

Magnetic Island Network Upgrade Project Update



May 2025

A changing environment – we're rethinking Magnetic Island's electricity network

Mainland upgrades now complete

The project to upgrade a cable at Ergon's Townsville Marina Switching Station on the mainland is now complete.

The aim of this project was to improve the capacity of one of the 11,000-volt (11kV) underground/undersea cables that supplies Magnetic Island.

We would like to thank our neighbours at Townsville Sailing Club and the Tobruk pool, as well as residents who frequent The Strand, for your patience during these works.

Completion of this project paves the way for our teams to head back over to the island and progress the final two projects in this program of network upgrades.

End of an era sparks new beginnings

In world history, 1971 was a notable year:

- The first email was sent
- Iconic rock bands Eagles and Queen were formed
- The Soviet Union launched the first space station into orbit and Apollo 14 landed on the moon
- The first Starbucks store opened; and
- The steel towers supporting the overhead electricity network across Magnetic Island were installed within the Magnetic Island National Park – see figure 1.



Fig 1 – The foundation of one of the steel towers in Magnetic Island National Park marks the point in time when the towers were built.

Over half a century later, these structures have more than done their job, and like many of us of a similar vintage they are feeling the effects of their age, so it's now time to replace them.

Maintaining the powerline through the National Park has created some challenges for our local crews, including access issues and unwanted impacts on the environment. So instead of simply replacing the towers, we're planning a couple of jobs to reconfigure the network and relocate the powerline out of the National Park. This will help to improve the reliability of the electricity supply and improve environmental outcomes.

The first of these jobs will be to relocate the powerline over to Arcadia, between Nelly Bay and Geoffrey Bay. This will be done in three phases.

Nelly Bay to Arcadia – Phase 1 civil works

To do this, we will install a new section of underground cable, between Sooning Street at Nelly Bay, up over the bluff along Magnetic Island Road, and down along Marine Parade at Geoffrey Bay. The new cable will be almost 1.5km in length and follow the road around the coastline – see figure 2.



Fig 2 – The line route for the new underground cable and the location of the powerline being removed from the National Park.

The project team and the civil contractor recently scoped the line route to plan the civil works phase for the project - see figure 3.



Fig 3 – The project team and civil contract lead plan the approach for the civil works at Geoffrey Bay.

This first phase of work will include the installation of conduits that will house the new underground cable. These **civil works are scheduled to commence on 2nd June** and take a couple of weeks to complete. To get the job done as quickly as possible, you may see the contractors working over the weekend.

During this phase of the project, the civil works will be confined to two locations, an area of Sooning Street at Nelly Bay – see figure 4 – and Bright Avenue at Arcadia – see figure 5.



Fig 4 – Sooning Street civil worksite area.



Fig 5 – Bright Avenue civil worksite area.

Civil construction of this nature does come with some impacts, including an increase in vehicles and equipment, noise, as well as some dust and vibration from the earthworks.

We thank you for your patience while we complete these works. For your safety and the safety of the workers on site, **please adhere to traffic signs and directions around our worksites** so that everyone can get home safely.

Nelly Bay to Arcadia – Phase 2 underground electrical works

Once the conduits are installed in Phase 1, our local Ergon underground team will schedule the work to install the new electrical cable.

This phase of the work will be technically and logistically challenging, with the worksites located in a couple of tricky spots along Magnetic Island Road. The project team have started planning the cable component of the works – see figure 6 - and will finalise these plans in the next couple of months, with a view to scheduling the works in July or August.



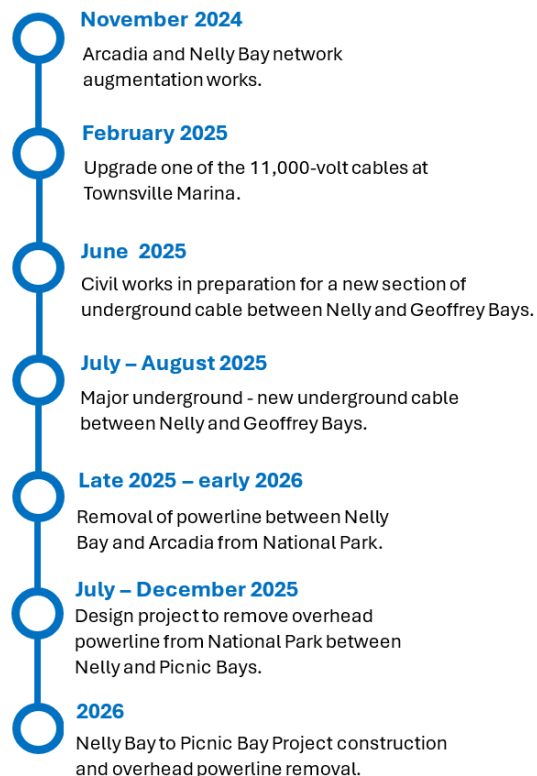
Fig 6 – The project manager and local underground cable expert discuss the approach to the underground works along Magnetic Island Road.

Please also note:

1. If these works affect your power supply, you will be notified by mail of the outage details.
2. All works are subject to weather and other site conditions and while we aim to complete the work within the scheduled timeframes, published timing may need to change.
3. Not all work on Magnetic Island will be communicated in a Project Newsletter. You may also see the Ergon crews and our contractors completing other work on Magnetic Island, like our regular maintenance activities and customer service jobs that are not part of these network upgrade projects.

These works are part of a larger network upgrade program on Magnetic Island. Upon completion of this phase of works, we will be planning the project to relocate the powerline between Nelly Bay and Picnic Bay out of the National Park. The estimated timeframe for this work is outlined in the current project timeline.

Current project timeline



As we make progress on these works and our forward plans for the next phases of the project, we will publish future project updates and construction notices.

Getting in touch with us

Want to know more? You can [visit our project webpage](#) for more information.

You can **register for future project updates by simply scanning the QR code**, or contacting our Senior Community Engagement Advisor on 1300 653 055 or email us at:

NetworkProjectEngagement@energyq.com.au

