

Whitsundays Network Upgrade Project Update



June 2022

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About the project

The Whitsundays is growing and we're growing with you. To meet the electricity needs of the Whitsundays community into the future, we're investing \$27.5 million in the local electricity network.

This major project will refurbish and expand the Cannonvale substation, and duplicate key sections of the 66,000-volt underground cable between the Cannonvale substation and Shute Harbour, providing greater network resilience. This investment will increase the network's capacity for future growth and improve the security of the electricity supply for around 8,000 homes and businesses in the Whitsundays.

What's involved in the project?

The first stage of the project will involve the expansion and upgrade of the Cannonvale substation. The expansion will include building new feeder bays and a new control and communications building, as well as refurbishing electrical and communications equipment in the current substation.

To accommodate the expansion, we will be extending the substation into Ergon's block of land adjacent to the existing substation, at the bottom of Lupton Place, next to the TAFE – see green highlighted area in Figure 1.

We will also be duplicating underground sections of the sub-transmission powerline from Cannonvale substation to Mount Rooper and Shute Haven

substations, which powers Shute Harbour and the islands – see Figure 2.



Fig 1 – Location of the Cannonvale substation expansion.



Fig 2 – Sub-transmission line route between Cannonvale, Mount Rooper and Shute Haven substations.

Locating and fixing faults on underground cables can take considerably longer than on overhead powerlines, so by duplicating the underground sections of the network, we can provide greater

redundancy and reduce the time it takes to restore power in the event of an unplanned outage.

And, because the mountainous terrain in the Whitsundays can impede our remote communications between substations, we'll also be giving the communications equipment a boost and installing a new communications tower in Proserpine.

What will the substation look like?

We will retain and refurbish the equipment in the existing brick substation building – see Figure 3 – and we'll expand the substation onto the adjacent block, with a new modular communication and control building, electrical substation equipment and communications towers – see Figure 4.

The substation will be fully fenced with improved security equipment to keep the community and substation safe.



Fig 3 – Artist's impression of the front of the Cannonvale substation expansion from Shute Harbour Road.



Fig 4 – Artist's impression of the rear substation yard following the expansion.

What impacts can be expected?

While we always plan our projects to minimise any disruption to the community, construction works do come with some temporary impacts including:

- An increase in construction vehicles on Shute Harbour Road, Lupton Place and at the substation.
- Vegetation clearing and trimming, and civil earth works to prepare the site. The clearing and ongoing maintenance of a vegetation buffer around the substation on TAFE land to ensure safety and reliability of supply.
- Traffic and pedestrian management during works including traffic control and reduced speed limits.
- Noise, dust, and localised vibration from construction activities and heavy machinery can also be expected. Reversing alarms and flashing lights are a safety requirement and will be used at all times during works.

Construction work at the substation will be limited to between 6:30am and 6:30pm, Monday to Saturday wherever possible to minimise disruption to the adjacent residents. We will continue to keep the community updated as each stage of the project progresses, including the likely impacts.

When will the project start?

Early works on the Cannonvale substation expansion will commence in July 2022. We will start by tidying up the areas in the existing substation and the adjoining block, including removing unwanted equipment, slashing the blocks, and removing small trees and shrubs.

Because trees around powerlines can be dangerous and cause power outages, we will clear the block in preparation for the commencement of civil works to flatten out the site. This work is scheduled for August.

Before any of the established trees are removed, we will assess the trees for nests and develop an environmental management plan for the safe relocation of nests if required.

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](https://www.ergonenergy.com.au/whitsundays-network-upgrade)



You can also contact our Senior Community Engagement Advisor, Kate Austin on 1300 653 055 or email us at:

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