



Ruakākā Energy Park

June 2025 Update | EDITION #4

Kia ora koutou,

That's a wrap on the Ruakākā BESS project, and we celebrated in style last month with local hapū, community and industry leaders, and Ministers Shane Jones and Shane Reti.

Watch the video here: [We're flicking the switch at Ruakākā](#)

It's been a privilege to lead the work on New Zealand's first grid-scale battery – the first of many, I imagine, as we make the transition to 100% renewable energy and require more energy storage options.

Many thanks to the wonderful team of Meridian staff and contractors who made it happen, and to the community, for being so welcoming.



Alan (left) and project manager Mike Wilson survey their work



Ministers Jones and Reti flick the switch, alongside Meridian Board Chair Mark Verbiest

Power Up Ruakākā

A Power Up Community Fund is being set up for the Ruakākā BESS. It will be expanded to include the solar farm once it's complete.

These funds are set up across the country in communities surrounding our assets. Run by panels of local community members and Meridian staff, the funds support projects that contribute directly to and generate benefits for the local community.

Applications aren't open yet for the Ruakākā Power Up Fund, but you can register your interest here: [Power Up Ruakākā | Meridian Energy](#)

Solar farm construction update

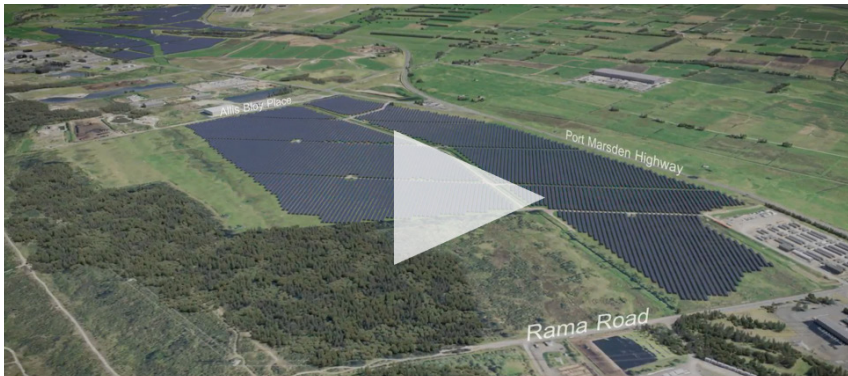
Detailed design of the solar farm is well advanced and we're mobilising our team. Both Meridian and our main contractor Ethical Power now have management teams in place on site.

Over the next couple of months, you'll start to see some enabling works happening on site, such as site access establishment (gates and roads going in), tree felling and some planting and fencing.

Northpower will be relocating the existing 11kV overhead line on Mccathie Road. This will likely be carried out over one or two weeks in August.

The official start date for construction of the solar farm is 1 September.

Want to see what the solar farm will look like when complete? [View the video below.](#)



Handing over the reins

With the BESS complete, I'll be handing over these newsletters to Robert Batters, who is managing the construction of the solar farm.

I introduced Robert in our December 2024 newsletter – [have a read here](#) if you missed it.

Any questions?

If you have questions about the Ruakākā Energy Park, check out our website at www.meridianenergy.co.nz/ruakaka-energy-park, or email us at ruakaka@meridian.co.nz.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in the progress of the project, please ask them to subscribe to this newsletter by emailing us at the address above.

Ngā mihi,

Alan de Lima

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Ruakākā BESS



Ruakākā Solar Project Manager
Robert Batters