



Ruakākā Energy Park

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Kia ora koutou

Welcome to the first community update for our Ruakākā Energy Park development.

As you are probably aware, our Ruakākā Energy Park is delivering two key projects for Aotearoa. The first is a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to store electricity which can then be shared with the national grid when it's needed most – and helping to improve the security of electricity supply to all kiwis.

The Ruakākā BESS will store up to 100MW of electricity – enough to power around 60,000 average households during winter, for up to two hours.

Adjacent to the BESS site, we're planning a solar farm. This will produce roughly 120MW of electricity, providing a significant and reliable power supply in the far North and reducing the reliance on electricity generated from other parts of the country.

Meridian is committed to increasing the amount of renewable electricity we generate and store so that we can meet New Zealand's increasing demand for electricity with clean energy. Solar farms and batteries, alongside our hydro stations and wind farms, are part of the solution to reduce New Zealand's reliance on fossil fuels.

We appreciate that new developments in the community can be unsettling. Meridian has a solid track record when it comes to partnering with communities. From prioritising local employment to investment in local initiatives, we strive to establish long-term, positive and rewarding partnerships with the communities close to our developments.

You can find out more about our work with communities [on our website](#).

This update will be the first of many as we aim to keep the community up to speed with progress of the Ruakākā Energy Park. Feel free to forward this on to anybody else who may be interested or ask them to subscribe by emailing us at the address below.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with us via ruakaka@meridian.co.nz.

Ngā mihi,

Alan de Lima
Construction Manager
MERIDIAN ENERGY

About the Ruakākā Energy Park

The Ruakākā Energy Park site is approximately 35km from Whangārei, to the South-West of the Marsden Point Oil Refinery. It's made up of three parcels of land (sites one, two and three), totalling 201 hectares.

On this land we are currently:

- building a battery storage system – think of a rugby field with storage units similar to shipping containers – set for completion in December.
- in the consenting process for a solar farm made up of approximately 250,000 solar panels; and
- building a service building for our people who will be operating and maintaining the site.

Most of the land is zoned as 'industrial' by Council. There is an existing wetland on site one of around 9 hectares, for which we have a plan to protect and enhance. We'll also be creating a new wetland area of around 11.7 hectares on site three. Both wetlands will provide enhanced habitat areas for taonga bird species such as Bittern and Dabchick ducks.

The new wetland on site 3 will also cleanse stormwater generated from the adjoining commercial area as it passes through the wetland then out to the Ruakākā River. This will result in a significant ecological improvement over a short period of time (around three years) on land that is currently being grazed with cattle.

Native trees along some of the site's perimeter will be maintained and enhanced to improve the visual aesthetics of the Energy Park.



Ruakākā Energy Park site

Battery Energy Storage Systems play an increasingly important role in electricity supply. As companies like Meridian grow the amount of renewable energy from sources such as water, wind and sun, battery storage systems ensure we have a place to store energy that can be used when the wind isn't blowing, or the sun isn't shining.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) progress

The construction of the BESS is the first phase of our project. Resource Consents were issued in 2022 and since then we have been working with local partners and international experts on the design, construction, and operation of the BESS.

Construction is well underway with most of the site works nearing completion. The foundation pads for the batteries are nearly finished and the containers housing the batteries are now being transported to site from Whangārei and being installed. We expect all 80 battery containers will be installed by late June. The next stage involves electrical and mechanical fitout, with the BESS on track for completion in December 2024.



Ruakaka Energy Park
Site, 27 May 2024

Solar farm at Ruakākā Energy Park

Adjacent to the BESS is additional Meridian-owned land on which we're planning to build a solar farm. Like hydro power and wind farms, solar energy is a sustainable, clean resource that can help ensure New Zealand's security of electricity supply while helping reduce emissions from our economy.

The solar farm will produce roughly 120MW of electricity. That's enough to provide a significant and reliable power supply for the far North, and to reduce the reliance on electricity generated from other parts of the country.

We lodged resource consent applications for the solar farm in September 2023. In February 2024, we obtained resource consents from the Whāngarei District Council which covered the construction and operation of the solar farm and related effects (which includes traffic, stormwater, contaminated land, noise, landscape and visual effects).

Resource consent applications were also lodged with Northland Regional Council in September 2023 for earthworks, associated stormwater diversion and discharges, and vegetation clearance across the three solar farm sites. We expect the hearing to be held sometime in August.

As part of the solar farm project, we are undertaking a planting programme to ensure that we enhance and protect the natural habitat, as discussed above. We will be using eco sourced plants from the Waipu Ecological District.

Our sustainability commitment and what it means for Ruakākā

As well as being committed to continuing to only generate electricity from 100% renewable resources, Meridian puts sustainable practices at the heart of every part of our business, whether that's construction, procurement, operating assets or how we manage our corporate offices and vehicle fleet.

Sustainability ranges from supporting communities, to ways in which we're enhancing the local environment or minimising our waste and emissions. In addition to the wetland and planting projects mentioned above, some of the sustainability measures for this project include:

- Choosing the right materials for the site and considering the 'whole life costs' including the environmental impact of materials.
- Actively working with contractors and our own teams to record and reduce the project's greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reducing waste through design, use of recycled materials, and recycling site waste.

These will be the tip of the iceberg. You can find out about some of the sustainability practices and achievements from our Harapaki wind farm, currently under construction in Hawke's Bay [here](#).

Did you know? Both batteries and solar panels are high risk products for having forced labour in their supply chains. As part of Meridian's sustainability practice, we have a range of checks and measures to ensure that we are not complicit in supporting modern slavery practices - either ourselves or through our supply chain.

We only work with suppliers who can comply with our Supplier Code of Conduct, which outlines our requirements in a range of areas, including upholding labour standards in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

About Meridian

Meridian is Aotearoa's largest generator of electricity and all from renewable sources: wind, water and sun. We own and operate seven hydro stations, six within the Waitaki Hydro Scheme plus the country's largest – Manapōuri Power Station – and six wind farms around New Zealand.

We also sell electricity to our customers through two brands: Meridian and Powershop.

Listed on both the NZX and ASX, the Meridian Group is one of New Zealand's largest listed companies and employs around 1,000 people across New Zealand. The New Zealand Government is our majority shareholder at 51%.

And lastly...

We hope you've found the info in our first community update helpful. You can expect more information as we progress over the coming months. A reminder that you can direct any questions to ruakaka@meridian.co.nz. If you know of anyone who would be interested in the progress of our Ruakākā Energy Park, please ask them to subscribe at ruakaka@meridian.co.nz.

