



Ref: A986357

20 January 2011

Attention: Mr Joshua Davies
Communications Group
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)
Via email: joshua.davies@accg.gov.au

Powerlink Queensland Submission: ACCC / NBN – List of Initial POIs

Powerlink Queensland welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed list of initial Points of Interconnect (POI) to the National Broadband Network (NBN). Powerlink thanks the ACCC for considering this late submission in light of the Queensland flood situation.

Background

Powerlink is a State Government-owned corporation which owns, develops, operates and maintains Queensland's high voltage electricity transmission network that extends from north of Cairns to the New South Wales border. Powerlink's primary role is to provide a secure and reliable network to transport high voltage electricity from generators to electricity distribution networks, large loads (such as aluminium smelters), and to and from New South Wales via the NSW-Qld Interconnector.

Powerlink's operational communications network is used for the protection of high voltage electricity plant and equipment, managing the transmission supply, electricity metering, and ensuring compliance with the National Electricity Rules. In addition, Powerlink selectively provides limited services to wholesale telecommunications carriers from spare telecommunications capacity where it will not interfere with network operations. This spare capacity is made available on a non-discriminatory basis to all telecommunication carriers on equivalency of standard commercial terms, conditions, and pricing.

List of Initial POIs

Powerlink generally supports the ACCC's list of initial POIs, which will enable low cost solutions to access seekers and promotion of competition in retail markets.

33 Harold Street, Virginia
PO Box 1193, Virginia, Queensland 4014, Australia
Telephone: (07) 3860 2111 Facsimile: (07) 3860 2100
Website: www.powerlink.com.au

Powerlink Queensland is the registered business name of the
Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited
ABN 82 078 849 233

Powerlink notes however, the absence of both Mackay and Gladstone from the POIs listed for Queensland. Both of these major regional centres play an important role in the Queensland economy, particularly in the resource and export area. A competitive wholesale market for backhaul services exists at both these regional centres, and Powerlink considers that the expansion of the list of initial POIs to include these centres is consistent with the ACCC's objectives of enabling low cost solutions to access seekers and the promotion of competition in retail markets.

Should you require any further information, please contact Mr Simon Taylor, Manager Network Customers on (07) 3866 1101 in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,



Melissa Azzopardi
Acting Manager Regulation Strategies and Development
Powerlink Queensland