



Harapaki Wind Farm Development, Hawke's Bay

October 2024 Update | EDITION #14

Kia ora koutou

It is with great pride that we bring you our latest newsletter. In mid-July, we achieved a major milestone with the commissioning of the 41st and final turbine at Harapaki.

Aotearoa New Zealand's second largest wind farm is now fully operational and despite the very challenging construction journey, it was delivered within a month of the original completion date and within the forecast \$448m budget.

The timing of this couldn't have been better with increased demand for electricity due to the cold winter months. As we have experienced throughout all seasons during construction, this is a very windy site. The wind farm is producing some amazing numbers, operating at full capacity around 50% of the time, well above the capacity factors of international wind farms.

Meridian shares Aotearoa New Zealand's goal of transitioning to a net-zero economy and has its own aspiration to deliver seven new renewable electricity projects in seven years. Harapaki is the first of these to be completed.

Here's a little video we made to celebrate: [Harapaki Wind Farm is all go, and delivering for NZ \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



View of the Harapaki wind turbine site.

Karakia held

Late last month representatives from Ngāti Hineuru and Maungaharuru Tangitū Trust came together with Meridian kaimahi (staff) to bless our wind turbines.

Many thanks to the kaumātua involved for undertaking the karakia – a marathon effort that began at 3am and saw all 41 turbines blessed individually.

Our on-site team

Now the wind farm is fully operational, we've handed over the reins to our Generation Team.

Ross Berry is Meridian's site owner, which means he has overall responsibility for the running of the wind farm. He's a Hawke's Bay native and has held various roles in the electricity industry, starting with his apprenticeship as a sparky during the 70s and 80s.

Ross is supported by a team of turbine technicians from Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy, led by Hamish Speedy.

Power Up Community Fund

We have a proud history of supporting the communities we are part of through Power Up. It's one of the ways that we recognise the importance of these communities to our operations.

Over the past 17 years, we've supported a wide range of local projects throughout Aotearoa, investing more than \$10.2 million into over 1,400 projects. These projects have ranged from heat pumps to helmet torches, tree planting to pest trapping, swimming pools to security systems.

The first round of funding for Power Up Harapaki is open for applications until 13 October. There is \$50,000 available annually and funding decisions will be made by a panel made up of local community and iwi members, and Meridian staff.

The new fund has been boosted by an additional \$40,000 thanks to the recycling of scrap cable left over from all the cable jointing undertaken during construction. Thanks to our friends at Unison Networks for this.

During Unison's pitch for the substation construction contract, they made the commitment to recycle all cable and other scrap construction metals with the funds raised being returned to Meridian for the purposes of funding a sustainability or environmental initiative. Together with Unison, we decided to put it towards the first Power Up Harapaki funding round.

Visit www.meridianenergy.co.nz/fund for more information or to apply. We will be announcing the successful recipients in late November.

A big mihi

With construction of the project now complete, this will be our final community newsletter.

Before I sign off, I want to say a huge thank you from all of us at Meridian to Hineuru Iwi Trust, Maungaharuru Tangitū Trust, the community and all the workers and local businesses who helped make the project a success. Big infrastructure projects like this can be challenging, and we are so appreciative of all the support we have received over the past several years.

If you would like to get in touch with us, or have any questions or comments, please email us at community@meridianenergy.co.nz.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou.

Robert Batters

Project Manager Harapaki Wind Farm



Blessing of the wind turbines.



Ross Berry