

Whitsundays Network Upgrade Project Update



NETWORK

Part of Energy Queensland

December 2023

Cannonvale substation now in final stages

The Cannonvale substation upgrade is progressing well, with the new 66,000-volt (66kV) cables pulled through the switchyard's conduits and up the poles in early August and site entry/roadway civil works to be finalised by the end of the year.

Local businesses, Copp & Co and Lindsay Bates Building have worked with Zinfra, and Ergon Energy to complete the early civil and electrical works on the substation, with materials also sourced locally.

Native trees, sourced from local nursery, Butterfly Effect, have also been planted around the substation.

Exterior painting of the substation building, and further landscaping will be completed in early 2024, with Ergon's specialist high-voltage cable jointers connecting the cable within the substation soon after. Further connection works are planned for mid-2024, which will involve planned outages.

Commissioning of the new plant is anticipated in late 2024.



Cable being installed up the new poles within the substation.



An artist impression of the Cannonvale Substation on completion.

Cable installation works complete

Works on the duplication of the 66kV cable at various sites across the Whitsundays progressed over recent months. The installation of overhead cables and underground conduits were completed in October and the last lengths of the new cable were pulled through the conduits along Airlie Beach Foreshore in early November.

At times, underground cable installation works schedules needed revising due to the challenging terrain experienced during the underground boring, with dense rock and existing underground infrastructure being the main obstacles.



Conduits being installed across the Lagoon car park.



The new cable, concealed within a pipe, was installed across Airlie Creek bridge, with timber framing disguising the pipe and complementing the existing design.

Cable jointing works delayed

Works to join the new underground cables along the Airlie Beach Foreshore area were paused in November due to a material design issue with the joint kits. With the Whitsunday Schoolies event, to be held within the area, looming, the decision was made to fill and reinstate the open pits adjacent to the Lagoon and roundabout near the Airlie Beach Pub and return to these sites to complete cable jointing in 2024, outside of the peak event/holiday seasons. The project team has since developed a design solution and has successfully completed cable jointing at Joint Bay 3, on the hill near Shute Harbour Road and Hermitage Drive roundabout.

Works on Shingley Drive were also paused for the Christmas/New Year period, with electrical termination equipment to be installed on the cables at the top of the new poles and connected with the underground cable in early 2024. These works will require scaffolding and further traffic management to ensure the safety of crews and the public.

Erosion control measures have also been put in place on the slope that houses the new underground cable from Summit Avenue to Shingley Drive, with vegetation already re-establishing following hydro-mulching of the site.

Works to connect the cables on the new Jubilee Pocket pole on the corner of Shute Harbour Road and Jubilee Pocket Road will continue in early 2024, with scaffolding in place for the duration of the works.

We want to again thank everyone for their patience while we complete these important upgrades of the electricity network across the Whitsundays, and wish everyone a safe, happy, and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Getting in touch with us

To keep up to date on this project, provide feedback, or to **register for future updates**, scan the QR code or visit our project web page -



[Whitsundays network upgrade | Ergon Energy](#). You can also contact our Senior Advisor Community Engagement, Lorelei van Dalen on 1300 495 565 or at NetworkProjectEngagement@energyq.com.au.