

Gracemere Substation Project Update



Part of Energy Queensland

July 2021

The new Gracemere substation is starting to take shape.

Things are really starting to take shape this month at Gracemere's new substation site with the arrival of the control building.

Our July update looks at some of the milestones the project team have achieved since our last update and provides you with some detail about the next phase of work scheduled.

Substation site civil works

Over recent months, we have been busy completing a range of activities to construct the substation. Since works commenced in March, we have completed a significant amount of civil works, including leveling out the sloping block, establishing the transformer sound barrier, environmental bunding, installing drainage and preparing the site for the new substation control building which will house the 'brains' of the substation and allow us to control the network remotely.

Civil work to prepare the site for the new control building was also completed. This work included pouring a concrete slab, installing communications ducting and pits and constructing the steel foundations for the building.



Fig 1 – Early civil works at the substation site commence.

Early in July, the modular control room building arrived on site at Gracemere, after travelling via semitrailer transport from our workshops in Banyo where it was fabricated.

The site was a hive of activity as the control room building was safely lifted into place on the pre-established steel foundations.



Fig 2 – New substation control building is manoeuvred into place.

The complex job of transporting and installing the control room building involved multiple Ergon teams as well as a range of external contractors, including crane operators and doggers from Universal Cranes, local high load transportation drivers and pilots, a 'high wire' team to raise powerlines along the transportation route, Queensland Police Service and traffic control crews.



Fig 3 – The control building is secured onto the steel foundations.

Once securely in place, walkways and handrails were attached to the building, providing safe access for the next stage of works inside the control room.

Major civil works phase

Further civil work at the substation site will continue over the coming months with the installation of the access road and paths around the site. Substation security fencing will also be installed to provide site safety and security. Final fencing and vegetation planting will take place later in the project.



Fig 4 - The next stage of civil works commences in the substation.

Until recently, work on Gracemere substation has largely been conducted behind the substation fence, with little disruption to customers and the local community. The next phase for the project, is to start work on reconfiguring the distribution network around Gracemere, to connect the Gracemere substation.

This will involve making some changes to the poles and wires around town to connect to the underground cables from the substation. This will involve installing conduits out of the substation for the distribution electricity cables to connect them

to the local overhead network and making changes to the configuration of the overhead network.

Between now and the end of August, civil contractors will be digging trenches and installing electrical conduit to house the electricity cables out of the substation to points around town, that connect to the overhead electricity network. During September and October, Ergon crews will be running cable through the conduits and connecting them to the overhead network.

We have planned these civil works in stages to limit disruption to businesses and the community. Trenching and conduit installation work will be progressed in sections with each section of the excavation refilled periodically for safety and to limit any inconvenience. During the civil works all excavated areas, including footpaths and road surfaces, will be temporarily reinstated and completely reinstated to Council specifications upon completion of the works.

This work will involve the use of heavy machinery. To ensure the safety of the workers and the community, 'go slow' zones will be established, and some traffic control will be in place around these work sites and in high traffic areas. We would like to thank the community for your patience while work to build and connect Gracemere's new substation and, for everyone's safety, to remind the community to proceed with care around these works.

We are also working closely with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) to support the expansion of Lawrie Street to reduce congestion in town. For us, this involves making a few changes to our network to support their plans to the widen Lawrie Street and build the new bridge. We will be timing our civil works for the Gracemere substation and with TMR's upgrades to limit the impact on the community as we work to develop the infrastructure to support Gracemere's future.

Getting in touch with us

We are committed to working in consultation with Rockhampton Regional Council and the Gracemere community to limit any impact on the community and to keep the community informed as we progress the project, securing Gracemere's future electricity needs.

For more information about the Gracemere substation project, to provide feedback, or **to register for future updates via email or SMS**, please contact our Senior Community Engagement Advisor, Kate Austin - on 1300 653 055 or email us at: NetworkProjectEngagement@energyq.com.au

You can also keep up to date on the project by visiting our project website: www.ergon.com.au/gracemere-project

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