Meridian.

Harapaki Wind Farm Development, Hawke's Bay

July 2023 Update | EDITION #10

Kia ora koutou

First components to be transported this week

With Waka Kotahi completing road repairs enabling turbines to be transported on State Highway 5, we can begin moving components from Napier to the Harapaki site. Our first deliveries commence on Thursday 20 July.

Deliveries will be ongoing six days per week (Monday to Saturday) for a planned period of 22 weeks. We expect transporting turbines to be completed by the end of January.

Typically we will be transporting two over-dimensional loads each morning, leaving Austin Street, Napier between 3am and 4am and arriving at site before 7am. These loads will either be blades (59m long) or tower sections (36m long).

Other smaller components will be delivered during the day. These smaller loads are not as long, but some will be over mass and wide loads. The number of these smaller loads will vary between two to four truckloads each day.

Turbine blade being unloaded at Napier Port.

Turbine centre being unloaded at Napier Port.

Revised Completion Date

With components now ready for transport, we can confirm a revised completion date for the Harapaki Wind Farm.

Cyclone Gabrielle caused damage to access roading and impacts to the civil construction programme. The transmission grid in Hawke's Bay also suffered significant damage and the need for substantial repairs to State Highway 5 have delayed the transport of turbine componentry to site.

We are thankful for the work of Waka Kotahi in repairing State Highway 5 and Transpower on repairs to the grid enabling substation commissioning, together with our project team and contractors, for getting us in a position to move componentry to site so we can move forward with turbine installation.

As a result of this remarkable team effort, we have only lost three months and Harapaki is now expected to produce first power in October 2023 and achieve full power in September 2024.

Our Most Sustainable Wind Farm

Once operational, Harapaki's 41 turbines will produce 176 MW of renewable energy, which is enough to power over 70,000 average households. The project also features a number of sustainability innovations that will make it Meridian's most sustainable wind farm.

Before ground was first broken at the site in 2021, reviews of the wind farm's civil design reduced the amount of concrete and steel to be used by 30 per cent. We estimate a further 10,000 tonnes of CO_2 have since been saved through ongoing actions to drive down carbon emissions during the construction of the wind farm. These include minimising the amount of rock aggregate being imported to the site from Napier and Taupo, adjusting the wind farm's road network to minimise earthworks, using piles instead of concrete foundations for turbines, minimising waste and encouraging the use of car-pooling and electric vehicles on site.

Turbine componentry being unloaded at Napier Port.

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

Ngā mihi

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