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HEADLINE: Bligh may back revised CopperString

AUTHOR: Mark Ludlow

In Queensland, supporters of the CopperString power project advocate that the venture remains viable. This is despite the decision by Xstrata to move to a rival consortium to provide power to its operations near Mount Isa. A spokesperson for Qld Deputy Premier and Treasurer Andrew Fraser said the government is in receipt of a new proposal from CopperString- a joint venture between Leighton Holdings and CuString; however, it is believed that the state government will not be allocating additional funds for the project. Prime Minister Julia Gillard has allocated up to \$335 million to subsidise the power line as part of her discussions with the federal independent members of parliament including Bob Katter. Mr Katter's brother-in-law John O'Brien founded the project. CopperString project director Glenn Stockton said there was still substantial support for the project in north Queensland. Windlab Australia regional director Luke Osborne who is seeking to develop the Kennedy wind farm and the Kaiwedera solar project said CopperString was their best chance to connect to the national grid. Hughenden is being viewed as a focal point for renewable energy projects in north Queensland. Last week Ingenero was named by the Bligh government as the preferred tender to design, construct and operate a solar farm at Cloncurry.

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MENTIONS: Julia Gillard, Leighton, National Grid, Osborne, Xstrata

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