



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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11.1.13

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15 January 2016

Ms Erin Pasley
Research Director
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
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Dear Ms Pasley

POWERLINK QUEENSLAND SUBMISSION ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANNING BILLS¹

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This submission is made on behalf of the Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited trading as Powerlink Queensland (**Powerlink**) and has the support of Ergon Energy Corporation Limited and Energex Limited.
- 1.2 Powerlink is a government owned corporation that owns, operates, develops and maintains Queensland's high voltage electricity transmission network. This network, along with other infrastructure, is recognised in the State Planning Policy (**SPP**)² as driving the economy and providing essential services and facilities to communities across the state.
- 1.3 The dual requirements for the protection of electricity infrastructure assets and corridors and facilitation of electricity infrastructure delivery are critical considerations in the operation of the Queensland planning system.

¹ The Government's Planning Bills consist of the *Planning Bill 2015*, the *Planning and Environment Court Bill 2015* and the *Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015*.

² In particular, in the Energy and Water Supply State Interest.

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- 1.4 Powerlink supports the Queensland Government's commitment to planning reform and simplifying and streamlining the planning and development regime through the introduction of the Planning Bills and the development of supporting instruments.
- 1.5 Powerlink's interest in the Planning Bills is to ensure any proposed amendments support, and do not compromise, the effective and efficient delivery and protection of electricity infrastructure.
- 1.6 Powerlink appreciates and **supports** the collaborative approach that the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (**DILGP**) has taken in relation to the planning reform process. Powerlink also appreciates the opportunity to meet with DILGP on a number of occasions to discuss its position in relation to the Planning Bills and supporting instruments.

2. Planning Bills - Key Matters

- 2.1 Powerlink's key matters in relation to the Planning Bills are set out below:

Planning Bill 2015

- 2.2 Powerlink's key matter in relation to the *Planning Bill 2015* is in relation to designation of premises for development of infrastructure, which is the main planning tool used by Powerlink for the delivery of Queensland's electricity transmission network.
- 2.3 Overall, Powerlink **supports** the proposed changes to the current designation provisions, including:
 - (1) the Planning Minister (or their delegate) being the designator to support a level of consistency across designations;
 - (2) development under a designation being accepted development rather than just exempt from the planning scheme as is the current situation; and
 - (3) the provisions for amending designations.
- 2.4 In addition, Powerlink **supports** the recent changes to the drafting of section 36(1)(b) of the *Planning Bill 2015*, which address concerns that Powerlink has raised in previous submissions in relation to the earlier use of the term "planning need". Powerlink **supports and appreciates** DILGP's response to Powerlink's earlier submissions and feels the current drafting of section 36(1)(b) allows the term "need" to be given clear meaning so as to not unduly constrain the Minister's ability to designate premises for the development of infrastructure.

Planning and Environment Court Bill 2015

- 2.5 Powerlink does not have any specific feedback in relation to this draft bill.

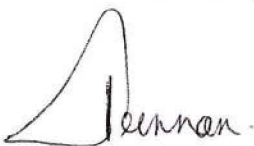
Draft Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

- 2.6 Powerlink notes that the intention of this draft bill is to make changes to other pieces of legislation that interact with the *Planning Bill 2015*.
- 2.7 Powerlink does not have any specific feedback in relation to this draft bill but does seek clarification in relation to **building work carried out by a public sector entity**.
- 2.8 Currently under the *Sustainable Planning Regulation (SPR)* building work carried out by or on behalf of a public sector entity is self-assessable development. The *Draft Planning Regulation* provides that building work is accepted development where the building work has been declared under the *Building Act* to be accepted development. The *Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015* proposes to amend the *Building Act* to provide that building work is accepted development if prescribed by regulation.
- 2.9 **Powerlink seeks confirmation that the *Building Regulation* will prescribe building work carried out by a public sector entity to be accepted development.**
- 2.10 **Powerlink also seeks confirmation that the necessary amendments to the *Building Regulation* will occur simultaneously with the commencement of the Planning Bills and supporting instruments so as to maintain the status quo in relation to building work carried out by a public sector entity.**

3. Further Consultation/Clarification

- 3.1 Powerlink appreciates and **supports** the collaborative approach that DILGP has taken in relation to planning reform and welcomes the opportunity to have the same level of consultation and collaborative approach to the finalisation and implementation of the planning bills, and development of the supporting instruments, in particular the designation guidelines.
- 3.2 Powerlink is happy to elaborate on or clarify any aspect of this submission.

Yours sincerely



Maurie Brennan

A/CHIEF EXECUTIVE