



Ref. A5985794

22 September 2025

Dr Kris Funston
Executive General Manager, Network Regulation
Australian Energy Regulator
Level 27, 135 King St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Kris,

NETWORK SUPPORT PASS THROUGH APPLICATION FOR 2024/25

Powerlink Queensland (Powerlink) submits this network support pass through application for the regulatory year ending 30 June 2025. We seek the Australian Energy Regulator's (AER's) approval to recover a network support pass through amount of \$124,361 (or \$135,621 after applying time value of money adjustments), via prescribed transmission service prices in 2026/27.

This application relates to costs for an existing agreement with Ratch Australia (Ratch), consistent with Powerlink's 2022/23 and 2023/24 network support pass through applications to the AER.¹

Reasons

During 2024/25, we incurred administrative and legal costs for a Network Support Agreement (NSA) with Ratch to address the system strength shortfall at the Gin Gin node, as identified by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) in December 2021 and May 2022.² In response to AEMO's declaration, Powerlink undertook necessary technical and commercial activities to ensure the provision of system strength services in the second half of 2025.

Powerlink did not make payments to Ratch in 2024/25. We incurred costs to review and update the NSA to meet AEMO's technical requirements, ensure contractual compliance, and inspect the installation and commissioning of a clutch at the Townsville Power Station. However, these were necessary to implement the solution required to meet the declared system strength shortfall.

We expect to make payments under this NSA in future, following modification of the Townsville Power Station.

We consider that this non-network solution will also contribute to addressing our minimum system strength requirements in Queensland from 2 December 2025 under the Australian Energy Market Commission's (AEMC's) *Efficient Management of System Strength on the Power System* Final Rule.³

¹ See Powerlink's [2022/23 Network Support Pass Through Application](#) (19 September 2023) and [2023/24 Network Support Pass Through Application](#) (19 September 2024).

² AEMO's 2021 System Security Reports: System Strength, Inertia and NSCAS (17 December 2021) and the Update to 2021 System Security Reports (11 May 2022) are available at: <https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/electricity/national-electricity-market-nem/nem-forecasting-and-planning/system-security-planning>.

³ AEMC [Efficient Management of System Strength on the Power System](#) Final Determination (21 October 2021).



Under the National Electricity Rules (the Rules),⁴ a network support event occurs when a Transmission Network Service Provider's network support payments for the previous regulatory year differ from the network support payment allowance approved by the AER as part of a revenue determination. We consider that a positive network support event occurred in 2024/25, during which such expenditure was necessary to address the system strength shortfall. Further details are provided in **Attachment 1**.

This application is prepared consistent with clause 6A.7.2 of the Rules and the AER's *Procedural Guideline for Preparing a Transmission Network Support Pass Through Application*. The relevant calculations are contained in a separate confidential spreadsheet (**Attachment 2 – CONFIDENTIAL**) that accompany this application. The Queensland Audit Office's independent review report is also attached (**Attachment 3 – CONFIDENTIAL**).

Please contact Jennifer Harris if you have any questions regarding this application.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by J Harris for

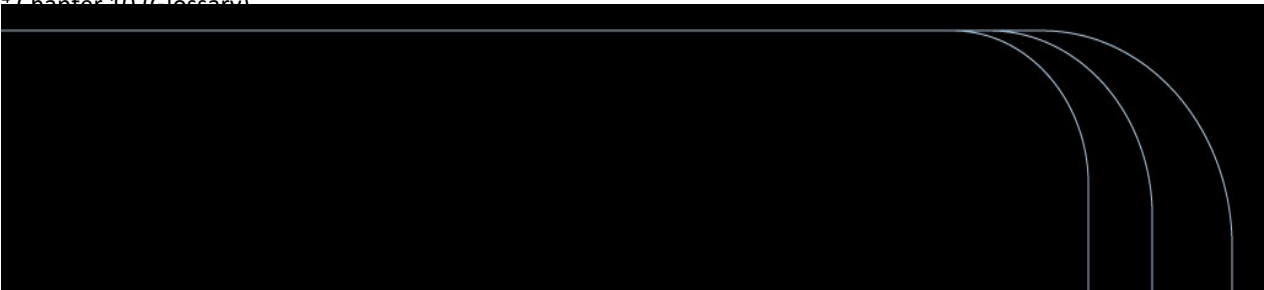
Jacqueline Bridge
EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER, NETWORK INVESTMENT

Enquiries: Jennifer Harris, General Manager, Network Regulation
[REDACTED]

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Powerlink Network Support Pass Through Application Information Requirements for the Regulatory Year Ended 30 June 2025.
- Attachment 2: 2024/25 Network Support Pass Through Calculations – CONFIDENTIAL
- Attachment 3: 2024/25 Queensland Audit Office Independent Auditor's Review Report – CONFIDENTIAL

⁴ Chapter 10 (Glossary)

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