planning instrument which has not been signed off by the Planning Minister.



There are two statutory regional plans applicable to the corridor selection as detailed below. Both regional plans have been signed off by the Planning Minister.

North West Regional Plan

The North West (NW) Regional Plan (refer Table 4-5) provides a framework to manage growth and change land use and development in the region to 2031, and applies to the following local government planning areas:

- Flinders Shire Council
- Richmond Shire Council
- McKinlay Shire Council
- Cloncurry Shire Council
- Mount Isa City Council.

The NW Regional Plan includes a number of provisions that support infrastructure development in the north-west region. They are:

- Part C – providing infrastructure and services. The regional plan supports improved access to work places, essential services and recreation and encourages stronger connections throughout the region to improve liveability of regional communities. Water and energy are recognised as limiting factors to future regional development.
- Part E – 6. Infrastructure chapter of the NW Regional Plan recognises that in order to support economic growth and create business opportunities in the north-west region, access to reliable energy supplies at affordable rates is necessary. The Regional Plan includes the following energy objectives applicable to the Project to support reliable and cost effective energy infrastructure:
  - 6.2.A – explore options for energy supply that will deliver competitively priced and secure power to the region for industrial and broader community use
  - 6.2.C - Encourage network augmentation and lowest cost expansion alternatives, to support development of isolated commercial operations
  - 6.2.D - Investigate means for determining projected infrastructure demands taking into account the mining industry

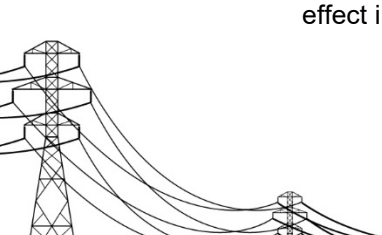
In addition to the above energy objectives, the NW Regional Plan also identifies the following land use policies for the provision of reliable energy infrastructure:

- Identify, preserve and acquire sites, corridors and buffers for future energy infrastructure
- Ensure energy infrastructure agencies address long-term regional energy needs
- Address land-use, land access, noise and visual impacts that have the potential to hinder renewable energy developments.

Planning schemes are a statutory mechanism for local governments to plan and coordinate land use planning, development assessment and other related matters within a local government area. Planning schemes contain relevant codes including zone codes, overlay codes and shire wide and development codes which apply to different types of development within the local government area.

North Queensland Regional Plan

The North Queensland (NQ) Regional Plan (refer Table 4-6) has been finalised and came into effect in March 2020. The NQ Regional Plan is a 25-year strategic, statutory planning document



and encompasses the LGAs of Burdekin, Charters Towers, Hinchinbrook, Palm Island and Townsville.

The NQ Regional Plan includes four goals for building a regional vision for North Queensland. These goals include:

- Goal 1 – A leading economy in regional Australia
- Goal 2 – A rich and healthy environment
- Goal 3 – Liveable, sustainable and resilient communities that promote living in the tropics
- Goal 4 – A safe, connected and efficient North Queensland.

Whilst the focus of the NQ Regional Plan for energy networks is to focus and capitalise on renewable energy sources, the NQ Regional Plan acknowledges that economic opportunities within the region require an effective and resilient infrastructure network to link infrastructure to users.

Goal 4 of the NQ Regional Plan – A safe, connected and efficient North Queensland states that the growth of the region is dependent on efficient, reliable and resilient infrastructure and transport networks. Significant networks for North Queensland include road, rail, seaports, airports, digital communication, energy, waste and water.

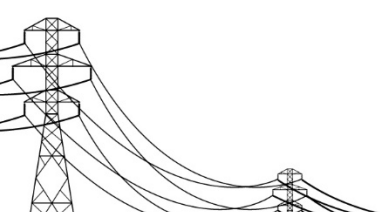
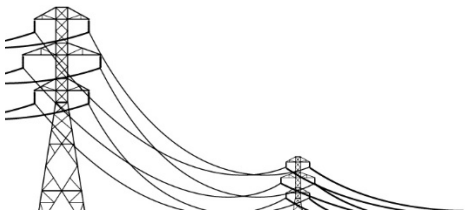
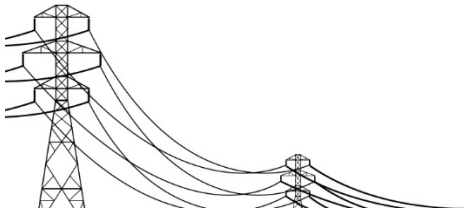


Table 4-5 North West Regional Plan - desired regional outcome assessment

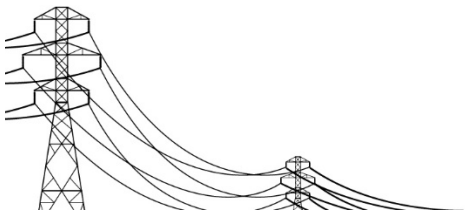
Desired regional outcome	Project response
1. Natural environment A region where the natural environment is resilient to the impacts of climate change and one which is well-managed to maintain its rich biodiversity, ecological processes, water resources and scenic amenity	
Biodiversity conservation Protect and manage the region's biodiversity and its ecological integrity to enhance its resilience to climate change and other biophysical pressures.	The Project has been designed to minimise impact on the region's biodiversity and natural environmental. It has assessed the potential impacts the construction and operation of the Project is anticipated to have on the ecological values of the receiving environment. During the construction phase the Project is expected to cause localised losses of habitat, predominantly due to clearing for access tracks and transmission line towers, , and temporary disturbance of wildlife through construction light, noise, vibration and increased vehicle movements, as well as the potential for erosion and sedimentation. During the operational phase, the Project will be largely benign for most environmental matters. A number of mitigation measures have been developed to reduce the impact ecological values within the Project area and they will be captured in environmental management plan. Some of the key measures include: • A Weed and Pest Management Plan • Continued employment of sediment and erosion control measures and track maintenance to provide ongoing management of erosion prone areas (e.g. waterways). • Land clearing will be restricted to the minimal amount necessary for Project construction. • Site offices, construction stockpiles and laydown/storage areas to be located within existing cleared or disturbed areas. • Rehabilitation of temporary laydown areas, stockpiles, site offices and areas will be undertaken as soon as practicable after these facilities are no longer required. • A CEMP will be prepared and implemented for standards such as weed hygiene, erosion, fuels and hazardous substances, fire, etc. • All construction personnel shall attend environmental training as part of the site induction process prior to entering the work site. As part of this training, all personnel will be instructed on their obligations in regard to vegetation clearing protocols. Areas identified for vegetation clearance are to be clearly defined and detailed in site inductions.



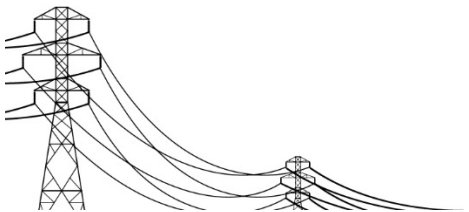
Desired regional outcome	Project response
Scenic amenity and outdoor recreation Protect and manage the natural scenic amenity and outdoor recreational assets of the region	The Project will seek to minimise impacts to the landscape and natural amenity through its design and appropriate mitigation where required. Adverse impacts to socio-economic values and lifestyle will also be minimised as best as practical. The transmission towers are considered to the have the biggest impact to landscape of the region. During the corridor selection process visual amenity impacts were considered and the current design minimises the number of intersections with other infrastructure, which would require the use of taller towers, and has avoided towns along the corridor selection by running a distance to the south of the Flinders Highway. However, in addition to this corridor selection, and subject to other technical design considerations, there is some limited scope to consider the placement of towers at critical locations, as well as some vegetative screening to substations and maintenance areas.
Air and noise emissions Locate and manage development to maintain or improve air quality, and minimise the effects of adverse acoustic emissions on the health and wellbeing of the community and the natural environment	The Project will incorporate appropriate mitigation measures and management plans to minimise the impacts of construction and operational activities on air quality and ambient noise levels. A detailed assessment of the potential impacts of the Project to air quality and noise levels is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 10 Air and greenhouse gas and Chapter 11 Noise and vibration, respectively.
Greenhouse gas emissions Develop a regional approach to minimising greenhouse gas emissions.	The Project will be developed in accordance with industry best practice which aims to minimise the generation of GHG during the construction and operation phases. This is achieved through the use of energy efficient equipment and energy minimisation where practical. A detailed GHG emissions assessment is provided in Volume 3 Appendix V Greenhouse gas assessment.



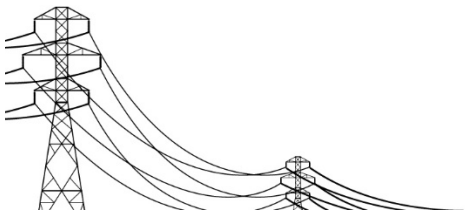
Desired regional outcome	Project response
2. Natural resources The economic, environmental, social and cultural values of the region's natural resources are recognised and managed to enhance regional prosperity and maintain ecological sustainability.	
Land and natural resource use and management To coordinate development and use of the region's natural resources using ecologically sustainable land management practices to achieve the community's economic and environmental objectives.	The objective of the Project is to construct an electricity transmission system that will facilitate access to the National Electricity Market (NEM) for electricity consumers and generators along the Project corridor selection, including existing and future connections to islanded electrical systems, such as the North West Power System (NWPS) and isolated mines in the NWMP. This will consequently provide benefits to the region through a reliable and more competitively priced source of electricity. The Project will also facilitate development of the proposed North Queensland Clean Energy Hub, a Queensland Government initiative to develop strategic electricity transmission infrastructure to host renewable energy transmission from significant wind and solar resources in North Queensland.
Water management and use Manage the region's river systems, ground water, and wetlands for sustainable use by industries and communities, and protect dependent ecosystems and water quality.	The Project has been designed to minimise adverse impacts to water quality and aquatic ecosystems throughout the life of the Project. Where required appropriate mitigation and management measures have been proposed and ongoing monitoring programs will be implemented where necessary. A detailed water resources assessment for the Project is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 9 Water resources and water quality; an assessment of aquatic ecology is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 7 Flora and Fauna.
Mining and extractive resources Manage mining and extractive resources to maximise economic opportunities, while minimising negative environmental and social impacts for present and future generations.	Refer to the response in the Land and natural resource use and management section**.**
3. Strong communities	
Social planning and social infrastructure Meet the current and future needs of communities through coordinated and timely planning and provision of a range of social services and facilities.	The Project does not propose social infrastructure. A detailed social impact assessment and management plan has been developed for the Project and is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 14 Social and Volume 3 Appendix Z Social impact assessment.
Social services Meet the diverse needs of communities through a range of services and facilities that are inclusive and enhance lifestyle.	Refer to the response in the Social planning and social infrastructure section.



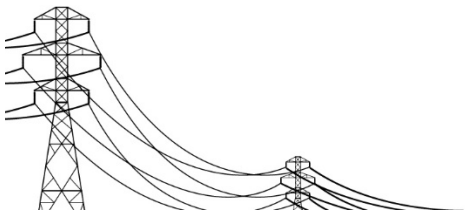
Desired regional outcome	Project response
Regional lifestyle, cultural heritage and arts Celebrate and enhance the region's sense of place and local identity through arts and cultural development.	The objective of the Project is to construct an electricity transmission system that will facilitate access to the NEM for electricity consumers and generators along the Project corridor selection. The Project will be developed to minimise impacts to existing heritage places where relevant. A detailed heritage assessment for the Project is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 15 Cultural heritage.
Promoting health and wellbeing Ensure the community has access to high-quality, safe and sustainable health services and urban infrastructure that promote healthy lifestyles.	The construction and operations of the Project will be undertaken in accordance with appropriate risk management procedures and safety management plans. A hazard and risk assessment and a health a safety assessment has been undertaken for the Project and is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 17 Hazard, risk, health and safety.
Leadership, networks and coordination Facilitate strong leadership, networks and coordination in the region's planning and development	The objective of the Project aligns with the future plans for the North West region by continuing to support and develop the mining sector and establish the renewable energy industry.
4. Urban Development A progressive region where diversity and quality of life are sustained through high-quality built environments.	
Urban structure and settlement pattern Accommodate regional growth needs in strategically located, well-planned activity centres.	This project will support the region by providing improving access to electricity and it is expected that the construction and operation of the Project will result in significant job creation in the region and will subsequently enhance economic viability. A detailed socio-economic assessment is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 14 Social and Chapter 16 Economic.
Urban design, character and form Design and site development to be responsive to the local climate, improve liveability and achieve innovation through sustainable urban design principles.	N/A – The Project does not propose any 'urban' development.
Housing mix, affordability and Design Plan and provide a range of housing options to meet diverse community needs.	N/A – The Project does not propose housing development.



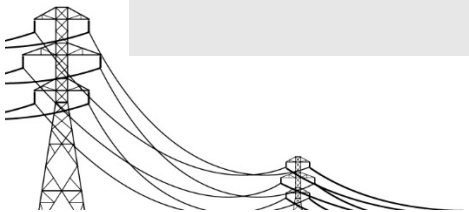
Desired regional outcome	Project response
Hazard mitigation Reduce the community's risk to the adverse impact of natural and human made hazards	A hazard analysis has been undertaken for the Project to identify: • Potential hazards, accidents, spillages, fire, and abnormal events that may occur during all stages of the Project, including possible frequency of occurrence. • All hazardous substances to be used, stored, processed or produced, including the rate of usage. • Potential hazards posed by wildlife interactions, natural events and implications related to climate change, including the cumulative impact of a number of natural hazards occurring at one time. A risk assessment has been undertaken for the Project to determine the likelihood of identified hazards and the potential consequence of the hazard occurring. This has resulted the development of the management and mitigation strategies to minimise the impacts of the Project on the health and safety of people, property, and the environment.
5 Economic development A growing and prosperous regional economy, developed through value-adding to existing industries and encouraging new industries and businesses.	
Business, industry and land development Ensure the North West has businesses and industries that provide sustained wealth and growing employment opportunities that contribute to the region's liveability and prosperity	The construction and operation of the Project is considered to support the region by providing improving access to electricity infrastructure and it is expected that the Project will result in significant job creation in the region and will subsequently enhance economic viability. A detailed socio-economic assessment is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 10 Social and Chapter 13 Economic.
Diverse regional economy Develop a diverse regional economy that is responsive to changing local and global economic and environmental factors.	The Project is considered to facilitate the growth of established and new industries in the region by developing an electricity transmission system that will facilitate access to the NEM for electricity consumers and generators along the Project corridor selection, including existing and future connections to islanded electrical systems, such as the NWPS and isolated mines in the NWMP. This will consequently provide benefits to the region through a reliable and more competitively priced source of electricity. The Project will also facilitate development of the proposed North Queensland Clean Energy Hub, a Queensland Government initiative to develop strategic electricity transmission infrastructure to host renewable energy transmission from significant wind and solar resources in North Queensland. This aligns with the goal of the regional plan by growing the renewable energy industry in North Queensland.



Desired regional outcome	Project response
Innovation, knowledge and technology Develop the region's capability to maximise the transfer of technology, knowledge and innovation to commercial applications.	The Project is considered to facilitate the growth of established and new industries in the region by developing an electricity transmission system that will facilitate access to the NEM for electricity consumers and generators along the Project corridor selection, including existing and future connections to islanded electrical systems, such as the NWPS and isolated mines in the NWMP. This will consequently provide benefits to the region through a reliable and more competitively priced source of electricity. The Project will also facilitate development of the proposed North Queensland Clean Energy Hub, a Queensland Government initiative to develop strategic electricity transmission infrastructure to host renewable energy transmission from significant wind and solar resources in North Queensland. This aligns with the goal of the regional plan by growing the renewable energy industry in North Queensland.
Employment, skills development and staff retention Establish a skilled workforce to strengthen the region's economy and community	The construction and operation of the Project is considered to support the region by providing improving access to electricity infrastructure and it is expected that the Project will result in significant job creation in the region and will subsequently enhance economic viability. A detailed socio-economic assessment is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 14 Social and Chapter 16 Economic.
Agriculture Maintain and expand agricultural industries and diversify opportunities through sustainable agribusiness ventures.	The alignment for the Project has been selected to minimise sterilisation and fragmentation of cropping land. A detailed land use and soils assessment is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 5 Land and Chapter 6 Geology and soils, respectively.
Mining and mineral processing Maximise the economic opportunities for mining and processing in the region within acceptable social and environmental standards.	The objective of the Project is to construct an electricity transmission system that will facilitate access to the NEM for electricity consumers and generators along the Project route, including existing and future connections to islanded electrical systems, such as the NWPS and isolated mines in the NWMP. This will consequently provide benefits to the region through a reliable and more competitively priced source of electricity. The Project will also facilitate development of the proposed North Queensland Clean Energy Hub, a Queensland Government initiative to develop strategic electricity transmission infrastructure to host renewable energy transmission from significant wind and solar resources in North Queensland.
Tourism Recognise and develop the region as a distinctive and sustainable tourist destination that offers visitors a diverse range of opportunities and experiences and that encourages repeat visitation.	The Project is associated with the development of the electricity industry in North Queensland and is not expected to significantly contribute to the existing tourism industry in the region.



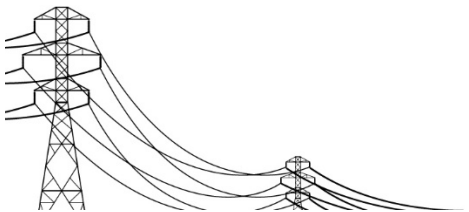
Desired regional outcome	Project response
Marketing Create a regional marketing strategy that reflects all of the region's assets – industry, tourism and quality of life – to strengthen the economy.	The Project is associated with the development of the electricity industry in North Queensland and is not expected to significantly contribute to the existing tourism industry in the region.
6. Infrastructure A well-planned, coordinated, safe and efficient network of infrastructure, which is well maintained and underpins the social, economic and environmental prosperity of the region.	
Infrastructure planning and coordination Provide and coordinate infrastructure that supports economic growth and effectively meets the future needs of the community	The Project comprises a significant infrastructure development in the region. The Project will support economic growth in the region by supporting the growth of the resource industry and renewable energy industry in north Queensland. It is expected that the construction and operation of the Project will result in significant job creation in the region and will subsequently enhance economic viability. A detailed socio-economic assessment is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 14 Social and Chapter 16 Economic.
Energy Facilitate the provision, transmission and distribution of competitively priced energy and encourage the development of renewable energy technologies to support a robust regional economy.	The objective of the Project is to construct an electricity transmission system that will facilitate access to the NEM for electricity consumers and generators along the Project route, including existing and future connections to islanded electrical systems, such as the NWPS and isolated mines in the NWMP. This will consequently provide benefits to the region through a reliable and more competitively priced source of electricity. The Project will also facilitate development of the proposed North Queensland Clean Energy Hub, a Queensland Government initiative to develop strategic electricity transmission infrastructure to host renewable energy transmission from significant wind and solar resources in North Queensland.
Transport Provide efficient, safe, sustainable, accessible transport for people and goods throughout the region—and to other regions—to support industry competitiveness, growth and improved liveability in communities.	The Project will not be providing transport infrastructure.
Water infrastructure Provide certainty for long-term investors, local government and residents by giving priority to the development of water resource infrastructure.	The objective of the Project is to construct an electricity transmission system that will facilitate access to the NEM for electricity consumers and generators along the Project corridor selection, including existing and future connections to islanded electrical systems, such as the NWPS and isolated mines in the NWMP. This will consequently provide benefits to the region through a reliable and more competitively priced source of electricity. The Project will not be providing water infrastructure. The water requirements and subsequent management of water resources associated with the Project will be managed in accordance with the relevant regulatory requirements including water resource plans for the region.



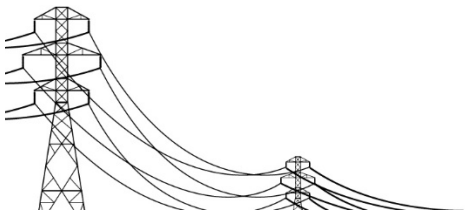
Desired regional outcome	Project response
Waste management Develop an integrated approach to waste management, recycling and reuse to meet desired community health and environmental outcomes, and achieve the objectives of sustainability and affordability.	A comprehensive assessment of the waste and sewerage generation associated with the construction and operational activities of the Project is provided in Volume 1 Chapter 2 Project description and Volume 2 Chapter 12 Waste. The waste chapter subsequently outlines the proposed management of the relevant streams in accordance with the principles of waste reduction and recycling where required.
Information and technology Promote equitable access to modern information and communications technology	The Project will incorporate fibre optic cables into the optical ground wire (OPGW). OPGW will provide communication links across the system. Communications will be by dual OPGW for the dual and single circuit transmission lines. Spare capacity in the OPGW system will be offered to telecommunications carriers willing to pass the benefit of this spare capacity on to communities along the Project route.

Table 4-6 North Queensland Regional Plan - desired regional outcome assessment

Desired regional outcome	Project response
1. Sustainability, climate change and natural hazards	
A leading economy in regional Australia. To position the North Queensland region as a leading regional economy over the next 25 years by capitalising on its diverse industry base and numerous competitive advantages.	The Project is considered to facilitate the growth of established and new industries in the region by developing an electricity transmission system that will facilitate access to the NEM for electricity consumers and generators along the Project corridor selection, including existing and future connections to islanded electrical systems, such as the NWPS and isolated mines in the NWMP. This will consequently provide benefits to the region through a reliable and more competitively priced source of electricity. The Project will also facilitate development of the proposed North Queensland Clean Energy Hub, a Queensland Government initiative to develop strategic electricity transmission infrastructure to host renewable energy transmission from significant wind and solar resources in North Queensland. This aligns with the goal of the regional plan by growing the renewable energy industry in North Queensland.



Desired regional outcome	Project response
A rich and healthy natural environment. To protect and sustainably manage biodiversity, landscape values and the ecological processes that support the region's natural assets, to maintain and enhance a unique environment.	The Project has been designed to minimise potential adverse impacts on the existing environment, natural amenity of the region and on cultural heritage values through the implementation of environmental management plan The Project has also been designed to minimise the potential for adverse ecological impacts and loss of biodiversity. Where required, offsets for clearing any protected species have been proposed. A detailed assessment of the potential impacts of the Project on ecological values and how it will be managed is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 7 Flora and Fauna. A detailed assessment of the potential impacts of the Project on cultural heritage values and how it will be managed is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 15 Cultural Heritage.
Liveable, sustainable and resilient communities that promote living in the tropics. To ensure growth occurs within a consolidated and connected urban settlement pattern, and to create liveable and sustainable communities that respond to the region's tropical climate and seek to increase resilience to natural hazards and climate change.	The construction and operation of the Project is expected to result in job creation in the region and will subsequently enhance economic growth in region. The communities are also expected to benefit from any proposed upgrades to existing infrastructure associated with the Project. A detailed socio-economic assessment is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 14 Social and Chapter 16 Economic.
A safe, connected and efficient North Queensland. To support the region's communities and economic resources by developing resilient and reliable infrastructure and a transport network that moves people and freight safely and efficiently.	The objective of the Project is to construct an electricity transmission system that will facilitate access to the NEM for electricity consumers and generators along the Project corridor selection, including existing and future connections to islanded electrical systems, such as the NWPS and isolated mines in the NWMP. This will consequently provide benefits to the region through a reliable and more competitively priced source of electricity. The Project will also facilitate development of the proposed North Queensland Clean Energy Hub, a Queensland Government initiative to develop strategic electricity transmission infrastructure to host renewable energy transmission from significant wind and solar resources in North Queensland. This project will support the region by providing improving access to electricity and it is expected that the construction and operation of the Project will result in significant job creation in the region and will subsequently enhance economic viability. A detailed socio-economic assessment is provided in Volume 2 Chapter 14 Social and Volume 2 Chapter 16 Economic.



4.8 Regional policy papers and plans

4.8.1 Our North Our Future: White Paper on Developing Northern Australia

The Australian Government published Our North, Our Future White Paper on Developing Northern Australia in 2015.

The white paper identifies that:

- Infrastructure plays an integral role in unlocking economic opportunities
- The correct infrastructure can be transformative for regions
- Conversely wrong infrastructure can waste resources and lock communities into poor outcomes
- There are significant infrastructure gaps throughout the region
- Outside of electricity networks towns and cities run on standalone power systems (off grid)
- A commitment by the Commonwealth Government to ensure northern Australia has the has the appropriate infrastructure to support economic and population growth
- Identification that public and private sector investment is required to deliver the stated goal of developing northern Australia.

The Project is consistent with the White Paper. The Project is an enabler of economic development through the provision of reliable and contestable electricity throughout the region. Furthermore, the Project enables development of currently identified renewable energy generation opportunities which are currently stranded from a lack of opportunity to export power to the NEM.

The establishment of the Project would see the delivery of highly reliable and competitively priced electricity from the NEM to the NWMP and communities in north-west Queensland.

The economic development opportunities that would result from this project will apply to all sectors of the economy including mining, agriculture, manufacturing and processing and residential. CuString will support and stimulate both domestic and export opportunities.

4.8.2 Advancing North Queensland Plan: Investing in the future of the north

In 2016 the Queensland Government has published a paper (Advancing North Queensland: Investing in the future of the north) identifying the Queensland Government's commitment to grow the economy of the region, including initiatives to improve infrastructure and connectivity. The Project is ideally placed to assist with the delivery of the stated goals of the Advancing North Queensland paper through providing a new and stable infrastructure connection to the state electricity grid.

The Queensland Government has recognised the development potential of the NWMP. This region is a world class resources area and is the primary driver of regional employment and economic growth. The Queensland Government has recognised that a number of challenges are present which may prevent the ongoing economic development of the region.

4.8.3 Strategic Blueprint for Queensland's North West Minerals Province

The North West Minerals Province Taskforce was established by the Queensland Government in November 2015 with the purpose to investigate the issues and opportunities and advise on a way forward for the NWMP, which is centred around Mount Isa and Cloncurry.

The taskforce developed the Strategic Blueprint for Queensland's NWMP and the blueprint contains a suite of actions to secure the long-term future of the region and its communities, including a range of short and medium term actions under three strategy priorities:

- Facilitating continued resources sector development
- Diversifying the regional economy and creating employment opportunities
- Working with businesses and communities to deliver integrated and appropriate services.

The blueprint aims to provide a strong foundation to galvanise integrated and ongoing partnerships with federal, state and local governments, business, industry and local communities, to support strong and prosperous regional communities in the NWMP.

The Project is considered to align to the priorities in the blueprint by constructing an electricity transmission system that will facilitate access to the NEM for electricity consumers and generators along the Project route and support isolated mines in the NWMP. This will consequently provide benefits to the region through a reliable and more competitively priced source of electricity.

The Project will also assist in diversifying the region's economy by facilitating the development of the proposed North Queensland Clean Energy Hub, a Queensland Government initiative to develop strategic electricity transmission infrastructure to host renewable energy transmission from significant wind and solar resources in north Queensland.

4.8.4 State Infrastructure Plan 2016

The State Infrastructure Plan (SIP) outlines the Queensland Government's strategic direction for planning and prioritising the investment and delivery of infrastructure that supports growth, enables economic development and creates jobs.

The SIP:

- Sets the strategic direction and fosters innovation in planning and delivering infrastructure
- Identifies the anticipated service needs and infrastructure investment opportunities for a prosperous Queensland
- Develops a sustainable and credible program of investment, which will be informed by the independent advice of Building Queensland
- Provides a framework for greater coordination between public and private infrastructure.

The SIP describes how and where government will focus its attention through two distinct but related components—the strategy and program.

The SIP recognises the significant role that the private sector plays in developing proposals. It also highlights how the Coordinator-General and Economic Development Queensland facilitate opportunities to grow the pipeline of infrastructure projects.

In the SIP, the Project is recognised as a major project for the Outback Region and Townsville Region.

The Powering Queensland Plan

The Queensland Government's Powering Queensland Plan was released in 2017 and sets out the Queensland Government's strategy to guide the state through the short-term and long-term challenges facing Australia's energy markets. The plan supports the government's commitment to transition to a cleaner energy sector, creating new investment and jobs.

One of the actions outlined in the plan is to deliver a $386 million Powering North Queensland Plan to strengthen and diversify the north's energy supply and create a North Queensland clean

energy hub. This aligns with the objective of the Project by facilitating the development of the proposed North Queensland Clean Energy Hub, a Queensland Government initiative to develop strategic electricity transmission infrastructure to host renewable energy transmission from significant wind and solar resources in north Queensland.

4.9 Local government plans and instruments

The Project traverses seven LGAs. Development within a local government area is administered by a statutory document called a planning scheme. Planning schemes are prepared by councils to guide development within the LGA. Seven planning Schemes are relevant to the corridor selection as detailed below.

- Burdekin Shire Council IPA Planning Scheme – The Burdekin Shire IPA Planning Scheme was prepared in accordance with the repealed *Integrated Planning Act 1997.* The Planning Scheme took effect on 4 March 2011.
- Charters Towers Regional Town Plan - The Charters Towers Regional Plan was prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning Act 2016.* The Town Plan took effect on 10 February 2020.

  The Planning Scheme has been prepared to manage and guide development within the local government area for the life of the Planning Scheme (generally 20-25 years)
- Shire of Flinders Planning Scheme - The Flinders Shire Planning Scheme v1.1 was prepared in accordance with the provisions of the repealed *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* and has been made to be consistent with the *Planning Act 2016*. The Planning Scheme took effect on 28 February 2018.

  The Planning Scheme has been prepared to manage and guide development in the local government area over the 20 years.
- Planning Scheme for the Shire of Richmond – The Planning Scheme for the Shire of Richmond was prepared in accordance with the repealed *Integrated Planning Act 1997*. The Planning Scheme took effect on 30 September 2005.

  The Planning Scheme was prepared to manage and guide development for the life of the Planning Scheme.
- McKinlay Shire Planning Scheme – The McKinlay Shire Planning Scheme was prepared in accordance with the *Planning Act 2016*. The Planning Scheme took effect on 26 Aril 2019.

  The Planning Scheme was prepared to manage and guide development in the local government area over the next 20 years.
- Cloncurry Shire Planning Scheme – The Cloncurry Shire Planning Scheme was prepared in accordance with the repealed *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. The Planning Scheme was amended for alignment with the *Planning Act 2016* in July 2017. The Cloncurry Shire Planning Scheme commenced on 15 February 2016.

  The Planning Scheme has been prepared to manage and guide development within the local government area over the next 10-15 years.
- City of Mount Isa Town Planning Scheme – The City of Mount Isa Planning Scheme was prepared in accordance with the repealed *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* and has been made consistent with the *Planning Act 2016.* The Planning Scheme (as amended) took effect on 9 March 2020.

  The Planning Scheme was prepared to manage and guide development within the local government area over the next 20 years.

Burdekin Shire Council and Richmond Shire Council are currently preparing new planning schemes in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning Act 2016.* The EIS process will continue to monitor the progress of these draft planning schemes to ensure that the EIS is accurate and reflects the current planning scheme at that time.

4.9.1 Burdekin Shire Council Planning Scheme

The Burdekin Shire IPA Planning Scheme defines the Project as an Undefined use. The corridor selection area is located in the Rural planning area of the Planning Scheme. An Undefined use would trigger a Development Application for MCU. This application will be impact assessable in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Scheme.

An impact assessable application will require assessment in compliance with the whole Planning Scheme including all identified codes in the assessment benchmarks column of the category of development and assessment table for that development type, including prescribed secondary codes and any other relevant parts of Planning Scheme, including the following relevant codes:

- Rural zone code
- Relevant overlay codes.

The application will also be required to undergo public notification in accordance with the DA Rules.

Associated activities such as accommodation camps would also require an impact assessable application in the Rural zone. The whole Planning Scheme including the codes identified above will apply to this type of development.

Operational works associated with excavating and filling is Exempt development in the Rural zone. All other types of operational works are also considered Exempt development in the Rural zone.

Access arrangements to the corridor selection may require a Reconfiguration of a Lot Application (subdivision) for access easements over properties unless land access arrangements are in place with each property owner.

Relevance to project

No MCU development application is required for the corridor selection, provided successful infrastructure designation. Assessment will be included in the EIS against the relevant planning schemes but the approval will be facilitated under the infrastructure designation process.

The construction camp and laydown areas may trigger a MCU development application, however location/details are not currently known and were not identified within the CopperString 1.0 Project EIS. It is proposed that responsibility lies with the Contractor. A Development Application for MCU will require proposed design and layout of construction camps and laydown areas, and assessment against the relevant planning scheme provisions. Consent from landowners will be required to lodge the planning application.

Operational works development application will be required for any bulk earthworks required for the construction of the temporary accommodation camps. The development application will be required to be supported by design plans, statement of compliance with relevant codes and application forms and fees.

Draft Burdekin Shire Planning Scheme

The project is defined as Major electricity infrastructure in accordance with the draft Burdekin Shire Planning Scheme. The corridor selection is located within the Rural zone of the draft

planning scheme. Major electricity infrastructure would trigger a Development Application for MCU. This application will be code assessable if undertaken by a public sector entity, otherwise the application will be impact assessable.

A code assessable application will require assessment in compliance with the identified codes in the assessment benchmark column in the planning scheme. An impact assessable application will require assessment in compliance with the whole planning scheme including all identified codes in the assessment benchmarks column of the category of development and assessment table for that development type, including the following relevant codes:

- Rural zone code
- Relevant overlay codes
- Development works code.

The application will also be required to undergo public notification in accordance with the DA Rules if the application is deemed impact assessable. Public notification will not be required if the application is code assessable.

Associated activities such as accommodation camps will require an impact assessable application in the Rural zone. The whole town plan including the codes identified above will apply to this type of development.

Access arrangements to the corridor selection may require a Reconfiguration of a Lot Application (subdivision) for access to easements over properties unless land access arrangements are in place with each property owner.

Operational works associated with filling and excavation is impact assessable in the Rural zone. All other operational works is accepted development subject to requirements (i.e. no approval required provided the works meet the relevant codes contained in the planning scheme).

Relevance to the project

No MCU development application is required for the corridor selection, provided successful infrastructure designation. Assessment will be included in the EIS against the relevant planning schemes but the approval will be facilitated under the infrastructure designation process.

The construction camp and laydown areas may trigger a MCU development application, however location/details are not currently known and were not identified within the CopperString 1.0 Project EIS. It is proposed that responsibility lies with the Contractor. A development application for MCU will require proposed design and layout of construction camps and laydown areas, and assessment against the relevant planning scheme provisions. Consent from landowners will be required to lodge the planning application.

Operational works development application is required for filling or excavation. A development application is not required for all other operational works provided the work meets the relevant codes contained in the planning scheme.

4.9.2 Charters Towers Regional Town Plan

The Project is defined as Major Electricity Infrastructure in accordance with the Charters Towers Regional Town Plan (Town Plan). The corridor selection is located within the Rural zone of the Town Plan. Major Electricity Infrastructure would trigger a Development Application for MCU. This application will be impact assessable.

An impact assessable application will require assessment in compliance with the whole planning scheme including all identified codes in the assessment benchmarks column of the category of development and assessment table for that development type, including prescribed secondary

codes and any other relevant parts of the planning scheme, including the following relevant codes:

- Rural zone code
- Relevant overlay codes
- Industry and infrastructure activities code.

The application will also be required to undergo public notification in accordance with the DA Rules.

Associated activities such as accommodation camps would also require an impact assessable application in the Rural zone. The whole Town Plan including the codes identified above will apply to this type of development. Notwithstanding, Charters Towers Regional Council are supportive of construction workforce being established in Pentland and Charters Towers to assist with activating the city and avoiding isolated camps.

Access arrangements to the corridor selection may require a Reconfiguration of a Lot Application (subdivision) for access to easements over properties unless land access arrangements are in place with each property owner.

Operational works associated with excavating and filling to certain levels and volumes is considered accepted development subject to requirements (i.e. no approval required provided the work meets the relevant codes contained in the Town Plan).

All other operational works require code assessable development applications to be submitted to the council for assessment.

Relevance to project

No MCU development application is required for the corridor selection, provided successful infrastructure designation. Assessment will be included in the EIS against the relevant planning schemes but the approval will be facilitated under the infrastructure designation process.

The construction camp and laydown areas may trigger a MCU development application, however location/details are not currently known and were not identified within the CopperString 1.0 Project EIS. It is proposed that responsibility lies with the Contractor. A development application for MCU will require proposed design and layout of construction camps and laydown areas, and assessment against the relevant planning scheme provisions. Consent from landowners will be required to lodge the planning application.

Operational works development application is not required for excavating or filling provided the work meets the relevant codes contained in the Town Plan.

4.9.3 Shire of Flinders Planning Scheme

The Project is defined as Major Electricity Infrastructure in accordance with the Shire of Flinders Planning Scheme (the Planning Scheme). The corridor selection area is located within the Rural zone of the Planning Scheme. Major electricity infrastructure would trigger a Development Application for a MCU. This application will be impact assessable.

An impact assessable application will require assessment in compliance with the whole planning scheme including all identified codes in the assessment benchmarks column of the category of development and assessment table for that development type, including prescribed secondary codes and any other relevant parts of planning scheme, including the following relevant codes:

- Rural zone code
- Relevant overlay codes

- Industry and infrastructure activities code.

The application will also be required to undergo public notification in accordance with the DA Rules.

Associated activities such as accommodation camps will also require an impact assessable application in the Rural zone. The whole planning scheme including the following relevant codes will apply:

- Rural zone code
- Relevant overlay codes.

Operational work in Flinders Shire is considered accepted development with the exception of excavation and filling. Where operational works involves excavation and filling in a flood hazard area or volumes exceeding 10,000 tonnes such as filling or excavation or any other Operational works associated with the Project will trigger a code assessable development application in compliance with the following Codes in the Planning scheme:

- Operational works code
- Flood hazard overlay code (where applicable).

Access arrangements to the corridor selection may require a Reconfiguration of a Lot application (subdivision) for access easements over properties unless land access arrangements have been negotiated with landholders.

Relevance to project

No MCU development application is required for the transmissions corridor, provided successful infrastructure designation. Assessment will be included in the EIS against the relevant planning schemes but the approval will be facilitated under the infrastructure designation process.

The construction camp and laydown areas may trigger a MCU development application, however location/details are not currently known and were not identified within the CopperString 1.0 Project EIS. It is proposed that responsibility lies with the Contractor. Development Application for MCU will require proposed design and layout of construction camps and laydown areas, and assessment against the relevant planning scheme provisions. Consent from landowners will be required to lodge the planning application.

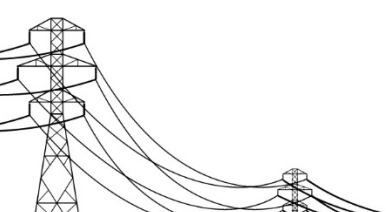
Operational works development application is not required for excavating or filling provided the work meets the relevant codes contained in the Town Plan and not located within as flood hazard area or volumes exceeding 10,000 tonnes.

4.9.4 Planning Scheme for the Shire of Richmond

The Planning Scheme for the Shire of Richmond (the Planning Scheme) defines the Project as a Public Utility including the supply of electricity. The corridor selection is located within the Rural zone of the Planning Scheme. A Public Utility would trigger a development application for MCU. This application would be impact assessable.

An impact assessable application will require assessment in compliance with the whole planning scheme including all identified codes in the assessment benchmarks column of the category of development and assessment table for that development type, including prescribed secondary codes and any other relevant parts of planning scheme, including the following relevant codes:

- Rural zone code
- Relevant shire wide codes



The application will also be required to undergo public notification in accordance with the DA Rules.

Associated activities such as accommodation camps would also require an impact assessable application in the Rural zone. The whole planning scheme including the following relevant codes will apply:

- Rural zone code
- Relevant shire wide codes.

Notwithstanding, Richmond Shire Council has established two hard stand areas in the light industrial area with access to power, water, sewerage and vehicle access which would be available at a commercial fee for accommodation camps.

Other development (e.g. operational works) is considered exempt development in the Rural zone.

Access arrangements to the corridor selection may require a Reconfiguration of a Lot application (subdivision) for access easements over properties unless land access arrangements have been negotiated with landholders.

Relevance to project

A MCU development application is not required for the corridor selection, provided successful infrastructure designation. Assessment will be included in the EIS against the relevant planning schemes but the approval will be facilitated under the infrastructure designation process.

The construction camp or laydown areas may trigger a MCU development application, however location/details are not currently known and were not identified within the CopperString 1.0 Project EIS. It is proposed that responsibility lies with the Contractor. A development application for MCU will require proposed design and layout of construction camps and laydown areas, and assessment against the relevant planning scheme provisions. Consent from landowners will be required to lodge the planning application.

4.9.5 Draft Richmond Shire Planning Scheme

The project is defined as Major electricity infrastructure in accordance with the draft Richmond Shire Planning Scheme. The corridor selection is located within the Rural zone of the draft planning scheme. Major electricity infrastructure is accepted development subject to requirements (i.e. no approval required provided the works meet the relevant codes contained in the planning scheme).

Associated activities such as accommodation camps will require a code assessable application in the Rural zone. A code assessable application will require assessment in compliance with the identified codes in the assessment benchmark column in the planning scheme.

Access arrangements to the corridor selection may require a Reconfiguration of a Lot Application (subdivision) for access to easements over properties unless land access arrangements are in place with each property owner.

Operational works for MCU is code assessable in the Rural zone. Filling and excavation is accepted development subject to requirements (i.e. no approval required provided the works meet the relevant codes contained in the planning scheme).

Relevance to the project

No MCU development application is required for the corridor selection, provided successful infrastructure designation. Assessment will be included in the EIS against the relevant planning schemes but the approval will be facilitated under the infrastructure designation process.

The construction camp and laydown areas may trigger a MCU development application, however location/details are not currently known and were not identified within the CopperString 1.0 Project EIS. It is proposed that responsibility lies with the Contractor. A development application for MCU will require proposed design and layout of construction camps and laydown areas, and assessment against the relevant planning scheme provisions. Consent from landowners will be required to lodge the planning application.

Operational works development application is required for operational works associated with MCU. A development application is not required for filling and excavation provided the work meets the relevant codes contained in the planning scheme.

4.9.6 McKinlay Shire Planning Scheme

The McKinlay Shire Planning Scheme (the Planning Scheme) defines the Project as Major electricity infrastructure. The corridor selection area is located in the Rural zone in the Planning Scheme. Major electricity infrastructure is accepted development if:

- Provided by or on behalf of a public sector entity
- Not located within 200 m of a high-pressure pipeline infrastructure or pipeline easements; and
- Not located in a flood hazard area or bushfire prone area on the State Planning Policy mapping.

There is no requirement to address any codes in the Planning Scheme if the Project is accepted development. If the Project does not meet the requirements for accepted development, Major electricity infrastructure is code assessable in the Rural zone. The following codes will apply:

- Rural zone code
- General development code.

Associated activities such as accommodation camps will require an impact assessable development application in the Rural zone. An impact assessable application will require assessment in compliance with the whole planning scheme including all identified codes in the assessment benchmarks column of the category of development and assessment table for that development type, including prescribed secondary codes and any other relevant parts of the planning scheme, including the following relevant codes:

- Rural zone code
- General development code
- Non-resident workforce accommodation code.

Operational works associated with the Project such as excavation and filling, vegetation clearing requires a code assessable application. The following codes are applicable:

- Operational works code.

Access arrangements to the corridor selection may require a Reconfiguration of a Lot application (subdivision) for access easements over properties unless land access arrangements have been negotiated with landholders.

Relevance to project

A MCU development application is not required for the corridor selection, provided successful infrastructure designation. Assessment will be included in the EIS against the relevant planning schemes but the approval will be facilitated under the infrastructure designation process.

The construction camp or laydown areas may trigger a MCU development application, however location/details are not currently known and were not identified within the CopperString 1.0 Project EIS. It is proposed that responsibility lies with the Contractor. A development application for MCU will require proposed design and layout of construction camps and laydown areas, and assessment against the relevant planning scheme provisions. Consent from landowners will be required to lodge the planning application.

Operational works development application will be required for any bulk earthworks required for the construction of the temporary accommodation camps. The development application will be required to be supported by design plans, statement of compliance with relevant codes and application forms and fees.

4.9.7 Cloncurry Shire Planning Scheme

The Cloncurry Shire Planning Scheme (the Planning Scheme) defines the Project as Major electricity infrastructure. The corridor selection is located in the Rural zone in the planning Scheme. Major electricity infrastructure will trigger a Development Application for MCU. This application would be impact assessable requiring formal public notification.

The application will require assessment in compliance with the whole Planning Scheme including the following relevant codes:

- Rural zone code
- Relevant overlay codes.

Associated activities such as accommodation camps will require an impact assessable development application in the Rural zone. The application will require assessment in compliance with the whole Planning Scheme including the following relevant codes:

- Rural zone code
- Relevant overlays codes
- Non-resident workforce accommodation code
- Relevant Other development codes.

The Planning Scheme also includes provisions for temporary uses, however the criteria for a temporary use is based on how long the use will be at the location. In certain circumstances a temporary use is accepted development.

Operational works associated with the Project such as excavation and filling, roadworks and vehicle access is accepted development if the following applies:

- Earthworks if –
  - In the rural zone; and
  - Not triggered by the Flood hazard overlay or Waterway corridors, wetlands and biodiversity overlay

Operational works that is accepted development subject to requirements includes the following:

- Undertaking roadworks on a local government road (being a driveway crossover) if -
  - Complying with all the requirements identified in the Operational works and services code
- Earthworks if –
  - On Council owned or controlled land and undertaken by or on behalf of Council; or

  - Not exceeding a cumulative total depth of 300 mm and not more than 50 m^3 in volume and not triggered by the Flood hazard overlay or Waterway corridors, wetlands and biodiversity overlay
  - Complying with all the identified requirements in the Earthworks code.

Where the requirements of accepted development cannot be met, an Operational Works application will be code assessable and require assessment in compliance with the following relevant Codes:

- Earthworks code
- Integrated water cycle management code
- Operational works and services code.

Relevance to project

A MCU development application is not required for the corridor selection, provided successful infrastructure designation. Assessment will be included in the EIS against the relevant planning schemes but the approval will be facilitated under the infrastructure designation process.

The construction camp or laydown areas may trigger a MCU development application, however location/details are not currently known and were not identified within the CopperString 1.0 Project EIS. It is proposed that responsibility lies with the Contractor. A development application for MCU will require proposed design and layout of construction camps and laydown areas, and assessment against the relevant planning scheme provisions. Consent from landowners will be required to lodge the planning application.

Operational works development application is not required provided the proposed works meets the accepted development requirements in the planning scheme.

4.9.8 City of Mount Isa Planning Scheme

The City of Mount Isa Planning Scheme (the Planning Scheme) defines the Project as an Major electricity infrastructure. The corridor selection is located in the Rural planning area of the Planning Scheme. Major electricity infrastructure will trigger a development application for MCU. This application will be impact assessable.

An impact assessable application will require assessment in compliance with the whole Planning Scheme including all identified codes in the assessment benchmarks column of the category of development and assessment table for that development type, including prescribed secondary codes and any other relevant parts of Planning Scheme, including the following relevant codes:

- Rural planning area zone code
- Relevant Overlay codes
- Relevant Other development codes

The application will also be required to undergo public notification in accordance with the DA Rules.

Associated activities such as accommodation camps are accepted development subject to requirements (i.e. no planning approval required) if:

- For a temporary Non-resident workforce accommodation use of less than six months duration; and
- The total area being used for the Non-resident workforce accommodation does not exceed 50000m^2

Otherwise code assessable in compliance with the following relevant Codes:

- Rural zone code
- Relevant Overlay codes
- Residential activities code
- Landscaping code
- Parking, access and loading code
- Engineering works and services code
- Excavation and filling code

Access arrangements to the corridor selection may require a Reconfiguration of a Lot application (subdivision) for access easements over properties unless land access arrangements have been negotiated with landholders.

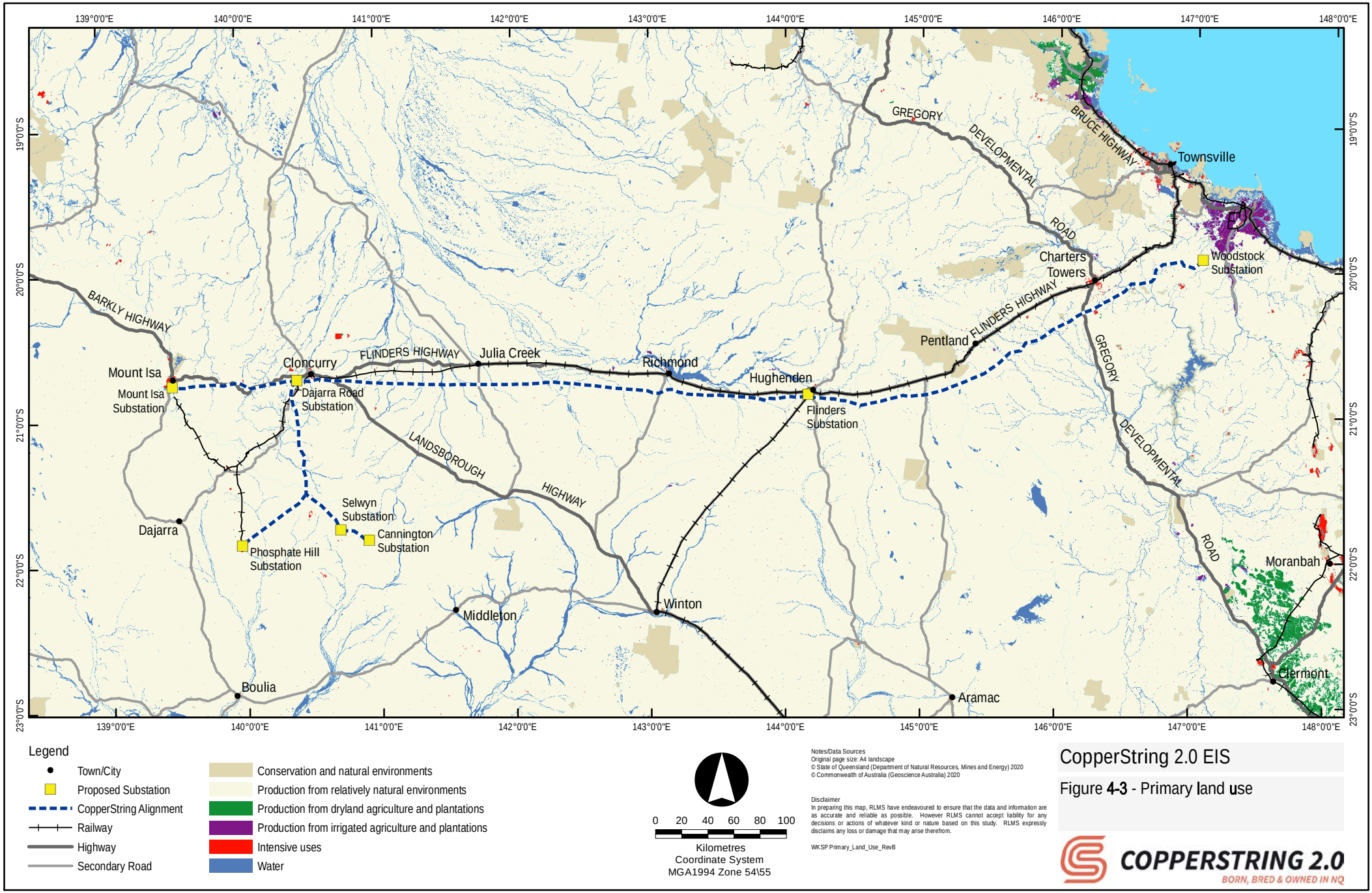
An approval for Operational Works associated with the Project is only required where the proposed works are located in a flood hazard overlay or heritage overlay.

Operational work involving clearing vegetation, including vegetation to which the VM Act applies where:

- Not within the Wetlands and waterway corridors overlay; and
- Not within the Heritage overlay; and
- Not within the Biodiversity overlay

All other types of operational work (excluding excavation and/or filling) are considered accepted development subject to requirements

Figure 4-3 illustrates the land use zones along the corridor selection area.



Legend

- Town/City
- Proposed Substation
- CopperString Alignment
- Railway
- Highway
- Secondary Road
- Conservation and natural environments
- Production from relatively natural environments
- Production from dryland agriculture and plantations
- Production from irrigated agriculture and plantations
- Intensive uses
- Water

0 20 40 60 80 100

Kilometres

Coordinate System
MGA1994 Zone 54\55

Notes/Data Sources
Original page size: A4 landscape

Disclaimer
In preparing this map, RLMS have endeavoured to ensure that the data and information are as accurate and reliable as possible. However RLMS cannot accept liability for any decisions or actions of whatever kind or nature based on this study. RLMS expressly disclaims any loss or damage that may arise therefrom.

WKSP Primary_Land_Use_RevB

CopperString 2.0 EIS

Figure 4-3 - Primary land use

COPPERSTRING 2.0
BORN, BRED & OWNED IN NQ

Relevance to project

No MCU development application is required for the corridor selection, provided successful infrastructure designation. Assessment will be included in the EIS against the relevant planning schemes but the approval will be facilitated under the infrastructure designation process.

The construction camp or laydown areas do not trigger a MCU development application provided they are established for no longer than two years and comply with the provisions of the Rural planning area code.

Operational works development application is not required for any bulk earthworks.

4.9.9 Summary of approvals required post EIS process

Table 4-7 outlines the approvals required for the Project based on the relevant activities proposed and indicates the anticipated timing of attaining each approval. It is noted that the majority of those listed will be obtained as part of the Infrastructure Designation process or post the EIS process.

For completeness approvals under the SDPWO Act and EPBC Act which will be obtained as part of the EIS process are included with the approvals register. This EIS seeks to obtain endorsement, via recommendations and conditions within the Coordinator-General's evaluation report, for the Project. Some aspects, the subject of the EIS, are also deemed assessable development under an Act, regulation, a local planning scheme or local by-laws.

It is acknowledged that further information (in the form of detailed site layout designs and final site-based management material) to support future approvals will be provided prior to formal lodgement of applications with the relevant assessment manager/s. This process is not expected to commence until after the Coordinator-General has issued an evaluation report under the SDPWO Act.

The timing presented in Table 4-7 relates to the preparation of abovementioned development applications and supporting information. However, appropriate conditions are sought from the Coordinator-General through the current EIS process.

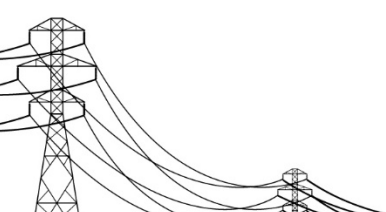
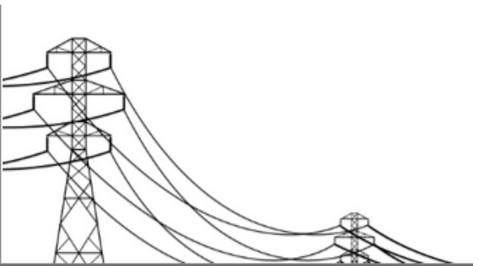
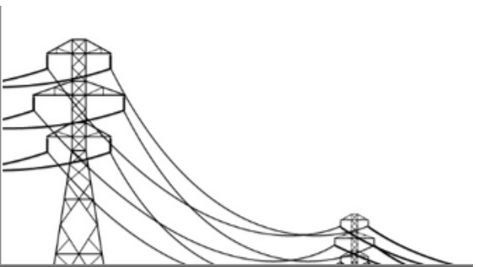


Table 4-7 Project approvals register

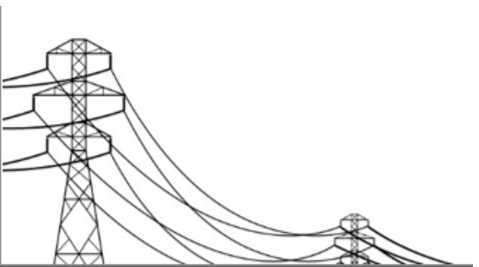
Approval/Relevant legislation	Project phase	Relevant project activities	Trigger	Approving authority	Approval timeframes	Approval requirements
Commonwealth						
Controlled action EIS assessment *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*	Design Pre-construction	Corridor selection	EPBC Act referral is required when a project may potentially significantly impact MNES protected under the EPBC Act.	*Department of Environment and Energy (DEE)*	Referral - 28 days (20 business days) for decision on whether approval required and on process of assessment.	**Required** The Project was referred to the DEE in 2019 (EPBC Act Referral 2019/8416). The referral decision was that the Project is a controlled action. Matters of national environmental significance (MNES) will be addressed in the EIS and assessed under the Queensland bilateral assessment agreement. Public comment period/s applies.
Indigenous Land Use Agreement or suppression of native title *Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth)* *National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT)* *Native Title (Queensland) Act 2003*	Pre-construction	Corridor selection Construction laydown areas Workers accommodation Access tracks	Indigenous Land Use Agreements are required with Native Title parties where Native Title has not been extinguished. Required to allow access to land.	*National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT)* Attorney-General's Department – Registered Native Title Party	Up to 12 months including public notification period and negotiations.	**Required** Agreement between CuString and Indigenous land owner groups for activities to be undertaken within state land within the Project corridor.
State – Development application						
Coordinated project environmental impact statement (EIS) (Coordinated project declaration received on 26 April 2019) *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971, section 36 (1)(a)*	Design Pre-construction	Corridor selection Access tracks,	A coordinated project declaration is given to projects with complex approval requirements, significant environmental effects, strategic significance or significant infrastructure requirements.	*Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP)*	Up to 2 years including of terms of reference, draft EIS, approval of EIS, provision of supplementary information.	**Required** The Project was declared a coordinated Project on 26 April 2019. The Terms of Reference for the EIS were approved on 4 September 2019. The Terms of Reference require that the EIS address: • The approvals considered part of the EIS process • Identify planning schemes traversed by the project • Address the State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) • Information relevant to the Project's environmentally relevant activities • Address the provisions of the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*, *Electricity Act 1994*, Regional Plans, and State Planning Policies and guidelines. The Project is not a regulated activity under the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014* and does not interfere with areas of regional interest under this Act.
Prescribed Project Declaration *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971, section 76 E (1)(d)*	Design Pre-construction	Corridor selection Access tracks	A prescribed project declaration is given after the EIS approval for projects with complex secondary approval requirements.	*DSDMIP*	4 weeks (no statutory timeframe).	**Required** A letter request to the Coordinator-General for a prescribed project declaration enables the Coordinator-General, if necessary, to intervene in state and local government approval processes to ensure timely decision-making for the prescribed project. This will be relevant to any tier two approvals if agencies are not cooperating.



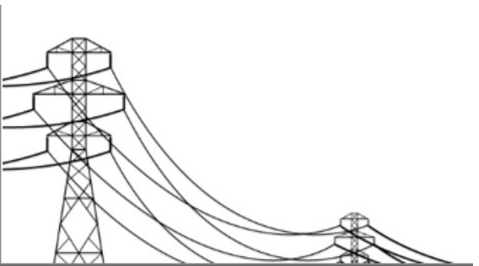
Approval/Relevant legislation	Project phase	Relevant project activities	Trigger	Approving authority	Approval timeframes	Approval requirements
Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Designation of premises For development of infrastructure (Electricity operating works) *Planning Act 2016*. Part 5 / *Planning Regulation 2017*, Schedule 5, Part 2, Item 6 *Minister's Guidelines and Rules*	Pre-construction	Corridor selection	Establishment of transmission corridor and development of infrastructure.	Queensland Treasury	6 months for the assessment of an EAR by the regulator	**Required** EIS to include sufficient information to address all aspects required by the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) highlighting environmental values, potential impacts and mitigation measures. The request for ministerial infrastructure designation will be made during the latter stages of the EIS process. The request will seek the Ministers' approval for the Project to be assessed under a streamlined approach. Information included in the EIS can be utilized for the ID Planning Report. This may include high level site design (indicative or conceptual level) for specific infrastructure (such as camps or laydown areas) as well as general arrangement drawings / sketches for the Transmission Line, substations and CEVs, This is expected to be an acceptable level of detail provided the project is constructed "Generally in Accordance" with these drawings and the disturbance areas shown on them are representative of the project construction works. The Planning Regulation 2017, Schedule 5, Part 2 (18) notes that the infrastructure designation can include storage and works depots and similar facilities, including administrative facilities relating to the provision or maintenance of infrastructure (i.e. laydown areas control centres can be included in the infrastructure designation.
Material Change of Use development permit assessable under the local government planning scheme *Planning Act 2016* Planning Schemes (Burdekin Shire Council, Charters Towers Regional Council, Flinders Shire Council, Richmond Shire Council, McKinlay Shire Council, Cloncurry Shire Council, Mount Isa City Council)	Pre-construction	Sub-stations (where not included in the ID) Temporary construction camps Laydown areas (if assessable)	Material Change of Use (MCU) is required for sub-stations, temporary construction camps and laydown areas where triggered by individual planning schemes	Local government State assessment and referral agency	Not applicable for transmission corridor within the ID. 3 – 6 months for accommodation camps and laydown areas.	**Not Required** No application required for the transmissions corridor, provided successful Infrastructure Designation. Assessment will be included in the EIS against the relevant planning schemes but the approval will be facilitated under the Infrastructure Designation process. **May Not be Required** Construction camp or laydown areas will be submitted as part of the Infrstructure Designation Process. Further consultation with local aurthorited is required whoo may prefer the assessment of these facilities occur as a Material Change of Use. Development Application for MCU will require proposed design and layout of construction camps and laydown areas, and assessment against the relevant planning scheme provisions. Consent from landowners will be required to lodge the planning application.



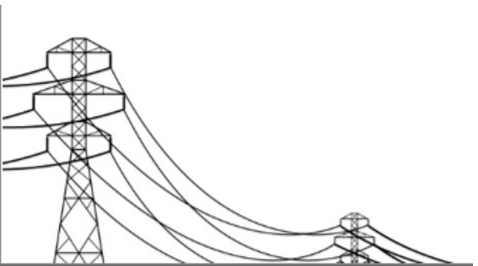
Approval/Relevant legislation	Project phase	Relevant project activities	Trigger	Approving authority	Approval timeframes	Approval requirements
Material Change of Use - Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERA) *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) *Environmental Protection Regulation 2019*	Pre-construction	Temporary construction camps, laydown areas	The temporary construction camps may treat sewage. However to trigger an ERA 63 the sewage treatment is operating 1 or more sewage treatment works at a site that has a total daily peak design capacity of a least 21 EP. This is therefore unlikely to be triggered. An ERA for water treatment is unlikely to be triggered as the threshold trigger is treating 10 ML or more of raw water per day	Department of Environment and Science (DES)	3 - 4 months	**Required** Approvals required for activities at temporary construction camps including: • DA Forms 1 & 2 • Attachment for an application for an environmental authority (DES) • Land owners consent • Drawings • Detail of ERA • EMP • Assessment against State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) State code 22 Environmentally relevant activities • Assessment for significant residual impact on any prescribed environmental matters present to identify any offsets obligations.
Owners Consent *Planning Act* *Land Act*	Design and Approvals	All activities undertaken on land not owned by the proponent.	Where the proponent is not landholder, owner's consent is required to be obtained and provided to supporting a development application. For State land and road reserves consent must be obtained from State Land agency	*Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME)*	2 months to obtain consent from State land	**Not Required** Owners consent is not required for the EIS or infrastructure designation process. **Required** Owners consent may be required for secondary approvals, including approvals for temporary construction camp and clearing permits. Application to DNRME for owners consent for works within State Land (road reserve, watercourse, leasehold). Letter of consent from freehold landholders.
General Environmental Duty EP Act	Construction	Construction activities including access tracks, material transport, mobilisation and demobilisation activities, temporary laydown areas and temporary construction camps	General environmental duty outlines the duty of care responsibilities of all those undertaking work on the Project and the obligation to take all necessary measures to prevent environmental harm.	DES	Not applicable	**Required** The Act requires all those working on the Project to abide by a General Environmental Duty. Record of compliance and measures taken to comply with General Environmental Duty e.g. construction environmental management plan (CEMP), inspection checklists.
Disposal of contaminated land EP Act	Construction	Removal of contaminated soils during construction	Where soils are removed from land listed on the EMR or CLR which exceed investigation thresholds. Contaminated soils may occur in locations of former cattle dips or other agricultural activities.	DES	4 weeks	**Not Required** 18 sites on directly impacted land parcels across the corridor are listed on the EMR. The EMR listed sites are predominantly stock dips which can be avoided during construction. In the event that contaminated material is located during construction it will not be removed from the premises and so a disposal permit is not required.



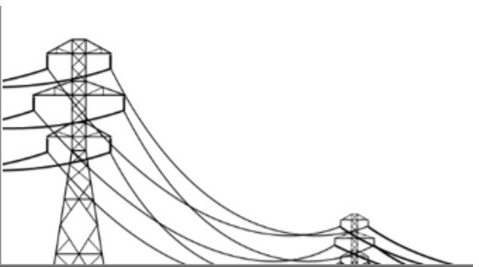
Approval/Relevant legislation	Project phase	Relevant project activities	Trigger	Approving authority	Approval timeframes	Approval requirements
Operational works development permit assessable under the local government planning scheme *Planning Act 2016* Planning Schemes (Burdekin Shire Council, Charters Towers Regional Council, Flinders Shire Council, Richmond Shire Council, McKinlay Shire Council, Cloncurry Shire Council, Mount Isa City Council)	Pre-construction	Bulk earthworks associated with transmission line easement and, temporary construction camps, laydown areas and access tracks, works to local roads including access (if required).	If the designation process is undertaken, then transmission infrastructure does not constitute operational works. Construction camp or laydown areas may trigger operational works, however location / details may not be known for the EIS.	Local government	3 months	**Required** Operational works application for any bulk earthworks required for the construction of the temporary accommodation camps will require the application to be supported by design plans, statement of compliance with relevant codes and application forms and fees.
Operational Work – Vegetation clearing *Planning Act 2016* *Vegetation Management Act 1999 (VM Act).* *Electricity Act 1994* (Electricity Act)	Pre-construction	Vegetation clearing Construction laydown areas; Establishment of transmission line easement (if not exempt under Planning Regulation 2017 Schedule 21, Part 1, (10 (a) and (b)) or if included within the ID Process.	Clearing for construction areas and corridor. As a coordinated project, the Project is considered to be a relevant purpose. Under sections 101 and 112A of the Electricity Act, clearing vegetation on freehold land is accepted development if the clearing is on premises the subject of an infrastructure designation that includes the operating works or is undertaken by a transmission entity for the operating works.	*State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA)* DNRME (Advice)	4 months	**Not Required** Vegetation clearing for the transmission corridor to be assessed as part of the EIS process and infrastructure designation approval. **Required** Additional clearing activities that are not included in the above (E.g. for accommodation camps may require Operational Works application for clearing of native vegetation or as included as part of an MCU application which is to include: • Relevant purpose determination (where required) • DA Form 1 • Supporting information (e.g. Vegetation Management Plan Report) • Assessment against SDAP State Code 16. • Significant residual impact assessment. Note that additional clearing requirements may occur under Local Government authorities.
Operational works for constructing waterway barrier works OR Compliance with Accepted development requirements for operational work that is constructing or raising waterway barrier works *Planning Act 2016* *Fisheries Act 1994*	Pre-construction	Construction activities; Access tracks Crossing of waterways	Will apply to specific locations during the construction phase where crossing waterways has the potential to create a barrier to fish passage.	*Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)*	4 months for a DA. Notification must be made prior to but no more than 20 business days before work commences and within 15 business days post-works.	**Not Required** Crossings of waterways during construction will utilise existing crossings, and vehicle crossings will be at bed level and not be of a type that will constitute waterway barrier works.



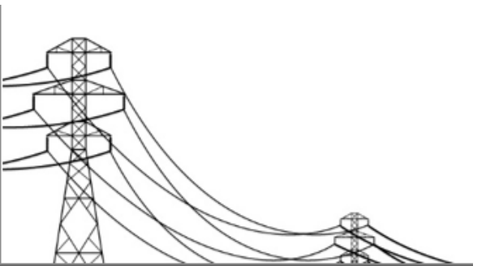
Approval/Relevant legislation	Project phase	Relevant project activities	Trigger	Approving authority	Approval timeframes	Approval requirements
Operational Work in a wetland protection area *Planning Act 2017* *Environment Protection Act 1994*	Pre-construction	Construction activities	Operational work that is high impact earthworks in a wetland protection area. Examples of some activities that may involve high impact earthworks include (but are not limited to): • Filling or levelling of land, including raising the level of land by the placing of fill material • Excavation of land, including excavation to create a canal, channel or water storage. • Construction of a new drain • Overland flow storage and sediment erosion ponds • Construction of a levee, farm dam, weir or other barrier across a waterway. • Construction of a road, culvert or causeway.	DES	4 months for a DA	**Not Required** The Project area intersects mapped wetland protection areas, however the activities associated with the Project are not anticipated to require filling and/or excavation of more than 100m^3 within a wetland or within 200m of the wetland or more than 1,000m^3
Protected plant clearing permit or Exempt clearing notification *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act)	Pre-construction	Establishment of transmission line easement Ground clearing for construction	When clearing areas identified as being within the high risk flora survey trigger areas for protected plants or where protected plants have been detected, a flora survey must be undertaken in accordance with the guideline and a clearing permit or exemption notice obtained.	DES	3 months - the statutory timeframe for a decision on an application for a clearing permit is 40 business days (assuming no information requests or public notification requirements): An exempt clearing notification will be required to be submitted to the department at least one week prior to the clearing commencing and within one year of the survey. Receipt of notification typically confirmed within 5 business days.	**Required** Mapping indicates that Protected plant Flora surveys will be required as part of pre-clearance activities along the Woodstock to Dajarra Road corridor alignment. These surveys will indicate whether a clearing permit or exempt clearing notification is required. Clearing permit: • Application Form • Prescribed application fee • Flora Survey Report • Impact Management Plan • Significant residual impact assessment • Landowner statement/ consent Exempt clearing notification: • Application Form • Flora Survey Report



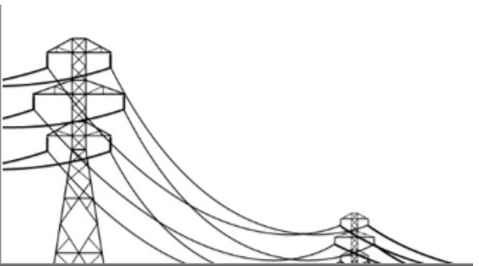
Approval/Relevant legislation	Project phase	Relevant project activities	Trigger	Approving authority	Approval timeframes	Approval requirements
Species management program (SMP) *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006	Pre-construction	Establishment of transmission line easement Ground clearing for construction	When undertaking activities which impact on species listed under the NC Act. Species that will require a high risk SMP include: • Southern black-throated finch • Southern squatter pigeon • Greater glider • Julia Creek dunnart Species likely to require a high risk SMP are: • Night parrot • Red goshawk • Short-beaked echidna • Common death adder • Plains death adder • Colonial breeding bats – special least concern species • Special least concern migratory birds – for impacts on wetland Species possibly requiring high risk SMP: • Ornamental snake • Northern leaf-nosed bat • Vine-thicket fine lined slider • Australian painted snipe and special least concern migratory birds	DES	40 business days (non-statutory)	**Required** High risk SMP: • Application Form - Species management program for tampering with animal breeding places (high risk of impacts) • Animal Breeding Place Report – survey results, mapping and other supporting info. • Impact Management Plan - the scope of the activity and any proposed mitigation, rehabilitation or offsets (see the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's information sheet). • Landowner statement/consent • Animal breeding place register required to be provided to DES within 6 months of impacts occurring and within 10 business days of SMP expiring. Low risk SMP: • Application form - Species management program for tampering with animal breeding places (low risk of impacts) • Animal breeding place register required to be provided to DES annually and within 10 business days of SMP expiring.
NC Act	Pre-construction	Work within Ballara Nature Reserve	There is no specific approval mechanism or authority for transmission line infrastructure traversing through a nature refuge.	DES	-	**Required** The Ballara Nature Refuge is a conservation agreement between the landholder and the state. The construction of transmission line infrastructure through the nature refuge may require the landholder to apply for an amendment to the agreement or the land required for the project to be revocated by the Minister. Suitable justification and an assessment of alternative routes will be necessary for DES to agree to the amendment.



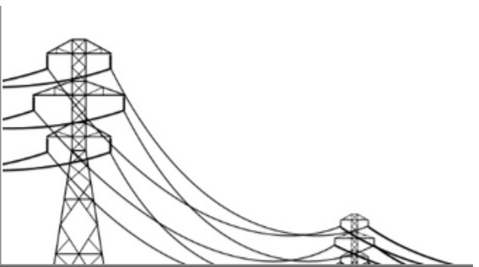
Approval/Relevant legislation	Project phase	Relevant project activities	Trigger	Approving authority	Approval timeframes	Approval requirements
Environmental offsets *Environment Offsets Act 2014 (EO Act)*	Pre-construction	Residual impacts resulting from clearing activities	Environmental offsets are required where there are residual impacts following the removal of fauna, flora and habitat that cannot be avoided after applying mitigation and management measures.	DES	3 – 4 months	**May be Required** Potential or likely prescribed activities that may trigger offsets for the Project include: 2. Taking a protected plant within the meaning of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* under a protected plant clearing permit granted under the Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006, or in accordance with section 15 in an area outside a protected area. Field surveys have identified these species which are not likely to be impacted. 3. A development approval for which an environmental offset may be required under any of the following modules of the State development assessment provisions— • State Code 16: Native vegetation clearing for the clearing activities associated with temporary infrastructure for the project outside of the transmission corridor and outside of the infrastructure designation area. Assessment of significant residual impacts in accordance with Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy Significant Residual Impact Guideline (either DES or QUEENSLAND TREASURY). If offsets required, may be either proponent-driven (land-based) or financial settlement and in accordance with the Environmental Offsets Policy
Transmission authority *Electricity Act 1994*	Pre-construction	Establishment of transmission line easement	Applicable for obtaining transmission authority for the transmission line and works to construct transmission line	DNRME	TBD	**Required** An application must be submitted in writing (there is no prescribed form) to The Regulator (Director-General, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) at the address given in this summary sheet, clearly stating proposed activity/grid (description). It must be accompanied by the fee prescribed under S188: Application for transmission authority of the Electricity Act 1994 and Schedule 7: Fees payable to regulator of the Electricity Regulation 2006.
Transmission corridor easement *Land Title Act 1994*	Pre-construction	Establishment of transmission line easement	To establish an easement for the transmission corridor	DNRME	3 – 4 months	**Required** Sealed easement plan



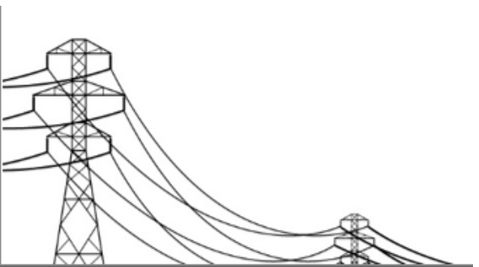
Approval/Relevant legislation	Project phase	Relevant project activities	Trigger	Approving authority	Approval timeframes	Approval requirements
Cultural Heritage Management Plan Duty of Care *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*	Pre-construction	Establishment of transmission line easement	Avoid impacting significant Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage to minimise potential for harm. Cultural heritage management agreement being developed to meet ACA Duty of Care	*Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP)*	-	**Required** Cultural Heritage Management Plan
Work in a State Road Corridor *Impact Assessment Guidelines, infrastructure agreements- Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*	Pre-construction	Construction transport and logistics; construction activities. Utility infrastructure installation in State-Controlled Transport Corridor	For the use of state controlled roads during construction, and where new access point may be required.	*Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR)*	4 weeks	**Required** Road Corridor Permit application form Traffic Control Permit, including traffic management plan Utility Installation Work approval (F5165 – Installation of utility assets in State Controlled Roads Application)
Work in a local road corridor *Impact Assessment Guidelines and Infrastructure agreements- local government policies- Local Government Act 1993*	Pre-construction	Construction transport and logistics; construction activities	For the use of local governmental roads during construction	Local Government	2 weeks	**Required** Road Opening Permit and Application for Road Excavation Road Closure Permit Carrying out works or interfering with a road approval
Road closure (temporary or permanent) *Land Act 1994*	Pre-construction	Construction activities, Access tracks	Where permanent road closures or short-term occupation and construction within road reserves (excluding state roads) are required during construction, or for protection of the asset.	DNRME	3 months	**Not Required** Road closures will be required as per the procedures under the *Land Act 1994*. They require an application to State Land outlining the area of road to be closed either temporarily or permanently. Applications may require public notification.



Approval/Relevant legislation	Project phase	Relevant project activities	Trigger	Approving authority	Approval timeframes	Approval requirements
Riverine Protection Permit *Water Act 2000*	Pre-construction	Clearing, excavation or filling within watercourses; access tracks through watercourse	A RPP is required to excavate, place fill or destroy vegetation in a watercourse, lake or spring unless such works are otherwise authorised or exempt. CuString will be an electricity entity and thus an approved entity under the RPP exemption requirements The purpose of the RPP exemption requirements are to outline when it is permitted to excavate, place fill or destroy vegetation in a watercourse, lake or spring without the need for a riverine protection permit under the *Water Act 2000*. For the exemption to apply vegetation clearing must be: • carried out under an accepted development vegetation clearing code (other than category A), or • of an area that is less than 0.5 ha of a least concern RE in a category B area or • of an area that is less than 0.5 ha in a category C, R or X area.	DNRME	2 months	**Not Required** The exemption requirements are considered likely to apply to any clearing of vegetation required to be undertaken within a watercourse, provided that clearing can meet the conditions of the exemption requirements. E.g. Where clearing is required for vehicular access tracks, the clearing must not exceed 10 m wide it can be carried out under the provisions of the Clearing for Infrastructure Accepted Development Code and therefore meets the exemption requirements. Clearing for other linear infrastructure under this code will be dependent on the area to be cleared and the vegetation category. **Required** Required, where a RPP is required, either for clearing of vegetation or excavating more than 500 m^3 within a watercourse, the application to DNRME must include a plan denoting area of disturbance.
Quarry Permit *Forestry Act 1959*	Pre-construction	Removing material from State Land for use in construction or other commercial purpose	Where material is proposed to be extracted from the ground on State Land for use in the construction of access tracks or other activities. The requirement for material is to be determined.	DAF	6 months	**Not Required** Spoil material excavated during establishment of tower foundations will not be used for commercial purposes, but may be used to assist in directing stormwater flows around the infrastructure. Material will not leave site and
Permit to take quarry material from a watercourse *Forestry Act 1959* *Water Act 2000*	Pre-construction	Removing material from a watercourse for use in construction or other commercial purpose	Where material is proposed to be extracted from a watercourse for use in the construction of access tracks or other activities. The requirement for material is to be determined.	DNRME DAF	3 – 4 months	**Not Required** No material is proposed to be removed from a watercourse for construction purposes.
Water licence allocation *Water Act 2000*	Pre-construction	Extraction of water from ground or surface waters for use	Where water is proposed to be extracted from ground or surface waters for	DNRME	3 – 4 months	**Not Required** Potable town water supplies will be required for construction and to supply temporary accommodation camps. CuString will need to consult with local government authorities to arrange access to water supplies.



Approval/Relevant legislation	Project phase	Relevant project activities	Trigger	Approving authority	Approval timeframes	Approval requirements
General Biosecurity Obligation *Biosecurity Act 2014* *Commonwealth pest and weed management strategies*	Construction	Construction activities including access tracks, material transport, mobilisation and demobilisation activities	Where undertaking activities which may contribute to the spread of invasive plant or animal species	Biosecurity Queensland DAF	-	**Required** Demonstration of taking all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants under their control e.g. CEMP, work method statements, inspection checklists.
Local & Other Permits						
Plumbing and Drainage	Construction	Plumbing and drainage works associated with camps	Undertaking plumbing and drainage work	Self-assessable	Self-assessable	**Required** Self-assessable Certification of works. Contractor responsibility
Building Work *Building Act 1975*	Pre-construction	Temporary construction camps and laydown areas; transmission towers	Development permit for building works associated with transmission towers, temporary construction camps and other construction activities.	Local government Private certifier	Self-assessable	**Required** Self-assessable. For construction plans approved by certifier. Contractor responsibility
Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Airspace change process *Civil Aviation Act 1988* *Civil Aviation Regulations 1998*	Design	Establishment of transmission line easement at end of southern alignment (if required following consultation with CASA).	Change within CASA airspace	CASA	70 business days	**Not Required** Airspace change proposal to the Office of Airspace Regulation (OAR). An airspace change proposal form 1284 is to be submitted to the OAR by email oar@casa.gov.au.
Easement arrangements and land access *Land Act 1994*	Design and Pre-construction	All activities undertaken on land not owned by the proponent.	Any works or access requirements on land not owned by the proponent.	Land owners	No legislative timeframes	**Required** Easement agreements Land access agreements Entry notifications.



4.10 Recommendations

A range of legislation and approvals are applicable to the Project at the Commonwealth, State and local government level. As outlined in the previous sections, numerous approvals will be required prior to and/or during the construction and/or operation of the Project.

The Project comprises a range of activities across multiple planning instruments and therefore it is the preferred option following the issue of the Coordinator-General's evaluation report, to have the Project designated as an infrastructure designation by the Planning Minister under the *Planning Act 2016*. This approach will coordinate and simplify matters associated with acquisition of contiguous land tenure, Native Title, development approvals and planning for consistent future development. Where this designation is not granted, approval will be sought under the relevant local planning schemes and will subsequently require several different applications for each component of the Project (generally on lot-by-lot basis). This approach will significantly increase the regulatory burden on the relevant assessment managers.

CuString is actively working to reduce the complexity and administrative burden associated with the large number of approvals required for the Project. CuString seeks that the Coordinator-General acknowledge and endorse each of the relevant approvals set out in this report, together with any other approvals the Coordinator-General identifies, via recommendations and conditions within the Coordinator-General's evaluation report.