

Garbutt Substation Upgrade Project Update



April 2023

Major upgrade of Garbutt substation will power Townsville's energy future.

Garbutt substation upgrades

Initially built in 1958, the Garbutt bulk supply substation is an essential node in Townsville's electricity network, connecting Ergon Energy's distribution network and Powerlink's high-voltage transmission network.

The substation has grown over time, and now supplies more than 51,000 customers and is a critical interconnector for the area's 66,000V (66kV) electricity network, which includes 11 substations from Oonoonba to Rollingstone.

While the substation has stood the test of time, much of the existing infrastructure and equipment is soon due for retirement. So, to maintain a safe and reliable electricity supply to the area, we're investing \$30 million in a major upgrade of the substation. Construction of a new substation building is already well underway – see figure 1.



Figure 1 – New Garbutt substation building under construction

Once the building is complete, the old outdoor switchyard equipment – see figure 2 - will be replaced with modern, gas insulated switchgear (GIS) which will be housed inside the new substation building.



Figure 2 – Old substation equipment will be replaced with modern equipment and removed at the end of project.

Then, at the end of the project, the equipment in the outdoor switchyard will be demolished, improving the aesthetics of the high-profile site which is adjacent to Woolcock Street.

The full substation upgrade is scheduled to be completed by December 2025.

Getting in touch with us

Want to know more? You can register for future updates via email, or by scanning the QR code. You can also contact our Senior Community Engagement Advisor, Kate Austin on 1300 653 055 or email us at:

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