

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 840**  
**Asked on Thursday, 15 June 2023**

**MR A HARPER** ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI)

Will the Minister provide an update on CopperString 2032 and the economic benefits and job opportunities that will benefit the Townsville and north-west communities?

**ANSWER**

CopperString 2032 has the potential to support around 800 direct jobs over its 6-year construction period (to 2029), another 50 ongoing operations and maintenance jobs and thousands more in critical minerals mining and renewable energy industries.

The project will unlock vast renewable wind and solar resources in one of Australia's largest renewable energy zones, the North Queensland Renewable Energy Zone, and potentially more than \$500 billion in new critical minerals mining and processing that can be used to make batteries and renewables in North Queensland.

The Queensland Government is investing \$5 billion in the project, including \$594 million in 2023-24 and \$3 billion across the forward estimates.

CopperString 2032 will be a transmission line from Townsville to Mount Isa, to connect the North West Minerals Province to the national electricity grid and deliver reliable, affordable and renewable power to the people, businesses and communities in the region.

The project includes an increased transmission capacity of 500kV (from 330kV) for the section of line between Townsville and Hughenden, a Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint priority.

The Queensland's government owned transmission provider, Powerlink Pty Ltd, took carriage of the CopperString 2032 project in March this year.

Early works have now commenced and construction is on track to commence in 2024.

The early works package led by Powerlink will be delivered through a \$20 million contract with CIMIC Group companies UGL and CPB Contractors. The contract has now been signed and will deliver:

- Geotechnical and geophysical field investigations along the transmission line alignment.
- Design of construction camps at Charters Towers, Pentland, Hughenden, Richmond, Julia Creek and Cloncurry.
- Development of stormwater and traffic management plans, including traffic impact assessments and road use management.
- Assessments and studies to inform the design of transmission towers, locations of towers and substation pad levels.