

Whitsundays Network Upgrade Project Update



July 2023

Substation and high voltage cable work progressing well

The July update showcases the project team's recent accomplishments and outlines the next phase of work that we have planned in coming weeks for the substation and other locations along the line route.

Cannonvale substation

We're making progress with the external upgrade of the Cannonvale substation. Construction of the new substation yard continues, with the earth mat now complete and the outdoor switch gear nearing completion.

Our contractors have completed the retaining wall at the front of the substation, the perimeter security fencing and rear gated access at Lupton Place – see figures 1 and 2.

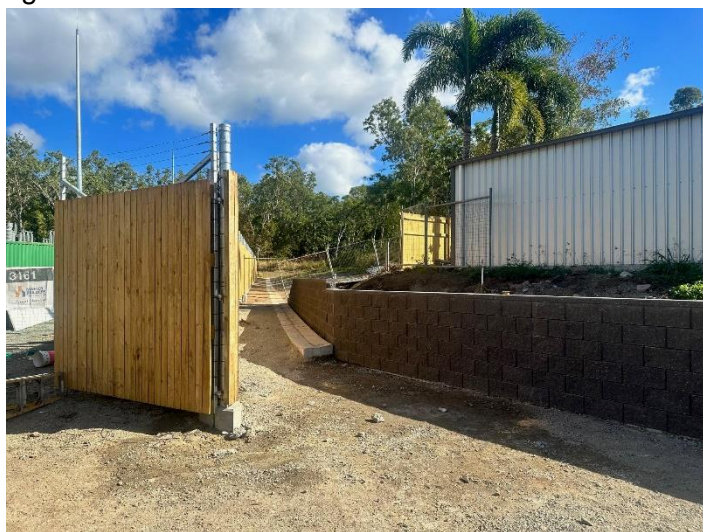


Fig 1 – Retaining wall at the front of the substation was completed in late June.

The contractors will finalise the fencing in August, installing a new security access gate to the front of the substation yard.



Fig 2 – Rear gates and substation fencing is complete.

The next steps will be to complete the changes to the façade of the substation building, including installation of signage.

In early August, contractors will run the first section of the new 66,000-volt cable at the front of the substation in preparation for Ergon's specialist high voltage cable jointers to connect the cable.

We also have plans to construct a new driveway access and kerbing at the back of the substation from Lupton Place. These works will be completed once the access to the front of the substation is complete.

Duplication of the 66,000-volt underground cable

Progress to construct sections of the 66,000-volt cable, continues at multiple sites across the Whitsundays.

Flametree

The poles where the new underground cable connects to the overhead sections of the network have been stood and our contractors are now focusing all their efforts on installing the underground conduits for the new 66kV cable.

Conduits were recently installed at Flametree near the airport, in preparation for Zinfra to pull the new underground cable through later this month – see figure 3.



Fig 3 – Contractors joining and installing lengths of conduit at Flametree.

Airlie Beach – Broadwater Avenue

Installation of conduits along Broadwater Avenue continues and this section is expected to be completed by the end of the month before the triathlon event.

The next stage will see the Zinfra crews progress up Mazlin Street, installing conduits to the top of the hill at Summit Avenue.

Airlie Beach Foreshore

Installation of conduits for the high voltage cable under the Airlie Beach Foreshore central carpark will commence in August. We are planning to use a directional drilling machine – see figure 4 – to bore under the carpark across to the pedestrian bridge at the creek – see figure 5.



Fig 4 – Directional drilling rig will be used to bore under central carpark to install the electrical conduit.



Fig 6 – Excavation route for the foreshore central carpark area.

Also part of this package of work, and scheduled for construction during August, is the installation of an underground cable joint bay. The joint bay is where, the sections of underground electricity cable running along the length of the foreshore, meet and are joined together into one continuous length of cable – see figure 7 for an example of a cable joint bay.



Fig 7 – Example of an underground cable joint bay.

When the cable is pulled through, and our specialist jointers join the cables, the pit will be filled in and covered over and will be hidden like other underground services at the foreshore.

Once across the carpark, the cable will traverse the creek enclosed in a special enveloper pipe, which will be mounted to the side of the pedestrian foot bridge – see figure 8. The pipe will be hidden from view by a specially designed timber slat screen to blend into the bridges existing architecture.

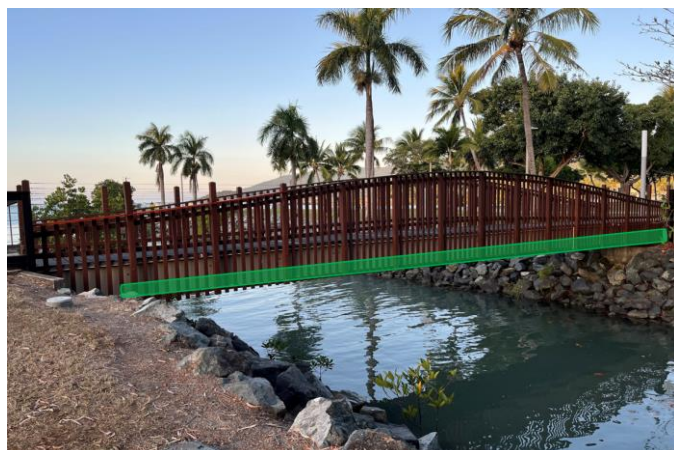


Fig 8 – The high voltage cable will safely traverse the creek on the pedestrian bridge.

While these works are underway, there will be an increase in vehicular traffic in the area, with excavation plant and work utility vehicles working in and around the carpark. There will also be some audible noise, dust, and localised vibration from the excavation activities. Our aim is to have this phase of civil works, to install the electrical conduits, completed by the end of September.

We understand that the foreshore is a busy location, popular with tourists and locals alike. We will continue to work closely with Whitsunday Regional Council to plan our works around visitor peaks like school holiday periods and major events, to reduce the impact of our works on foreshore visitors.

We want to again thank everyone for their patience while we complete these important upgrades of the electricity network across the Whitsundays.

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](#).



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

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