

# Cranbrook Substation Upgrade - Project Update

July 2026

## Major project milestone - switching room delivery

### Major milestone reached at Cranbrook Substation Upgrade

The Cranbrook Substation Upgrade has reached a significant milestone with the successful delivery and installation of the new modular switching control building. This purpose-built facility forms a key part of the upgrade that will strengthen the reliability and resilience of electricity supply for approximately 4,800 customers in the Cranbrook area.

Manufactured in Brisbane, the modular building travelled over 1,300 km to Townsville, arriving in the early hours of the morning ahead of the complex lift operation. Once on site, the structure was carefully transferred from the transport trailer and lifted into position using a **300-tonne slew crane**, supported by a **Franna crane** to assist with manoeuvring and placement – see Figures 1 and 2.



Fig 1 – A massive 300 tonne crane lifts the building into place.



Fig 2 – Transport and crane operators and the Ergon team work together to manoeuvre the switching building into place.

The lift required exceptional planning and precision, with the building needing to be positioned accurately onto the prepared steelwork structure. The operation was the result of a highly coordinated effort involving transport operators, crane and lifting specialists, building contractors and Ergon Energy's substation and project delivery teams.



Careful sequencing and communication between all parties ensured the building was installed safely and efficiently.



**Fig 3 – The new modular switching building at Cranbrook substation.**

The installation of the modular switching control building marks one of the project's most significant construction milestones to date. It represents an important step towards modernising the 53-year-old Cranbrook Substation, improving network reliability and ensuring the site can continue to meet growing electricity demand well into the future.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in this impressive logistical achievement. From fabrication and transport through to lifting and installation, it was a true team effort that showcased the expertise and collaboration driving the Cranbrook Substation Upgrade forward.

## Next steps

With the switching building now safely in place, major construction activities will pause for a short period before the next stage of works commences in a couple of months' time.

The site has become noticeably quieter in recent weeks - even the resident family of curlews have returned, quickly claiming the shade beneath the new switching building as their favourite spot in the yard – see Figure 4.

For now, construction activity at the site will settle down for a period with only our specialist substation crews on site to connect the new building.

Behind the scenes our project team are going out to tender for the next phase of distribution works. This work will commence in August, and we will provide a bit more information about what residents can expect from this work in early August.



**Fig 4 – The resident family of curlews have moved back into Cranbrook substation yard.**

## Getting in touch with us

To keep up to date on the project, visit our project website [Cranbrook Substation Upgrade project | Ergon Energy](https://www.ergonenergy.com.au/projects/cranbrook-substation-upgrade) or scan the QR code.

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

[NetworkProjectEngagement@energyq.com.au](mailto:NetworkProjectEngagement@energyq.com.au)

