

Whitsunday Network Upgrade Project - Construction Notice



NETWORK

Part of Energy Queensland

11 July 2023

What we are doing

As part of the Whitsunday Network Upgrade Project, we will soon start works around the Lagoon Central Carpark at the Airlie Beach Foreshore. This construction is required to install conduits for the new underground 66,000-volt electricity cable, which will join up with the sections of conduit already installed at the foreshore – see Figure 1.

We will start this work by **locating underground assets in the Lagoon Central Carpark**, in preparation for installing conduits in this section of the foreshore.

Contractors have used non-invasive ground penetrating radar to locate any underground services like water, sewerage, and telecommunications lines – **see Figure 2**. Where services along the powerline route are identified, they will be physically verified by ‘potholing’ the area prior to excavation. You can find out more about ‘potholing’ excavation in our previous [project update](#).

Once the location and depth of the underground assets are confirmed, the excavation works, and the conduit installation will commence. We have two excavation options available, the first is an underground option (**red** line) and the second is **open trench excavation** (**green** line) in Figure 1.

Once we have identified the services under the carpark area, we will know which option we are able to proceed with and can provide more information on when the work will be scheduled.



Figure 1 – Cable route options across the central carpark at Airlie Beach Foreshore.

What to expect

During these works road users, pedestrians and nearby businesses can expect the following:

Impacts associated with this work includes:

- To keep workers safe while they operate equipment across the carpark area, **traffic control will be established**, and some **areas of the carpark will be temporarily unavailable**.
- Once these underground assets are identified, a **vacuum excavation truck will ‘pothole’** the locations to physically confirm the location and depth of the assets. This will require traffic control and sections of the carpark to be temporarily closed. Some **noise, dust and vibration** will be associated with these works.
- Traffic signage indicating changed conditions and speed limits around the job site will be in place. For your safety and the safety of the workers on site, please adhere to traffic signs and directions, so that everyone can get home safely.
- The cable route excavation will commence **from outside of Beachworx and go to the pedestrian bridge in the carpark**.
- If we use the **underground excavation** option (called under boring), it will be completed using a directional driller - see Figure 3 for an example of this excavation equipment. If we use the open trench excavation option, a small excavator will be used to dig the trench. The conduits for the electrical cable will then be installed.
- There will be an **increase in vehicular traffic** in the area, with excavation plant and work utility vehicles working in the carpark.
- Machinery and equipment will be stored in the foreshore area behind construction fencing for the duration of these works.
- **Audible noise, dust and localised vibration** from excavation activities can also be expected throughout these works.
- **Reversing beepers and flashing lights** are a safety requirement and **will be always used** during works.



Figure 2 – An example of a ground penetrating radar identifying underground



Figure 3 – An example of a directional driller completing underground excavation.

We thank you for your patience during these works. For everyone’s safety, please obey traffic and pedestrian signage and traffic controllers on site instructions.

Please note that all works are subject to weather and other site conditions and published timing may change.



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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