



Harapaki Wind Farm Development, Hawke's Bay

November 2022 Update | EDITION #8

Kia ora koutou

With spring now here and the weather a little kinder, we're making steady progress across the project site. Building a wind farm requires a big workforce with a variety of different skills to safely complete the work. We have multiple teams working on site undertaking earthworks (building roads), constructing turbine foundations, electrical works (cable installation, substation, data and electronics etc), and the construction of services buildings. We're excited to be able to share our progress with you.

Earthworks nearing completion

The earthworks team have been working solidly for the past 12 months to build around 20 kms of access roads, turbine and building platforms, and other associated earthworks. Despite some record-setting rainfall over the past year, the roads are nearing completion reaching the most northern turbine platform last month. This has been a phenomenal achievement for the team, all the while maintaining a high standard of environmental management.

We've established an excellent relationship with both Hawke's Bay District Council and Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) with representatives from each Council regular visitors to site. Looking after the environment is extremely important to Meridian – wind, water and sun is what we make electricity from – so we're very pleased that the teams on-site continue to maintain a high standard of environmental performance.

The HBRC ecology team inspected the site in September and confirmed we had met full compliance with no impact to any protected areas (including wetlands). As part of their visit, they also discovered the largest Lancewood tree they had ever come across.



The very large Lancewood tree.

Turbine foundations are underway

One of our major project milestones is the completion of the first turbine foundation. Weather conditions need to be fairly settled as a concrete pour has to be completed in one go. It takes around 20 hours to finish each foundation, so work starts early making it a perfect job for early risers!

We've now completed three foundations and are preparing to steadily increase the number of foundations we finish each week as we enter the summer construction season.

Ensuring Harapaki is built as sustainably as possible is a key priority for Meridian. One of the ways we've lowered our carbon emissions for the project is by setting up a concrete plant on site rather than transporting concrete from Napier. Through this and other improvements in the earthworks and civil construction workstreams, we've managed to reduce our project emissions by 5,000 tonnes of carbon.



The first turbine foundation being completed.

Transformers have arrived

Another project milestone achieved in early October was the arrival of the two main transformers from South Korea. They each take around 12 months to build and then undertake an extensive testing programme before being shipped to the wind farm. The impact from COVID-19 on global supply chains presented a few challenges over the past year so the team were very relieved to see the transformers delivered and in place safely. Installation, testing and commissioning is now underway.



A transformer being transported to site.

Arrival of turbine components

With much of the site and foundation preparation work scheduled to be completed next year, we're looking forward to the arrival of the turbine installation team from Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy (SGRE). SGRE are responsible for supplying and installing the 41 turbines across the site. Transporting these very large turbine components is both challenging and impressive. We'll be letting the community know when we plan to start transporting turbines to site in our January newsletter.

If you have any queries about the project, please email us at harapaki@meridianenergy.co.nz.

Ngā mihi

Robert Batters

Project Manager Harapaki Wind Farm