



Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Repowering Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2025 Community Update | EDITION #3

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to our third community update for the Te Rere Hau Repowering Project. In this edition, you'll find information on Meridian's acquisition of NZ Windfarms (NZWF), an update on the project timeline, how site works are progressing, and where you can find more information or contact us with any questions you may have.

Acquisition of NZ Windfarms

You may recall from our last newsletter that Meridian was in the process of acquiring all the shares in NZWF. In July, NZWF shareholders agreed to the purchase and approval was given by the High Court for the acquisition to go ahead. We're very pleased with the outcome and we welcome NZWF staff to Meridian. The acquisition will increase Meridian's renewable generation portfolio and enable more efficient financing of the repowering project.

Revised project timeline

While we have made good progress with initial site works (see story below), it has proved more difficult than expected to relocate the existing Airways Corporation monitoring facility. This must be moved from the current site to make room for the new turbines, but it has taken some time to find a suitable site, and to organise the necessary approvals.

As a result, we have had to delay the formal approval of the project by the Meridian board from August 2025 to mid-to-late 2026. This gives us more time to resolve this issue but does not alter our commitment to delivering this important project.

Early works are finished

Despite the challenging conditions that winter can bring, earthworks undertaken during the early works stage were completed at the end of July. These included preparing areas for the on-site concrete batching plant, the substation, a civil works laydown, spoil sites and borrow areas.

All earthworks' areas have been stabilised according to the site-specific Erosion and Sediment Control Plans. The last formal council inspection in late July was 'fully compliant' and site inspections will be reduced from bi-monthly to monthly until grass growth reaches 80%+ and the site is fully stabilised.

We will continue to keep all erosion and sediment controls in place to be re-used for when the main works commence.



Laydown area completed.

Ecology works underway

Ecology assessments continue across the site to assess the impacts of new or varied aspects of the project works. These include the transmission line access track, new fill disposal sites, areas where pest management will be undertaken, and other site access tracks.

We'll soon be undertaking pest control and fencing works on the indigenous bush area located on site which is protected under a QEII covenant.

We regularly hold Iwi, Stakeholder and Community Liaison Group meetings and encourage anyone from within the community to attend. It is a good opportunity to meet some neighbours and for us to provide an update on the project. If you would like to attend, please email us at repower@nzwindfarms.co.nz.

A collaborative approach to sustainability

With every new renewable energy project, comes an opportunity to improve the environment surrounding that project. It's one of the ways Meridian is contributing to a better environment while we play our part in building a better electricity system.

At Te Rere Hau, we have been working closely with local iwi to bring our sustainability commitment to life. A recent initiative was to build a culvert that was functional but also aligned with Mātauranga (Māori knowledge and understanding) and ecological principles.

"By integrating natural fibre spat rope into the culvert, we created a safe fish passage that helps aquatic species on their natural migration," says Pete Ralph, Sustainability Advisor.

"Then, to stabilise the surrounding land and prevent erosion, we used hemp sandbags and turfed the hillside to reduce runoff into nearby wetlands. And the fact we did all of this using natural materials was a real sustainability win."

A cornerstone of the project was early and genuine engagement with local iwi Rangitāne o Manawatū, Rangitāne o Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua.

“We recognised the deep connection iwi have to the whenua and the importance of Te Mātāpuna (headwaters). Iwi were involved from the beginning and to a large extent, lead these stream works. Their traditional ecological knowledge, combined with modern engineering, helped shape an outcome that honours both innovation and kaitiakitanga (guardianship),” says Pete.



Far right image:
Natural fibre spat rope
was included into the
culvert, creating a safe
fish passage.

Left image:
One of 13 kōura found
and moved.

During construction, the team discovered two tuna (eel) and several kōura (freshwater crayfish) in the works area, while a further 13 kōura were found and relocated from another nearby gully area. The specimens were all safely relocated. Fish screens were installed prior to the works starting to protect them from re-entering the construction zone and help preserve this special local ecosystem.

This project is one of many examples of Meridian putting sustainability at the forefront —through collaboration, innovation, and a deep, lasting respect for tangata whenua and te taiao (the environment).

Where to find more information

Please pass this newsletter on to anybody else who may be interested or ask them to subscribe by emailing us at repower@nzwindfarms.co.nz

You can also find more information about the project by scanning the QR code.

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