



## Harapaki Wind Farm Development, Hawke's Bay

December 2023 Update | EDITION #12

Kia ora koutou

As the year draws to a close, we'd like to acknowledge those within the local community and wider Hawke's Bay region affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. It has, and continues to be, a very challenging year for many. We hope you're able to take some time over the summer break to relax with friends and family.

### Steady progress

2023 also presented the Harapaki team with many challenges, so we're really pleased to report some of the great progress achieved across the site. The civil works have now been completed, native planting is underway and a small crew is nearing completion on remediating the remaining damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle.

The turbine installation team has been making some stellar progress. Over 340 of the major wind turbine components have now been delivered from Port of Napier up to site, 13 turbines are fully installed, and another seven partially installed.



Components being delivered from the Port of Napier.

A huge milestone was achieved in November when the first five turbines began generating power and we expect to have a total of 13 turbines generating electricity prior to Christmas. The electricity generated from the Harapaki wind farm goes directly into the National Grid but gets used locally first, providing greater resiliency and security of supply for the Hawke's Bay region.



First five turbines in action.

### Re-use of materials

As the largest 100% renewable energy company in Aotearoa, sustainability has always been core to who we are and how we operate. We've introduced a number of initiatives throughout the project to lower our impact on the environment as much as possible, including re-using as much as we can from the site within the community. It's been great to see the community making the most of these materials, the most recent being re-distribution of tarpaulins and wooden pallets. We still have plenty to re-home so please email us if you're interested at [harapaki@meridianenergy.co.nz](mailto:harapaki@meridianenergy.co.nz).

### Bird monitoring

Once we begin work on a site, we undertake a very comprehensive monitoring programme completed by independent avian experts which continues throughout construction, and then as part of normal operation of the wind farm for a further three years.

At Harapaki, we have an avian monitoring team who visit every six weeks during construction and continues for three years post construction (the frequency is set at end of construction), a total of seven years of monitoring.

Based on our monitoring to date, plus our experience across our other wind farms over the past 18 years, we expect very little impact on birds.

As the year draws to a close, we wish you and your whānau a safe and relaxing holiday season. If you have any queries about the project, please email us at [harapaki@meridianenergy.co.nz](mailto:harapaki@meridianenergy.co.nz).

Ngā mihi

**Robert Batters**

Project Manager Harapaki Wind Farm



The tarps being rehomed into the community.