

Reducing the risk of bushfires for biodiversity



Plants, animals and fire

Many native plants and animals are adapted to fire in the landscape. Low to moderate intensity fire can benefit species by providing new food resources, stimulating seed germination, creating important habitat features such as hollows, and stimulating vegetation growth. Therefore, maintaining a patchy mosaic of fire histories within the landscape can provide benefits to biodiversity. However, high intensity bushfires are typically detrimental to native species as they simplify the landscape and destroy existing habitat and resources. Ideally, these types of fires should be minimised within the landscape. High intensity bushfires can be reduced by conducting low intensity prescribed burns.

While prescribed burning on easements is not part of Powerlink's land management program, Powerlink works with landholders to mitigate fire risk through effective fire management planning (including fuel load assessments) and engagement activities with key stakeholders.



Managing vegetation

Management of vegetation and access tracks within and adjacent to powerline easements are essential for the safe and reliable operation of the transmission network. Vegetation management within powerline easements is collectively referred to as land maintenance.

Powerlink maintains the transmission network in a variety of ways, including focusing on the control of any incompatible vegetation by selectively applying approved herbicides and/or removal of these species. If vegetation is identified beyond the easement boundary that is considered a risk, management options will be discussed with the landholder.

Community programs

Powerlink delivers community and environment programs to build relationships and be a good corporate citizen. Powerlink engages with landholders on joint land management, including managing fuel loads and access. Powerlink has delivered several successful community and environmental programs in partnership with local councils in areas where its infrastructure is located. For example, Powerlink and Townsville City Council are working together to deliver a greening program dedicated to increasing vegetation density and improving habitat for local native wildlife. For further information on programs we are involved with go to: www.powerlink.com.au.

Further resources

- Fire and high voltage transmission line safety: www.powerlink.com.au/transmission-lines
- Powerlink Queensland activities on an easement: www.powerlink.com.au/easements
- Powerlink planned burn advice: www.powerlink.com.au/planned-burns
- Burning sugarcane near transmission lines: www.powerlink.com.au/brochures/burning-sugarcane-near-transmission-lines

Disclaimer: This document has been prepared by Healthy Land & Water in consultation with a range of stakeholders, including Powerlink. It has been developed purely as an aid to property fire management planning and in no way acts as a guarantee for bushfire safety. The aim of the Fire powerline easements and biodiversity leaflet is to minimise risk and to improve biodiversity conservation efforts, however a degree of risk will always remain when homes and other assets are located close to vegetation. Thus, whilst every effort has been pursued to make the information within this leaflet as accurate and factual as possible, those involved in compiling this document take no responsibility for any adverse outcomes, actions or losses resulting from its implementation. This publication does not purport to provide legal advice, and any recommendations herein do not necessarily represent current public policy. No person should act solely on the advice given here and should seek additional advice as required and assume responsibility for their actions. Please do not republish in any form without the prior agreement of the Queensland Fire & Biodiversity Consortium.



Healthy Land & Water

T: 07 3177 9100 info@hlw.org.au www.hlw.org.au

Contact Us

Further information about Powerlink and our projects can be downloaded from www.powerlink.com.au

General Enquiries FREECALL 1800 635 369 (during business hours) and ask for Easement Maintenance

In case of emergency FREECALL 1800 353 031 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

Email Easementmaintenance@powerlink.com.au

www.powerlink.com.au |



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