

Gracemere Substation & Line Route Project



September 2019

To secure the future electricity needs of the Gracemere region, Ergon Energy is constructing a new 20MVA modular substation in Gracemere with a new 66,000 volt powerline to Egans Hill substation.

Why is the project needed?

Demand for electricity has grown with the local population and new housing estate developments, as well as with the level of commercial and industrial activity in the Gracemere Industrial Area.

To secure the future electricity needs of the Gracemere region, Ergon Energy is constructing a new 20MVA modular substation near the centre of town, which will be supplied by a new 66,000 volt (66kV) powerline, running from the new Gracemere Substation to the existing Egans Hill Substation.

As well as increasing the network's capacity for the 10,000 homes and businesses in the Gracemere region, this investment will improve the security of supply with new options for restoring power following interruptions caused by severe weather and other unforeseen network events.

About the Gracemere Substation

Ergon Energy first engaged with the community about the site for the substation in May 2012. As part of this community engagement process, Ergon Energy investigated eight suggested sites, in addition to 10 other potential sites identified outside this process.

This led to the selection and purchase of the site for the planned substation at Lawrie, Platen, John and James Streets. This site was assessed as the most suitable option based on its proximity to the electricity demand, ease of site and network access, and it having the least potential for community and environmental impacts.



The site is 8,226m² and allows suitable space to strategically locate the substation infrastructure towards the back of the block on James Street, with around 3,000m² adjacent to Gracemere's main street, Lawrie Street, remaining undeveloped by Ergon Energy at this stage. This, along with vegetation and fencing planned to visually screen the substation, will reduce the visual impact on the surrounding residents and businesses.

Ergon Energy worked in partnership with the adjacent Gracemere United Protestant Church to undertake a small land swap and establish boundary fencing and an access gate for the Church along John Street. This mutually agreeable arrangement resulted in improved access and layout of the respective land parcels to the benefit of both landholders.

The site presents minimal immediate residential impact. The site is neighboured by a church on the southern border of the site (along Lawrie Street), with a Scouts hall and Girl Guide hall on James Street, and five residential homes situated opposite the site on John Street. The site is also immediately adjacent to the railway line to the west.

About the powerline

The new powerline will run down Lawrie Street, along Gavial Gracemere Road and into Sullivan Road, connecting the new Gracemere Substation with the existing Egans Hill Substation.



Through earlier community consultation, a number of potential routes for the line were investigated. Again, the route ultimately selected best met the range of community and environmental concerns put forward, and design and cost considerations.

Some sections of the 66kV powerline in town will be constructed underground. As well, all of the new 11kV powerlines exiting the Gracemere substation will be constructed underground, before transitioning to an overhead construction to connect to the existing 11kV overhead powerline network. This will ensure that the visual impact in and around the new Gracemere substation is minimised.

To reduce the physical and visual impact on the community, Ergon Energy is considering a range of options for the existing 11kV line routes and new 66kV powerline from the outskirts of the CBD to Gavial-Gracemere Road.

When will construction on the project commence?

The works associated with the Gracemere project will be conducted in a number of stages and has recently entered the Design Development phase.

We are now at the stage of designing the substation and its connection to the Egans Hill Substation. Ergon has created an initial layout of the substation on the block which outlines the preliminary options for the physical location of the substation. We have engaged SMEC to produce the substation design, with our internal design employees completing the power distribution system design work for the project.

Designers and project engineers will undertake a site visit to the substation site and Egans Hill Substation in mid-September 2019 to gather information required to prepare the detailed design.

Once a high level design has been undertaken, Ergon Energy will have details regarding the location and design of the substation buildings and associated infrastructure, as well as substation fencing and landscaping options for security and screening at the site. Once known the design options identified will be discussed with residents and businesses in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Construction on the project is anticipated to commence on the substation site in June 2021. Some key activities during the project are listed in the following table:

Stage	Activity	Timing
Network Planning & Secure Substation Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify substation site options and undertake preliminary evaluation Engage the community on substation site and general powerline route Secure substation site 	Complete June 2012
Design Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage substation designer Undertake preliminary substation and line design work Recommence community consultation on preliminary designs Consider community feedback 	Aug to Dec 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise substation and powerline designs Update and keep the community informed Order long lead-time equipment 	Jan 2020 to June 2021
Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and keep the community informed Commence substation and powerline construction 	June 2021

* Please note that these dates may be subject to change.

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 the project progresses.

Further community engagement with key stakeholders and directly impacted customers adjacent to the substation site is anticipated to commence in the coming months as design work progresses.

For more information about the Gracemere Substation and Line Route Project, or to provide feedback, please contact our **Senior Community Engagement Advisor, Kate Austin on 1300 653 055** or email us at:

NetworkProjectEngagement@energyq.com.au

Our Senior Community Engagement Advisor is available to answer any questions that may arise from the community.