

# Whitsundays Network Upgrade Project Update



ERGON ENERGY  
NETWORK

Part of Energy Queensland

November 2022

## Works in progress at Cannonvale substation.

### Cannonvale substation upgrade

Built by the Mackay Electricity Board and officially opened in the early 1980's (see Figure 1), the Cannonvale Zone Substation has served the electricity needs of the local community for four decades.

As part of the Whitsundays Network Upgrade Project, we are refurbishing the existing equipment, and expanding the substation, to power the growing community into the future.

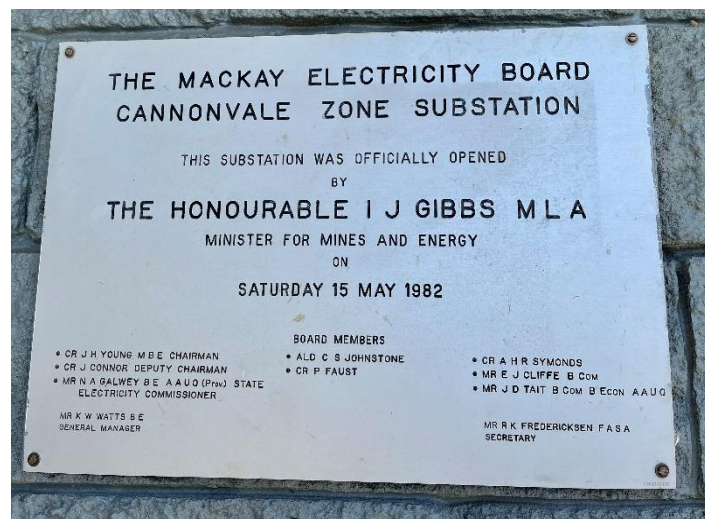


Fig 1 – The Cannonvale Zone Substation was officially opened in 1982

We will replace manually operated equipment with 'smart' plant that can be remotely controlled via one of Ergon Energy Network's Control Centres.

This will allow remote diagnosis of faults and speed up response times, ultimately reducing the duration of unplanned outages.

This sort of major upgrade involves a range of specialist teams including substation designers, secondary systems specialists, test technicians, civil coordinators, and network protection and operations engineers who will design, plan and deliver the changes – see Figure 2.

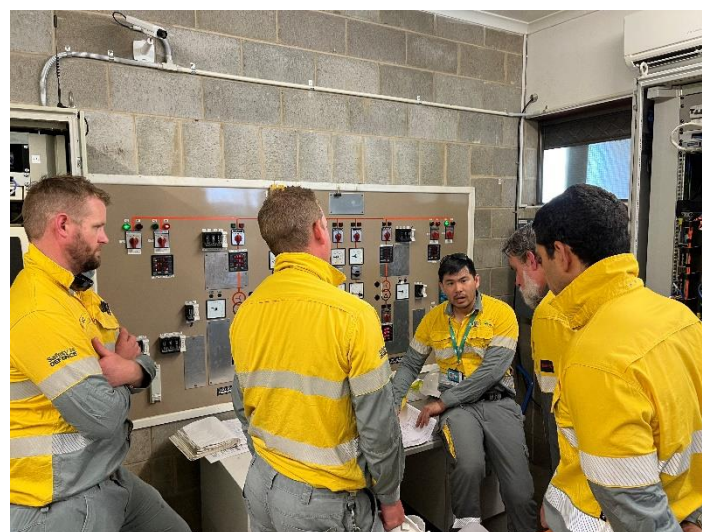


Fig 2 – Ergon staff visited the Cannonvale substation recently to discuss and plan the electrical upgrade.

### Substation civil works progress

With the civil works to the rear of the site now complete and the block levelled, we're ready to start the next stage.

Our contractors Copp & Co will be back in November to commence the next phase of civil works. These works will include the relocation of a Whitsunday Regional Council sewerage line, the installation of drainage and a retaining wall, and security fencing around the substation.

We have already been speaking with our substation neighbours about our plans for the next phase of works (see Figure 3).



Fig 3 – Ergon project staff discuss the sewer relocation and retaining wall installation with one of our substation neighbours.

Our team of building fabricators, based in our Banyo workshops, have started construction of the modular substation control building (see Figure 4). The team is on schedule to complete the building before Christmas and the project team is planning the delivery of the building to site early in the new year.



Fig 4 – Fabrication of the modular substation control building has commenced.

Before the control building can be delivered in the new year, a significant amount of civil work will be carried out, including pouring concrete slabs and communications pits, as well as constructing the steel foundations for the building.

With this work scheduled to be completed by Christmas, the project team and Universal Cranes are now planning the complex task of trucking the new control building up to Cannonvale and craning it into place (see Figure 5).



Fig 5 – Ergon staff and Universal Cranes representative plan the delivery and installation of the substation new control building.

As part of the electricity network upgrades, we will also refurbish the substation at Proserpine Mill. We understand the importance of the electricity supply to the Mill's production and the project team is working closely with Wilmar staff to plan these works outside of crushing season (see Figure 6).



Fig 6 – Ergon project team meet with Wilmar to plan upgrades to Proserpine Mill substation.

## Locals, supporting locals

We're proud Queenslanders and we're proud to partner with experienced local businesses on this major project, which involves a wide range of services including survey works, civil earth works, crane operations, signage printing, environmental consulting, and landscaping. You might recognise the logos some of these local businesses in Figure 7.



Fig 7 – Thanks to our local partners on the Whitsundays Network Upgrade Project.

### Get ready for storm season

The recent weather events have been a timely reminder to be prepared for storm season. While we make every effort to reduce the impact of storms and floods, we cannot stop severe weather from affecting the power network altogether.

Storms can damage overhead powerlines and floods can inundate the underground network. No matter where you live in the world, severe weather can

disrupt power and it's especially important to be prepared for prolonged power interruptions in a cyclone zone.

It took two weeks to rebuild the network and restore power to the areas worst affected by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in 2017.

Here are some tips to stay safe and be prepared for storm season: [Keeping Safe In Severe Weather - Ergon Energy](#)

### Getting in touch with us

To keep up to date on the project, to provide feedback, or to **register for future updates via email or SMS**, scan the QR code or visit our project web page [Whitsundays network upgrade - Ergon Energy](#). You can also contact our Senior Community Engagement Advisor, Kate Austin on 1300 653 055 or email us at: [NetworkProjectEngagement@energyq.com.au](mailto:NetworkProjectEngagement@energyq.com.au)



### Report it

Immediately report fallen powerlines to Ergon so that our crews can attend and make it safe.

#### Ergon Network

**EMERGENCIES 24hrs a day, 7 days a week**  
**Call 000 (Triple Zero) or Ergon Emergencies on 13 16 70**

To report life threatening emergencies like fallen powerlines, or shocks and tingles.

