



## Te Rere Hau Newsletter

December 2024 Community Update | EDITION #1

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Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to our first community update for the Te Rere Hau Repowering Project. In this edition, you'll find a recap on the project, an update on what stage the project is at, details of the iwi, stakeholder and community liaison group, and where you can find more information or contact us with any questions you may have.

### Repowering project

In October 2023, Meridian and NZ Windfarms announced the formation a 50-50 joint venture to repower and extend the Te Rere Hau Wind Farm. The project involves the design, construction and operation of 39 new turbines with a generation capacity of up to 170MW. The site is currently made up of 91 small turbines with a total installed capacity of 45.5MW.

This will be New Zealand's first wind farm repowering project and has the potential to generate seven times the annual renewable energy production of the existing wind farm.

In May 2023, NZ Windfarms obtained a two-year fast track consent for the first phase of the project, consisting of 30 larger, more modern turbines. Consent for a further nine turbines was sought through a fast-tracked consent process for the expansion of the project (the Aokautere Extension) which was granted in October 2024.

Following the construction period, Meridian intends to enter into a 15-year power purchase agreement for all of the electricity produced from the repowered project.

A final investment decision is expected in mid-2025 with completion expected towards the end of 2027.

## Introducing Alan de Lima

Alan de Lima is leading the team as project manager for the construction of the wind farm. Alan has a background in the delivery of large-scale renewable energy projects including most recently the Meridian Energy battery project in Ruakākā, and has over 30 years' experience in New Zealand and overseas.

As project manager, he is involved in all aspects of the project and is always more than happy to chat about the project and answer any tricky questions.

Alan is Wellington based and pleased that Te Rere Hau is relatively close to home for a change – he is looking forward to being onsite for the construction phase of the project.



## Iwi, Stakeholder and Community Liaison Group

We appreciate that new developments in the community can be unsettling. Both NZ Windfarms and Meridian have a solid track record when it comes to partnering with communities and the project team will be applying the same processes to this project. 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.

As part of the consent conditions, an Iwi, Stakeholder and Community Liaison Group is being established to provide a forum for sharing information and any concerns between the joint venture and the community. Meetings will be held every three months until two years after the completion of the project.

The group will be made up of representatives from neighbouring properties, each of the iwi or hapū authorities, relevant officers from Horizons Regional Council, Tararua District Council, and Palmerston North City Council, Waka Kotahi, DoC and a representative from the QEII Trust.





### Early works begin February

In February, we'll begin some early works onsite. These include the construction of the foundations for both the substation and operations and maintenance building and establishing the foundations for the concrete batching plant. Having a batching plant onsite is one way we can reduce the number of truck movements on the public road, as well as carbon emissions. We expect these works to be completed in April.

### Commitment to sustainability and what it means for Te Rere Hau

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 or corporate offices and vehicle fleet. These practises will be extended to the works undertaken by the joint venture for the Te Rere Hau project.

Sustainability ranges from supporting communities, to ways in which we're enhancing the local environment or minimising our waste and emissions. 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. In early November, we began trials to recycle the old turbine blades from the existing Te Rere Hau Wind Farm.

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, recently completed in Hawke's Bay [here](#).

### Where to find more information

This update will be the first of many as we aim to keep the community up to speed with progress of the Te Rere Hau project. Feel free to forward this on to anybody else who may be interested or ask them to subscribe by emailing us at [repower@nzwindfarms.co.nz](mailto:repower@nzwindfarms.co.nz)

You can also find more information about the project [here](#).

If you have any questions, you can email us at the address above.

Ngā mihi,

**Alan de Lima**

Project Manager

TE RERE HAU REPOWERING PROJECT