Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Repowering Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2026 Community Update | EDITION #4

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to our fourth community update for the Te Rere Hau Repowering Project. In this edition, you'll find information on how site works are progressing, funding available for decarbonisation projects, and where you can sign up for our e-newsletter or contact us with any questions you may have.

Pre works blessing

On a calm, clear morning in early April, we held a special pre-dawn blessing at Te Rere Hau to mark the start of enabling works.

We were joined by representatives from three local iwi including Manahi Paewai, kaumātua from Rangitāne o Tamaki-nui-ā-Rua, who performed the blessing; Terry Hapi from Rangitāne o Manawatū, who welcomed us and spoke about the significance of the site; and James Kendrick, representing Kahungungu ki Tamaki-nui-ā-Rua, who attended alongside Kahurangi Hapi-Tangaroa (Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust), Duane Edwards (Rangitāne o Tamaki-nui-ā-Rua), the project team and contractors.



Terry Hapi (Rangitāne o Manawatū) and Manahi Paewai (Kaumatua from Rangitāne o Tāmaki Nui a Rua) facing the moon.



The wider project team gathered after the pre-dawn blessing.

Construction update

Construction works are underway for the enabling works. The works focus on implementing safety improvements to the wind farm access roads in anticipation of increased construction traffic in the area when the main works kick off. Works include:

- Upgrades to the North Range Road/Pahiatua track intersection to improve line of site
- Widening of North Range Road to allow safe large vehicle access to and from site
- Building environmental controls for disposal and temporary stockpile sites

Please be aware that North Range Road will be closed at times to allow this work to occur and regular traffic management will be in place on the Pahiatua Track. Please look at Palmerston North City Council Roadworks and Road Closures (Roadworks and road closures | Palmerston North City Council) website to keep up to date with road closures. The site team can also provide you with any updates to the current situation if needed.



Environmental controls installed in the disposal site.



Pahiatua Track intersection works.

Nacelle Competition

As part of the Te Rere Hau repowering project, we partnered with the University of Auckland's Engineering for Sustainable Design club to explore ways to repurpose decommissioned nacelles (the large 'box' at the top of the turbine tower that holds the generator, gearbox etc) and support our goal of diverting main wind farm components from landfill.

More than 80 students across 13 teams took part in the 12-week competition, developing ideas ranging from planter boxes to DOC huts. The winning concept proposed grid-connected public e-bike and e-scooter charging stations, with second place awarded to enclosed community growing spaces for Manawatū-Whanganui.



Nacelles to be repurposed.



Winning team with the Meridian judges.

Iwi, Community, and Stakeholder Liaison Group Meeting

On 2 June, we held our quarterly Iwi, Community and Stakeholder Liaison group meeting at Aokautere school. This was a great opportunity to hear about the progress of the project and to meet the team. The event was well attended with lots of good questions raised. The next meeting will be held in September, if you are interested in attending, please contact us on the email below.

Funding available for community decarbonisation efforts

Applications will be open from 14 September – 12 October 2026 for Meridian's Community Decarbonisation Fund. We have up to $3 million available to help organisations reduce emissions while increasing the positive impact they create in their communities.

We're looking for projects that deliver both meaningful community impact and measurable emissions reduction. The strongest applications clearly demonstrate how funding will help an organisation do more for its community, whether that's expanding services, reducing operating costs, improving resilience, or creating long-term benefits that extend well beyond the life of the project.

The fund is powered by $2 million from our Certified Renewable Energy customers, plus up to a further $1 million from Meridian.

Find out more (including our eligibility criteria) or register your interest by scanning this QR code or using this www.meridianenergy.co.nz/community-decarbonisation-fund

Moving to an e-newsletter

Our next newsletter will be delivered by email only. It will provide information on Te Rere Hau plus other work we have underway in the region. If you would like to receive these going forward, please sign up by scanning this QR code or using this Bitly link https://bit.ly/46ywGby.

You can also pass this on to anybody else who may be interested in signing up.

Where to find more information

If you have any questions about the project, please email us at tererehau@meridianenergy.co.nz