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STATEMENT GIVING REASONS WHY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL APPROVED BY GAZETTE NOTICE ON 19 AUGUST 2011 THE COPPERSTRING FACILITY AS AN INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY THAT IS OF SIGNIFICANCE UNDER THE ***STATE DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS ORGANISATION ACT 1971***

1. Decision

On 19 August 2011, the Governor in Council approved by gazette notice under section 125(1)(f) of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (**SDPWO Act**), the CopperString Facility as an infrastructure facility that is of significance, particularly economically or socially, to Queensland and the North and North West Statistical Divisions, which include the following Local Government Areas: Mount Isa, Cloncurry, McKinlay, Flinders, Charters Towers, Townsville, Burdekin and Richmond being the regions in which the CopperString Facility is to be constructed. The Governor in Council, in making that decision, considered and adopted the reasons set out below that were prepared by the Coordinator-General, Mr Keith Davies under section 125 (5) of the SDPWO Act.

2. Introduction

The Coordinator-General received an application (the **Application**) dated 7 January 2011 from CopperString Pty Ltd (**CopperString**) requesting that the CopperString Facility be approved by the Governor in Council as an infrastructure facility that is of significance under section 125(1)(f) of the SDPWO Act.

CopperString is a special purpose vehicle company jointly established by Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd (**Leighton Contractors**) and CuString Pty Ltd (**CuString**) to develop the CopperString Project. The CopperString Project is proposed to be developed using both project finance and equity from Leighton Contractors, CuString and new investors.

As outlined in the Application, the CopperString Project involves a proposal to construct and operate a high voltage alternating current (**AC**) electricity transmission line from the National Electricity Market (**NEM**) near Woodstock, south of Townsville to major energy users, communities and generators in the North West Minerals Province (**NWMP**) including Hughenden, Cloncurry, Mount Isa, Phosphate Hill Mine (Incitec Pivot Ltd) and Cannington Mine (BHP Billiton Ltd).

The CopperString Facility, the infrastructure facility the subject of the Application, is an integral part of the CopperString Project. The Application indicates that the CopperString Facility will provide an initial transfer capability of approximately 460 megawatts of electricity and will greatly enhance the reliability of electricity supply to the NWMP.

The CopperString Facility is made up of the following components of the CopperString Project:

- approximately 1041km of new high voltage AC transmission line which extends from near Woodstock located near Townsville, to Mount Isa and south to the Cannington and Phosphate Hill mining operations;
- four major substations to interface with new and existing transmission networks;
- twelve Controlled Environment Vault (**CEV**) huts, which contain equipment that is a necessary part of the communication system for the transmission line and amplify the optical signal carried. A CEV hut will be incorporated into each of the four substations and eight stand-alone CEV huts will be located approximately every 80 - 100km along the transmission line; and

- permanent access tracks from public roads to the transmission line to allow access for construction, operations and maintenance.

There is additional infrastructure associated with the CopperString Project that does not form part of the CopperString Facility.

In order to construct and operate the CopperString Facility, CopperString requires certain interests in the land on which the CopperString Facility will be developed. The interest in the land will vary (depending upon the location of the components of the CopperString Facility) but will be either freehold, leasehold or an easement.

The area of land required for the CopperString Facility is as follows:

- a 60m wide easement for construction and operation of the transmission line, substations and CEV hut components;
- for each substation the following approximate areas:
    - Woodstock – 14.4ha;
    - Hughenden – 25ha;
    - Cloncurry (Dajarra Road) – 25ha;
    - Mount Isa – 8.4ha;
- an area of approximately 4000m^2 for each CEV hut (where not associated with a substation); and
- a 10m wide easement for the access tracks used for construction and maintenance purposes.

The transmission line will be located in the investigation corridor identified in the Application[1]. The investigation corridor is a 120m wide corridor for the majority of the route. There are however 7 areas where the investigation corridor is wider to allow greater flexibility when determining the final route so as to minimise impacts on cultural heritage and ecologically sensitive areas.

The final placement of the CopperString Facility will be determined by future investigations relating to the identification and management of impacts associated with the CopperString Facility and landowner, native title and cultural heritage negotiations.

Section 125(1)(f) of the SDPWO Act provides that the Coordinator-General may take land for the purpose of an infrastructure facility that is:

1. of significance, particularly economically or socially, to Australia, Queensland or the region in which the facility is to be constructed; and
2. approved by the Governor in Council, by gazette notice, as having that significance.

Pursuant to section 125(2) of the SDPWO Act in considering whether an infrastructure facility would be of economic or social significance, the potential for the CopperString Facility to contribute to community wellbeing and economic growth or employment levels must be taken into account. In accordance with section 125(3) of the SDPWO Act in assessing such potential, the contribution the CopperString Facility makes to agricultural, industrial, resource or technological development in Australia, Queensland or the region is a relevant consideration.

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[1] Called a "transmission line corridor" in the Application - see section 2.4 of the Application

3 Evidence or Other Material on Which Findings of Material Questions of Facts are Based

In considering whether the CopperString Facility is an infrastructure facility that is of significance, particularly economically or socially to Queensland and the region in which the CopperString Facility is to be constructed, the Coordinator-General and the Governor in Council had regard to the following materials:

1. The SDPWO Act, particularly sections 125 and 174;
2. The SDPWO Act *Guidelines for acquisition of land for infrastructure projects by persons other than the State*, September 1999 made under section 174;
3. The SDPWO Act *Guidelines for consultation and negotiation with native title interests*, September 1999 made under section 174;
4. Letter dated 7 January 2011 from CopperString to the Coordinator-General together with the enclosed Application that the CopperString Facility be approved by the Governor in Council as an infrastructure facility that is of significance under section 125(1)(f) of the SDPWO Act, including attachments:
    a. Letter dated 8 September 2010 from the Prime Minister the Honourable Julia Gillard MP to Mr Bob Katter MP outlining the Commonwealth Government's commitment to assess CopperString under the Connecting Renewables initiative (being an Attachment to the Application);
    b. Australia's Identified Mineral Resources, Geosciences Australia, 2009 (being an Attachment to the Application);
    c. Future Development of Queensland's Carpentaria Minerals Province – Developing a Resources Corridor – Clean Energy and Minerals, BIS Shrapnel Pty Ltd, March 2010 (being an Attachment to the Application);
    d. Economic Potential of Queensland's North West Minerals Province, BIS Shrapnel Pty Ltd, March 2010 (being an Attachment to the Application);
    e. Blueprint for the Future Development of the North West Minerals Province, Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone Inc (MITEZ) and Townsville Enterprise (being an Attachment to the Application);
    f. Economic Impacts of the CopperString Project, ACIL Tasman, 5 November 2010 (being an Attachment to the Application);
    g. CopperString newsletters dated June, September and November 2010 (being an Attachment to the Application);
    h. Terms of Reference for an Environmental Impact Statement – CopperString Project, Department of Infrastructure and Planning, October 2010 (being an Attachment to the Application);
    i. Guidelines for Design and Maintenance of Overhead Distribution and Transmission Lines (ENA C9b)1 - 2006), Energy Networks Association (being an Attachment to the Application);
    j. List of Affected Land Parcels with relevant owner details (being an Attachment to the Application);
    k. Leighton Holdings Limited Annual Report 2009 to 2010 (being an Attachment to the Application);
    l. CopperString Project, Route Selection Report, CopperString Pty Ltd, September 2010 (being an Attachment to the Application);
    m. Providing a circuit breaker to meet North West Queensland's future electricity needs – An independent review by Rod Sims, Port Jackson Partners Ltd, May 2009 (being an Attachment to the Application);

5. The EIS for the CopperString Project dated December 2010 which deals with matters including social and economic, cultural heritage and environmental impact assessments of the CopperString Project (of which the CopperString Facility is an integral part);

6. Template letter and the list of recipients of the letter dated 25 January 2011 from CopperString to parties whose land may be affected by the transmission line advising them that CopperString had applied for approval as an infrastructure facility of significance;

7. Template letter and the list of recipients of the letter dated 3 February 2011 from the Coordinator-General to parties whose land may be affected by the transmission line advising them that CopperString had applied for approval as an infrastructure facility of significance and seeking submissions on the Application;

8. The public notice advertising receipt of the Application, which was advertised in the Courier Mail, Koori Mail and other regional newspapers starting on 2 February 2011;

9. Twelve submissions from interested parties to the Coordinator-General in response to the public notice of the CopperString Application, including two commercial in confidence submissions;

10. Emails dated between 2 March 2011 and 11 May between the Office of the Coordinator-General and Resource and Land Management Services (RLMS) in relation to clarification of employment figures and an updated report to the Coordinator-General on employment figures dated 11 May 2011;

11. Letters from CopperString to 9 submitters in response to their submissions, including one commercial in confidence response;

12. Meeting records of CopperString's two meetings with a submitter;

13. Twelve letters from Office of the Coordinator-General to submitters regarding submissions;

14. Email dated 20 April 2011 from the Office of the Coordinator-General to RLMS requesting clarification on some issues;

15. Email dated 27 April 2011 from RLMS to the Office of the Coordinator-General providing clarification on the issues raised by the Office of the Coordinator-General in its email of 20 April 2011;

16. Email dated 25 May 2011 from RLMS to the Office of the Coordinator-General providing clarification on the dimensions and locations of the substations and CEV huts;

17. Email dated 25 May 2011 from RLMS attaching plans showing the dimensions and locations of the substations and CEV huts;

18. Email dated 27 May 2011 from Landowner to Coordinator-General confirming meeting regarding CopperString Project;

19. Email dated 27 May 2011 from Landowner to Coordinator-General regarding objection to CopperString Project;

20. Confidential email dated 30 May 2011 from Landowner to Coordinator-General regarding objection to CopperString Project;

21. Email dated 31 May 2011 from Landowner to Coordinator-General regarding submission on CopperString Project;

22. Meeting Notes dated 2 June 2011 from meeting between Coordinator-General and affected Landowners;

23. Commercial in confidence correspondence dated 10 June 2011 to Coordinator-General;

24. Document titled "CopperString Project: Review of Corridor Route Selection" prepared by Golder Associates, incorrectly dated 17 June 2010, prepared June 2011;

25. Commercial in confidence report dated 28 June 2011 titled "Assessment of material submitted in satisfaction of criteria: (a) Preliminary Financial Analysis of the facility (b) Proponent Financial and Technical Capacity" prepared by the Commercial Unit, Office of the Coordinator-General, DEEDI;

26. Letter dated 28 June 2011 from Coordinator-General to Landowner enclosing EIS Summary and Route selection report;

27. Letter dated 28 June 2011 from Coordinator-General to CopperString regarding Route Selection report;

28. Letters dated 7 July 2011 from CopperString to 2 submitters in response to their late submissions;

29. Briefing Note dated 11 July 2011 from CopperString to Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade providing Project update on CopperString Project;

30. Letter dated 13 July 2011 from CopperString to the Coordinator-General regarding Route Selection report;

31. Submissions dated 14 July 2011 to Coordinator-General from 2 landowners in relation to Route Selection report including one confidential submission;

32. Letters dated 25 July 2011 from Coordinator–General to submitters in relation to submissions on the route selection report, including one confidential submission;

33. Document titled "Consultants listed for CopperString project" prepared by the Office of the Coordinator-General;

34. Confidential letter dated 27 July 2011 from Landowner to the Coordinator-General in relation to the meeting between the Coordinator-General and Landowners of 2 June 2011

4 Findings of Material Questions of Fact

From the evidence and material listed above to which regard was had, the following findings of fact and conclusions were made.

4.1 Type of infrastructure facility proposed including land on which the facility is to be located

The CopperString Facility is an integral part of the CopperString Project, a proposal to construct and operate a high voltage AC electricity transmission line from the NEM near Woodstock, south of Townsville to major energy users, communities and generators in the NWMP including Hughenden, Cloncurry, Mount Isa, Phosphate Hill Mine (Incitec Pivot Ltd) and Cannington Mine (BHP Billiton Ltd).

4.1.1 Details of the Infrastructure Facility

The location of the proposed CopperString Facility is shown on the map attached to the Application and is made up of the following four components of the CopperString Project:

- approximately 1041km of new high voltage AC transmission line which extends from near Woodstock located near Townsville, to Mount Isa and south to the Cannington and Phosphate Hill mining operations comprised of:
  - a 330kV electricity transmission line from near Woodstock south of Townsville to the proposed Dajarra Road substation on the Cloncurry – Dajarra Road near Cloncurry (approximately 723km in length);
  - a 220kV electricity transmission line from:
    - the Dajarra Road substation to the existing transmission network 10km south west of Mount Isa (approximately 100km in length);

- the Dajarra Road substation through Common South Point (approximately 95km in length) to Cannington Mine (approximately an additional 58km) and to Phosphate Hill Mine (approximately an additional 61km in length);
- the Dajarra Road substation to Chumvale (approximately 4km in length);

- four electricity substations:
  - Woodstock substation extracting 275kV from the Ross-Strathmore transmission line and increasing the voltage to 330kV;
  - Hughenden substation which will regulate the stability of the main line and also provide a connection point for the Charters Towers, Hughenden, Richmond and Julia Creek communities using a 66kV Ergon Energy system and for the connection of future renewable generation projects;
  - Dajarra Road substation where the voltage is reduced to 220kV for contracted electricity users and including the community of Cloncurry and its surrounds. It also provides a connection point for future renewable generation projects;
  - Mount Isa substation where voltage will be further reduced for distribution to users;
- twelve Controlled Environment Vault (**CEV**) Huts; and
- permanent access tracks for construction, maintenance and operations purposes.

Each substation will house the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system in a separate control building for each substation. This computer system actively monitors the transmission network and sends commands back to remote terminal units and human/interfaces in the control centre for interface with a human operator. This automated system ensures 24 hour monitoring of the network.

CEV huts are required every 80 - 100km along the route. A CEV hut will be co-located with each of the four substations and eight CEV huts will be stand-alone. The CEV huts amplify the optical signal and are used to extend the reach of optical communications by overcoming losses associated with attenuation of the optical fibre. Each hut will be fenced with closed circuit television monitoring and intruder alarms. A 20-25m wide area around the CEV huts is required to maintain cleared vegetation for bushfire protection.

There are also a number of associated infrastructure components required as part of the function of the CopperString Project but not included in the CopperString Facility the subject of the Application. This associated infrastructure includes substations, CEV huts and access tracks located at Cannington and Phosphate Hill Mines which will be separately managed in conjunction with the mine operators. The associated infrastructure also includes temporary construction camps, concrete batching plants and laydown/delivery areas which do not form part of the CopperString Facility.

4.1.2 Details of the land on which the infrastructure facility is proposed to be located

The CopperString Facility requires:

- a 60m wide easement for construction and operation of the transmission line;
- for each substation the following approximate areas:
  - Woodstock – 14.4ha;
  - Hughenden – 25ha;
  - Cloncurry (Dajarra Road) – 25ha;
  - Mount Isa – 8.4ha;
- an area of approximately 4000m^2 for each CEV hut (where not associated with a substation); and

- a 10m wide easement for the access tracks used for construction and maintenance purposes.

Electricity Transmission Line

The transmission line will extend over approximately 1041km.

The transmission line will be located in the investigation corridor identified in the Application[2]. The investigation corridor is a 120m wide corridor for the length of the route, with the exception of seven specific locations totalling approximately 81.1km in length. In these 7 locations, the investigation corridor varies in width between 180m to 260m except in one location where it is 500m wide. These seven locations are identified in the Application and its attached maps.

The investigation corridor for the seven areas is wider to allow greater flexibility when determining the final route so as to minimise cultural heritage impacts and ecologically sensitive areas. The one location requiring an investigation corridor of 500m in width is to accommodate the potential for the transmission line to exit the Hughenden substation at a point along the west side of the substation property boundary which is 500m wide. The investigation corridor then tapers from 500m down to 120m in width.

The final placement of the transmission line, that is the actual 60m wide easement, within the investigation corridor will be determined by future investigations relating to the identification and management of impacts associated with the CopperString Facility and landowner, native title and cultural heritage negotiations.

Although a 120m wide investigation corridor has been identified, any request to the Coordinator-General to acquire an easement for the transmission line will be for an easement of 60m in width.

The Application states the transmission line route directly impacts 235 land parcels, (comprising 11 drainage parcels, 116 leasehold, 12 freehold, 88 roads and 8 state land parcels). The dominant land use is large scale cattle grazing, reflected in the large land parcels in the region.

Substations

The property descriptions of the land on which the substations will be located along with the approximate areas of the sites are contained in the Application. The location of the substations are identified in the Application and its attached maps and in the additional plans received from CopperString. Tenure requirements for each substation will be either freehold or leasehold. The location of each substation may vary within the sites identified in the Application as a consequence of ongoing landholder negotiations, cultural heritage, native title, ground truthing and geotechnical surveys and studies.

CEV Huts

Four of the CEV huts will be located with the substation sites indentified above. The other 8 CEV huts that are part of the CopperString Facility will be located within the investigation corridor.

The property descriptions of the land on which the CEV huts will be located along with the approximate areas are contained in the Application. The locations of the CEV huts are identified in the Application and its attached maps and in the additional plans received from CopperString. Tenure requirements for the 12 CEV huts required for the CopperString Facility on freehold land, will be either freehold or an easement interest in the land, and on leasehold land, will be either a lease, sub-lease or easement interest. The final location of each CEV Hut within the investigation corridor will be known once the alignment of the transmission line,

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[2] Called a "transmission line corridor" in the Application – see section 2.4 of the Application.

cultural heritage, native title, ground truthing and geotechnical studies and surveys and land holder negotiations are understood.

Access Tracks

Access tracks will directly impact 93 land parcels, comprising 2 drainage parcels, 10 freehold, 53 leasehold, 4 reserves, 21 roads, 3 State land parcels. The locations of the access tracks are identified in the Application and its attached maps. The area of the access track corridors is approximately 551.6 ha.

Native Title

The Application states there are 5 native title claims relevant to the CopperString Project and additional areas which do not have a registered native title claim. The registered areas affect approximately 53.4% of the proposed corridor for the CopperString Facility. The five registered groups are: Kalkadoon People 4, Kalkadoon People 5, Yirendali People Core Country Claim, Yulluna People and Birri People.

CopperString intends to work with the registered groups and identify the appropriate indigenous party for the areas which do not have a registered native title claim and proceed to negotiate ILUAs.

4.2 Demand Projections for the Services Associated with the Infrastructure

CopperString, in demonstrating the demand for the CopperString Facility, relies on an independent report commissioned by the Queensland Government in partnership with the Queensland Resources Council and authored by Rod Sims, Port Jackson Partners Ltd, in May 2009 (**Sims Review**) which reviews North West Queensland's future electricity needs.

The aim of the Sims Review was to provide information and advice to the Queensland Government and the Queensland Resources Council on:

- strategic, efficient energy infrastructure development proposals that provide reliable, competitively priced energy to the NWMP and maximise social, environmental and economic benefit to the Northern Economic Triangle (**NET**) region and the State; and
- a recommended delivery model which provides the best opportunity for commercial viability and risk mitigation.

North West Queensland (**NWQ**) is the dominant source of base metals in Queensland and an extremely prospective area. The Sims Review notes a significant increase in demand worldwide for resources over the coming years is projected and NWQ has substantial identified resources to meet this demand. The Sims Review also notes that Mount Isa is one of three economic centres which is the focus of a Queensland Government led initiative in the NET. Released in 2007, the NET Infrastructure Plan 2007-2012 seeks to foster the future prosperity of NWQ and North Queensland as a triangle of mining, mineral processing and industrial development. Critical to the NET Infrastructure Plan is the provision of secure and competitively priced energy.

The Sims Review states that a base case or medium demand scenario shows the electricity grid at Mount Isa as having a peak demand of around 350 to 400 MW over the next 20 years. This was considered by the Review's Steering Committee to be a conservative estimate. The high demand scenario presented demand approaching or exceeding 500MW. The Sims Review was fully endorsed on 22 May 2009 by the Steering Committee comprising State Government representatives and key industry representatives.

In addition, the BIS Shrapnel report, published in March 2010 indicates that the economic value of mining in the NWMP is in the order of 10% of Queensland's total mining value, and 6% of Queensland's full-time employment. The report further estimates the economic value of proposed and feasible mining projects to total $2.636 billion which if realised, would contribute substantially to energy demand in the region in the short to medium term. It also notes that this development would represent $3.3 billion combined economic effects of the construction phase, providing approximately 7,500 full-time equivalent jobs by 2014/15.

Further, the Application notes that the development of a transmission line option by CopperString would provide an opportunity for renewable energy generation projects to link in to the electricity grid. BIS Shrapnel Pty Ltd estimates an annual output for renewable projects possibly in excess of 3,750 GWh, representing 8% of the Commonwealth Government's total renewable energy target generation of 45,850 GWh by 2015/16 with a possibility of increasing to 20% by 2020. Further to these estimates, the report advises that renewable projects may deliver an average of 1,200 construction jobs, 767 operations jobs and an estimated $191 million in economic output by 2015 which may double by 2019/20.

While the Sims Review identifies the demand for a secure electricity supply for NWQ, it does not recommend a superior energy delivery model due to the uncertainties around gas, power generation, transmission and renewable technologies. However, it does note that the current state of CS Energy Limited's Mica Creek power station (now owned by the Stanwell Corporation) and likely gas prices make a transmission link a reasonable option.

The Coordinator-General recognises the demand for a secure electricity supply for NWQ.

4.3 Needs Which the Facility Would Meet and How the Infrastructure Would Satisfy the Identified Need

The Sims Review identifies a need for a reliable and competitively priced energy supply for the NWQ region given the current and forecast medium term demand for electricity in NWQ.

The NWQ region currently sources electricity from the Mica Creek power station, Xstrata PLC's gas fired power station and a number of mine-based facilities. None of these are connected to the national electricity grid.

Current energy prices in NWQ are high by national and international standards. The Mica Creek power station is approaching the limit of its ability to supply the NWQ load reliably and also needs to replace some units which are old and inefficient, particularly if, as expected, delivered gas prices rise significantly in the future.

A transmission link from the NEM to Mount Isa provides several benefits including catering for up to 500MW of demand, flexibility in pricing structures and the provision of necessary infrastructure to connect potential renewable resources to the NEM.

The vast majority of the CopperString Facility is located within the Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Zone (**MITEZ**). The proposed Woodstock substation is located approximately 10km west of Woodstock and is located in Burdekin Shire. The facility is located within the North West and Northern ABS Statistical Divisions.

CopperString has identified existing users and has applications from Foundation Users as set out in the Application, to take 360MW of the CopperString electricity supply from the CopperString Project. In recent correspondence, CopperString has advised that it has now finalised agreements with three of the Foundation Users.

In addition, CopperString has identified many potential mining proposals which it expects would also seek access to electricity from CopperString. More recently CopperString has advised that an application for connection has been made by a mining company for an anticipated load of approximately 200MW.

In the Application, CopperString says it has also identified potential renewable electricity generators who may seek to transmit electricity on the CopperString system. CopperString has subsequently advised that it has received a formal application for generation connection from Windlabs which proposes to develop up to 750MW of wind generated power north of Hughenden and is in discussions with other renewable energy projects for connection to the transmission line, including solar, hydroelectricity and bio fuel renewable energy projects.

The Application notes that the CopperString Project would satisfy the need for a secure and competitively priced energy supply for NWQ by providing a transmission link between the NEM and Mount Isa.

The applications received from mining and renewable energy companies and the ongoing discussions with other interested parties demonstrate to the Coordinator-General that there is

a need for a reliable and competitively priced energy supply to NWQ and for a transmission link into the NEM and that the CopperString Facility may meet that need.

4.4 Timing of Project or Service Delivery

CopperString has advised that it wishes to commence an early works package after Contractual Close due November 2011 and prior to Financial Close due February 2012. The early works package involves capital works such as ordering equipment and mobilising work teams and camps. According to CopperString, this work does not compromise the environmental approvals. Actual site construction is to commence March 2012.

Construction of the CopperString Facility is expected to take approximately 36 months to complete. Commencement of initial operations is planned for February 2014 for the part of the transmission line extending from Woodstock substation to Dajarra Road substation. Following initial electrification of the line, construction will continue on the remaining works to connect Mount Isa, the Phosphate Hill mine and the Cannington Mine by December 2014.

4.5 Special Assistance Required from Government other than Land Acquisition

The Queensland Government has committed to working with proponents of energy projects in NWQ to remove where possible investment barriers and facilitate approvals necessary to support the delivery of competitively-priced energy to NWQ. In addition, the Queensland Government will reimburse, under certain circumstances, a portion of the cost of feasibility studies incurred by proponents whose proposals are subsequently rejected by customers. CopperString has entered into agreement with the Queensland Government in relation to this offer of reimbursement.

The CopperString Project is seeking to be regulated, but has sought a number of economic, procedural and technical derogations from the national regulatory framework for transmission. It is the Queensland Government's intention to give priority to considering the draft derogations which, if determined appropriate, would then be submitted for approval to the Ministerial Council on Energy (as required under the Australian Energy Market Agreement).

If the proposed derogations are not obtained by CopperString then it may be necessary to recommend to the Governor in Council that its approval of the CopperString Facility as an infrastructure facility of significance be amended or repealed.

The Prime Minister, the Honourable Julia Gillard MP, has proposed significant Commonwealth Government financial support for the CopperString Project under its election commitment to connect renewable energy to the national grid. This commitment will be contingent on the following conditions:

- successful completion of the feasibility studies;
- determination by the region's energy users that the transmission line is the preferred option for meeting future energy needs; and
- consideration of the project by Infrastructure Australia.

CopperString is also seeking assistance in relation to the efficient processing of licences, approvals and permits from government agencies to meet CopperString's proposed timetable. In particular, CopperString intends to apply to the relevant Minister for a Community Infrastructure Designation under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* (Qld). These requirements will be addressed under the normal assessment provisions observed by each of the relevant Government departments.

4.6 Preliminary Financial Analysis of the Proposed Facility

The Application states that CopperString has committed finance to fund the CopperString Project until a financial investment decision is made. After this, additional funding will be required for the CopperString Project comprising:

- new equity from the equity investors as outlined below; and

- project finance.

It is proposed that the equity providers for the CopperString Project will be:

- Leighton Contractors Sponsor Equity – 10 percent;
- CuString Sponsor Equity – 5 percent; and
- Project equity investors – 85 percent.

The assessment by the Commercial Unit of the Office of the Coordinator-General, Department of Employment Economic Development and Innovation of the "*preliminary financial analysis*" of the CopperString Facility has proceeded as far as possible on the information available at this stage of the CopperString Project, namely before CopperString has secured the Foundation Network User Revenue and other revenue arrangements (including Powerlink network revenue from its Regulatory Proposal), or completed the Bankable Feasibility Study (which, in achieving Financial Close, will settle key capital/construction costings, finance costings, operating costings and sales/revenue commitments).

The Commercial Unit considers that the Proponent's "Preliminary Financial Analysis" statement and relevant supporting documentation, and material provided for inspection only on a Commercial-in-Confidence basis, demonstrate that the Proponent has progressed its preliminary financial analysis of the proposed facility as far as possible at this stage.

Based on the material to hand at this point in time, particularly the treatment of proposed Foundation Network User Revenue, and proposed (Powerlink) Regulatory Proposal Network Charges Revenue (from other Queensland electricity consumers) for which contract and regulatory negotiations are continuing, the infrastructure facility is expected to be viable at an affordable price to Foundation Network Users.

4.7 Possible Environmental Effects

On 15 June 2010, the CopperString Project was declared a 'significant project' for which an environmental impact statement (**EIS**) is required under the SDPWO Act. The EIS assesses potential adverse and beneficial environmental, economic and social impacts of the CopperString Project, and identifies management, monitoring and planning measures to minimise any adverse environmental impacts of the CopperString Project.

An EIS was prepared by CopperString in accordance with the Coordinator-General's approved terms of reference for the CopperString Project, provided to the Coordinator-General and publicly advertised. The public comment period closed on 4 October 2010. A Supplementary Report (which includes the section of the route stretching from the Dajarra Road substation near Cloncurry, north to Chumvale transmission line connection which was not assessed in the original EIS) will be prepared for consideration in August - September 2011. The Coordinator-General's Evaluation Report on the EIS is expected in January 2012.

On 19 August 2010 the Commonwealth Minister for Environment Protection, Water, Heritage and the Arts determined that the CopperString Project is a "controlled action" under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (**EPBC Act**) due to the potential impact on matters of national environmental significance (listed threatened species and communities). As a result, the CopperString Project requires assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. The Australian Government has accredited the EIS process conducted under the SDPWO Act under a bilateral agreement between the Australian and the Queensland Governments. This will enable the EIS to meet the impact assessment requirements under both Commonwealth and Queensland legislation. The CopperString Project will require approval from the responsible Australian Government minister under Part 9 of the EPBC Act before it can proceed.

The EIS considered environmental impacts such as adverse effects on flora and fauna, erosion, adverse soil effects on agricultural land, cultural heritage issues, greenhouse gases, air quality, and noise and vibration concerns. The social impact assessment of the project identified impacts on the quality of the living environment, health and well being and disturbance to normal property management, in particular, the risk of aerial fatality during

normal property management activities such as heli-mustering. The EIS has provided detailed mitigation strategies to adequately address these issues.

CopperString has advised that its investigations to date have not indicated any significant adverse impacts from the CopperString Facility that are not capable of being managed within the EIS process. Further, the transmission line route and proposed location of other infrastructure such as the CEV huts and substations are being designed to minimise impact on the environment, particularly to avoid areas of high ecological value where possible.

In its EIS, CopperString commits to operating in a manner which conforms to the contractual requirements of its customers and to all relevant regulatory and legislative requirements. Further, it intends to plan and implement control systems which facilitate the management of the environmental aspects of its activities. It submits that the draft construction and operational environmental management plans (**EMPs**) attached to the EIS provide specific environmental management requirements to ensure that works undertaken for the construction and operation of the CopperString Project have minimal adverse effects on the environment and surrounding communities.

The Application advises that the electricity line alignment traverses existing mining operations at Cannington, Phosphate Hill and Leyshon mines. It does not intersect with Petroleum Leases or Mineral Development Licence areas but does intersect with Exploration Permits (**EPs**) and Authorities to Prospect (**ATPs**). An application for a Potential Commercial Area under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* (Qld) has been submitted by Australian Pacific LNG Pty Ltd, however, given the size of the area and nature of the gas extraction, CopperString argues that the transmission line would not limit the ability to extract gas.

According to CopperString, the route selection process that has occurred through the environmental assessment of the CopperString Project has taken into account the possible sterilisation of resources. The CopperString Project crosses only one mining lease (apart from those associated with a mining operation that would be supplied with power – Cannington and Phosphate Hill). This mining lease has been identified to be an exhausted resource and is undergoing decommissioning. No other areas of known mineral, coal or petroleum resources are traversed by the CopperString Project. CopperString is currently consulting with the principal holders of any other tenure such as EPs and ATPs regarding their planned activities and potential future benefits of the CopperString Project. CopperString will outline a summary of the consultation undertaken with these tenure holders in the Supplementary EIS.

At this stage of the EIS assessment the Coordinator-General believes that the issues identified in the EIS can be substantially ameliorated through the management strategies identified by the proponent in the EIS and by appropriate conditions imposed by the relevant assessment authorities.

4.8 Technical and Financial Capacity of the Proponent to Implement the Proposed Facility

The Application advises that CopperString is a special purpose vehicle formed in late 2009 to implement the CopperString Project. It is an equal share joint venture between CuString and Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd. The Application advises that CuString was established by John O'Brien, who has over 20 years experience in the electricity supply industry in north and north-western Queensland and who has worked with major stakeholders including mining companies, government and the local community in the development of the project since 2007.

The Application notes that the CopperString Project will be developed on a project finance basis with CopperString entering into the contracts with each of the network users and other parties associated with the CopperString Project.

The Application lists the consultants assisting with the design and construction of the CopperString Project. The CopperString Project is using industry recognised and experienced consultants in the design and construction of the project.

The Application advises that CuString sought a development partner in Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd and a Memorandum of Understanding was executed in March 2010. It is anticipated

that CuString will retain a 5% equity investment in the CopperString Project. CuString, in conjunction with ARC Developments International Pty Ltd and Energy Advisory Services, which on 1 March 2011 became a part of the Economics, Regulatory and Policy practice of Ernst and Young, will manage the technical, commercial and regulatory activities, including ongoing audit and compliance requirements.

Leighton Contractors is a member of the Leighton Holdings Limited Group which has developed and delivered major social and economic infrastructure projects with government and private sector stakeholders in Australia and New Zealand.

The Commercial Unit of the Office of the Coordinator-General, Department of Employment Economic Development and Innovation considers that the "Proponent's Financial and Technical Capacity" statement and relevant supporting documentation, and material provided for inspection on a Commercial-in-Confidence basis, demonstrates that the Proponent has progressed its implementation planning as far as possible at this stage, and that based on the material to hand at this point in time, the implementation planning appears to be feasible and reasonable.

4.9 Negotiations to Acquire Land by Agreement

CopperString commenced consultation in early 2011 with relevant landholders and other affected parties with respect to the probable acquisition of an easement or other tenure as appropriate for the CopperString Facility.

CopperString has stated its preference is to acquire the necessary interests in land by agreement. Relevantly, before the Coordinator-General may take steps to acquire the land on behalf of CopperString, CopperString will be required to demonstrate that it has first made reasonable attempts to obtain the interests in land by agreement and the Guidelines made under section 174 of the SDPWO Act have been followed.

The consultation process undertaken to date includes roadshows along the proposed route, newsletters, community information points, public advertisements, project information line/email/postal box, project website and direct land owner contact. Two roadshows were conducted in August 2010 and December 2010 to coincide with the draft EIS release. The EIS advises that direct liaison with land holders has been ongoing since June 2010 and many meetings have taken place with landholders to discuss the project and the proposed route.

CopperString has advised that it has been consulting with native title parties and intends to negotiate Indigenous Land use Agreements (**ILUA**s) with all relevant native title groups.

The Application states that CopperString has undertaken cultural heritage discussions with interested groups concerning the nature of the CopperString Project and has commenced cultural heritage management plan negotiations with the Mitakoodi and Mayi People # 4, Mitakoodi People 3, Western Public Notification Area - Ngawun Mbara, Wanamara People Core Country Claim, Yirendali People Core Country Claim, Central Public Notification Area, Kudjala People 5, Eastern Public Notification Area, Kudjala People # 4, Kudjala People 2, Birri People, Kalkadoon Cultural Heritage Services Pty Ltd and Kalkadoon People 5 and Yulluna Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

4.10 Investigations on the Required Land

CopperString advises in its Application that a number of different transmission alignments were investigated using a route selection process initially identifying four routes which were refined to a broad east west corridor, widening at the eastern end to accommodate different commencement points along the Ross – Strathmore 275kV transmission line. The criteria used to refine the transmission line alignment were set out in the Route Selection Report prepared by RLMS dated August 2010 for the CopperString Project and addressed environmental, engineering, social and economic considerations.

The selection of sub-stations were determined based on a sound methodology which considered land requirements, engineering considerations, cultural heritage issues and proximity to renewable energy projects as some of the key criteria. The Application notes that the access tracks were practically selected to minimise impacts on landholders and to limit

physical constraints and that CEV huts were selected based on a minimum distance required between each hut and access to roads or other public infrastructure to enable accessibility for construction and maintenance purposes.

Following submissions from landowners in June 2011 about the route selection process, the Coordinator-General commissioned an independent review of the route selection process for a 100km section of the transmission line in the vicinity of Charters Towers. Golder Associates undertook a review of the appropriateness of the route selection process, methodology and criteria.

The review concluded that overall the route selection process and methodology used by CopperString was valid, using reasonable criteria for route selection and providing adequate detail to provide a degree of confidence that issues of concern were considered in the selection of the preferred route.

4.11 Summary of the Public Submissions

In assessing the Application, the Coordinator-General sought submissions from persons who may be affected by the CopperString Facility.

Twelve public submissions were received in relation to the advertised CopperString Application. Of those, five submissions were either demonstrating support for the CopperString Facility or requesting further information or consultation. Three submissions related to registering native title interests and the remaining submissions were objecting to the CopperString Facility. The objections were based on

- Construction impacts, particularly on cattle and farm management activities
- Loss of scenic amenity
- Impact on agriculture and on grazing practice, in particular, the use of aircraft for mustering
- Weed management issues
- Lack of consultation and lack of time to respond to the application
- Better alternatives for the location of the infrastructure

Three landowners also delivered submissions to the Coordinator-General in late May 2011 with a particular focus on the alignment through Charters Towers. The submissions reiterated previous concerns and also noted concerns in relation to a potential decrease in land values following the construction of the Project and the impacts of the transmission line on human and cattle health.

The Coordinator-General met with affected landowners on 2 June 2011 in Charters Towers to discuss their concerns in relation to the CopperString Project.

During the meeting, a landowner raised ancestral and heritage concerns in relation to the CopperString Project being constructed on their land. While no further information was received from the landowner, it is noted that CopperString is required to consult with traditional owners during ILUA negotiations, as well as complying with the obligations under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003.

Landowners also raised concerns in relation to the alignment of the CopperString transmission line through Charters Towers. The Coordinator-General undertook to commission an independent review of the Charters Towers section of the alignment to determine the robustness of the approach used by CopperString and of the final alignment chosen by CopperString. Following the review the Coordinator-General also undertook to provide copies of the review findings to landholders.

The Coordinator-General commissioned a report on the alignment from Golder Associates and made a copy of the report available to the landowners that were at the meeting and to CopperString for their comments.

The Coordinator-General advised these landholders that he would accept further submissions until 13 July 2011 for consideration on the IFS assessment. This date was later extended to 18 July 2011.

Two submissions were received from landowners and one from CopperString in response to the report within the submission period.

A further late submission was received from a landowner in relation to the meeting between the Coordinator-General and the landowners.

The additional submissions reiterated concerns in the earlier submissions and also identified concerns from landowners that they would not have the opportunity to negotiate individually for full and adequate compensation if the CopperString Facility was approved as an IFS.

The approval of the CopperString Facility as an IFS is the first step in a process under which the Coordinator-General may, to the extent he is lawfully able to do so, compulsorily acquire land (or easements) and Native Title for the CopperString Facility, should commercial negotiations between CopperString and relevant affected parties be unsuccessful.

These negotiations must meet the requirements of the comprehensive guidelines made under section 174 of SDPWO Act. Landowners will have an opportunity to negotiate with CopperString during the consultation and negotiation period required by the guidelines. Subsequent steps in the compulsory acquisition process cannot be commenced unless CopperString is able to demonstrate that reasonable attempts have been made to reach commercial agreements with interest holders or, if the land to be taken includes Native Title, to enter into indigenous land use agreements with the Native Title parties. If compulsory acquisition occurs, landowners will be compensated under the Acquisition of Land Act 1967 in accordance with the well established principles of compensation.

Additionally, some of the landholders who made submissions as part of the IFS process have also made submissions as part of the EIS process. The issues that were raised as part of the EIS process are currently being addressed by CopperString as part of the Supplementary Report being prepared and will be considered by the Coordinator-General as part of the EIS process.

Section 125 of the SDPWO Act requires that the Application be assessed to determine whether the CopperString Facility is of significance, particularly economically or socially, to Queensland or the region in which the facility is to be constructed. None of the submissions received questioned the economic or social significance of the CopperString Facility. One submission queried how the facility will contribute to agriculture, however, whether the CopperString Facility will contribute to agriculture is only one of a number of relevant considerations in assessing the potential for the facility to contribute to community wellbeing and economic growth or employment levels.

It is intended that the issues raised by the submissions during the IFS process will be managed by CopperString through the EIS process and associated management plans. The draft construction and operational environmental management plans attached to the EIS provide specific environmental management requirements to ensure that works undertaken for the construction and operation of the CopperString Project have minimal adverse effects on the environment and surrounding communities.

The issues will also be managed and addressed through any compensation agreements entered into with the landowners.

4.12 Economic and Social Significance of the Infrastructure Facility

4.12.1 Economic Growth

The CopperString Facility is likely to contribute to economic growth within Australia, Queensland and the North and North West Statistical Divisions. Such a potential for economic growth must be taken into account in accordance with section 125(2) of the SDPWO Act.

ACIL Tasman concludes that the CopperString Project of which the CopperString Facility is an integral part, will result in significant economic benefits to the Queensland and Australian

economies over the period to 2030 and beyond by providing NWQ with a substantial piece of infrastructure that will provide lower cost electricity to underpin substantial growth in the mining and minerals processing sectors. The economic benefits primarily arise in the form of productivity improvements across the Queensland economy as a result of access to cheaper electricity in the mining and minerals processing industries.

The long term economic and social development of the NWMP is heavily dependent on the availability of competitively priced and reliable electricity supply through a system that is expandable to meet future demand at a low marginal cost.

The Commonwealth Government identified the extension of the NEM to NWMP as a national infrastructure priority in 2009 and has been an active stakeholder in the Sims Review process. CopperString contends that based on the recommendations of the Sims Review, the CopperString Project will upgrade the electricity supply to the NWMP to foster the continued economic, social and community growth of the region.

The EIS prepared for the CopperString Project concludes that development of the CopperString Project would support the following:

- Access to competitively priced energy which would further diminish the risk of energy price instability from a single primary energy source;
- An electricity connection path for future renewable energy projects within the identified clean energy corridor;
- Increased resource exploration in NWQ by providing competitive and reliable energy supply for the exploration and processing of products;
- Access to the NEM by small mining operations that will decrease reliance on diesel power generation; and
- Decreased risk of supply interruptions to industrial users and communities.

The CopperString Project is consistent with the strategic directions of the North West Regional Plan (DIP 2010) in promoting a dynamic, robust and diversified economy and providing infrastructure and services, while creating a more sustainable future.

The Application notes that both the construction and operation phases of the CopperString Project will assist to diversify Queensland's economy by providing additional power capacity to the NWMP, by providing certainty of supply for mining projects for the longer term and for communities and residents in the area and by delivering greater security and constancy of electricity supply and price competitiveness, as a result of the connection to the NEM.

Based on recent information, electricity to be provided by the CopperString Project will not necessarily be at a lower cost but it will be competitively priced. There will also be an increased security of supply of electricity for the region and the Coordinator-General considers that this will contribute to the economic growth of the region.

Based on estimates contained in the ACIL Tasman report, the CopperString Project is expected to boost the Real Economic Output of Australia by $367 million in its construction phase and by $11.8 billion in total (both construction and operation). The report notes that Queensland's Real Economic Output is expected to increase by approximately $318 million in its construction phase and by $11 billion in total (both construction and operation). Benefits to the region were noted in the report to be measured in Real Economic Output as $218 million during construction and $9.8 billion during construction and operation.

4.12.2 Employment

In respect of the potential capability of the CopperString Facility to contribute to employment levels, another factor which must be taken into account under section 125(2) of the SDPWO Act, the CopperString Facility will have significance to the North and North West Statistical Divisions by providing greater employment opportunities.

Direct Employment

CopperString has advised that it is expected that during the three year construction phase of the CopperString Project (2011-2014), direct regional (CopperString affected LGAs) employment figures are estimated to be 510 full-time equivalent (**FTE**) jobs, State estimates are 519 FTE and national figures are 1,905 FTE. It is anticipated that direct employment during construction will peak in 2013 at 750 FTE jobs.

CopperString estimates that 600 FTE operational jobs in the region will be created from 2011 to 2030, as a direct result of the CopperString Project.

Indirect Employment

CopperString advised that during the three year construction phase of the CopperString Project (2011-2014), indirect regional (CopperString affected LGAs) employment figures are estimated to be 297 FTE jobs, State estimates are 837 FTE and national figures are 927 FTE.

CopperString estimates that 100 indirect operational jobs in the region will be created from 2011 to 2030. These estimates also reported 300 FTE operational jobs in the state and 360 FTE jobs nationally from 2011 to 2030.

CopperString estimates indicate for the period 2011 to 2030, that the CopperString project as a whole (i.e. construction and operation) will contribute to increased employment in:

- Australia by an average of 469 FTE jobs a year;
- Queensland by an average of 261 FTE jobs a year; and
- the CopperString Project affected LGAs by an average of 89 FTE jobs a year.

4.12.3 Social Significance of the Infrastructure Facility

In accordance with section 125(2) of the SDPWO Act, the potential for the CopperString Facility to contribute to community wellbeing must be taken into account. There are a number of factors which indicate that the CopperString Facility on balance will contribute positively to community wellbeing.

The Application notes that the CopperString Project, of which the CopperString Facility is an integral part, has the capacity to bring significant benefits to the region, Queensland and Australia during both the construction and operation of the CopperString Project. It is anticipated that the transmission line is expected to enable access to more affordable and reliable power to NWQ through the connection to the NEM. This will enable existing mining operations to expand and encouraging new mining operations and renewable electricity generation projects to develop in this resource rich area.

Notably, both the indirect and direct employment benefits and flow on effects of those have the potential to be significant. The Application states that the injection of money, people and activity will drive growth, providing opportunities to increase local skills capacity and act as a catalyst for improving local infrastructure services.

4.12.4 Contribution to agricultural, industrial, resource or technological development in Australia, Queensland or the region

In assessing the potential mentioned in section 125(2) of the SDPWO Act, the contribution the CopperString Facility makes to agricultural, industrial, resource or technological development is a relevant consideration.

The Application notes that the CopperString Facility should improve the economics and certainty of many resource opportunities in the NWMP and encourage expansion or life extensions for existing mines.

In addition, the Application states the CopperString Facility would facilitate the introduction of a range of renewable energy projects identified in the MITEZ area and that this is likely to bring leading edge renewable energy technology to Queensland.

5. The Reasons for the Decision

The CopperString Facility was approved as an infrastructure facility that is of significance, particularly economically or socially, to Queensland and to the North and North West Statistical Divisions which include the following Local Government Areas: Mount Isa, Cloncurry, McKinlay, Flinders, Charters Towers, Townsville, Burdekin and Richmond being the regions in which the CopperString Facility is to be constructed, for the following reasons:

- The CopperString Facility described in the Application falls within the definition of an "infrastructure facility" set out in section 125(16)(d) of the SDPWO Act;
- The statements made in the Application regarding the demand for electricity from the CopperString Facility for NWQ are supported by independent research in the Sims Review prepared for the Queensland Government which estimates demand for up to 500MW over the next 20 years. The Sims Review recommends a transmission link, such as the one proposed by the CopperString Facility as a reasonable option to satisfy demand. The reports prepared by ACIL Tasman and BIS Shrapnel consider that the CopperString Facility will provide a competitive and reliable source of electricity to NWQ together with potential access to the NEM for a number of renewable energy projects;
- The Application, its supporting documentation and independent reports listed in this Statement Giving Reasons demonstrate that the CopperString Facility will provide significant direct and indirect economic benefits to the region and Queensland including an increase in economic activity and employment levels in the local regions and Queensland generally;
- The Application, its supporting documentation and independent reports listed in this Statement Giving Reasons indicate that there are on balance, social benefits associated with the CopperString Facility through increased employment stimulating regional growth and the potential for investment in local infrastructure contributing to increased community wellbeing;
- The Application and subsequent correspondence records CopperString's ongoing commitment to conduct investigations with affected landholders, native title parties and other interested parties and to genuinely consult and negotiate with landowners to identify the most appropriate land required as well as access and acquisition arrangements for the CopperString Facility;
- CopperString has requested the Queensland Government consider proposed derogations to the National Electricity Rules. If the proposed derogations are not obtained by CopperString then it may be necessary to recommend to the Governor in Council that its approval of the CopperString Facility as an infrastructure facility of significance be amended or repealed;
- CopperString has undertaken a detailed analysis to determine the preferred route having regard to minimisation of environmental impacts and the impact on affected landholders. An independent review of the route selection process for a 100km section of the transmission line in the vicinity of Charters Towers has been undertaken. Golder Associates undertook a review of the appropriateness of the route selection process, methodology and criteria. The review concluded that overall the route selection process and methodology used by CopperString was valid, using reasonable criteria for route selection and providing adequate detail to provide a degree of confidence that issues of concern were considered in the selection of the preferred route.
- An EIS to assess the potential adverse and beneficial environmental impacts of the CopperString Project (of which the CopperString Facility is an integral part) has been prepared and CopperString is completing a Supplementary EIS prior to the Coordinator-General preparing a report evaluating the EIS pursuant to section 35 of the SDPWO Act. The CopperString Project is a controlled action under the EPBC Act and so also requires assessment and approval under that Act. Environmental issues will be appropriately dealt with through these statutory processes.

- The Commercial Unit of the Office of the Coordinator-General, Department of Employment Economic Development and Innovation (Commercial Unit) considers that the "Proponent's Financial and Technical Capacity" statement and relevant supporting documentation, and material provided for inspection on a Commercial-in-Confidence basis, demonstrate that the Proponent has progressed its implementation planning as far as possible at this stage, and that based on the material to hand at this point in time, the implementation planning appears to be feasible and reasonable.
- The Application provided the names of the contractors or subcontractors that Leighton Contractor is to engage in the design and construction of the CopperString Facility and these include industry recognised consultants experienced in the design and construction of these types of projects.
- Based on the material to hand at this point in time, particularly the treatment of proposed Foundation Network User Revenue, and proposed (Powerlink) Regulatory Proposal Network Charges Revenue (from other Queensland electricity consumers) for which contract and regulatory negotiations are continuing, the Commercial Unit considers the infrastructure facility is expected to be viable at an affordable price to Foundation Network Users.
- In accordance with clause 3.18 of the *Guidelines for acquisition of land for infrastructure projects by persons other than the State,* made pursuant to Section 174 of the SDPWO Act, should CopperString seek assistance from the Coordinator-General in compulsorily acquiring land required for the CopperString Facility, CopperString will be required to confirm that the CopperString Facility will proceed within reasonable timeframes including but not limited to confirming that the requisite derogations have been obtained;
- The Application addresses the requirements of section 125(1)(f) of the SDPWO Act and the requirements of Appendix A of the SDPWO Act *Guidelines for acquisition of land for infrastructure projects by persons other than the State* and adequately demonstrates that that the CopperString Facility should be approved as an infrastructure facility that is of significance.