



Waiinu Energy Park

May 2025 Update | EDITION #1

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the first community update for Meridian Energy's proposed Waiinu Energy Park.

You will be receiving this newsletter as you signed up at our community open day in September last year. We'll be holding a second open day on 9 June – see below for details.

As you're probably aware, the proposed Waiinu Energy Park development would include wind turbines, solar panels and a battery energy storage system. It would also include transmission and grid connection, access roads and associated supporting infrastructure.

This could be one of New Zealand's largest renewable energy projects, helping to strengthen our electricity supply, injecting jobs and revenue into the regional economy, and generating enough energy to power up to 230,000 average homes.

At this stage we estimate the development could generate 1,600GWh of renewable energy annually and include:

- approximately 60 wind turbines of up to 250m in height, generating a total of up to 420MW
- 100ha of solar array
- 8-10km of new transmission lines
- a grid-scale battery energy storage system.

Meridian is committed to increasing the amount of renewable electricity we generate and store so that we can strengthen New Zealand's electricity supply, stay ahead of growing demand and ultimately lower power prices for kiwi homes and businesses.

Wind farms, solar farms and batteries, alongside our hydro stations, are also part of the solution to reduce New Zealand's reliance on fossil fuels.

We appreciate that new developments in the community can be unsettling.

Meridian has a solid track record when it comes to partnering with communities. From prioritising local employment to investing in local initiatives, we strive to establish long-term, positive and rewarding partnerships with the communities close to our developments. You can find out more about our work with communities [on our website](#).

This update will be the first of many as we aim to keep the community up to speed with progress of the Waiinu Energy Park.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with us via renewables@meridianenergy.co.nz.

Ngā mihi,

Michael Thomson

Project Development Manager – Waiinu Energy Park
MERIDIAN ENERGY

Waiinu Energy Park progress update

Since September's open day, we've been advancing the design of the project and undertaking studies to assess the possible effects of the construction and operation of the energy park.

The assessments include:

- landscape and visual
- noise
- ecological
- archaeological
- cultural values
- electromagnetic interference (TV, radio, communications)
- traffic
- construction (e.g. dust, sediment management)
- geotechnical
- stormwater and hydrology.

We intend to apply for referral to the new fast-track approvals process in the upcoming months. If you're curious about how this works, the process is outlined here:

[Process | Fast-track website](#)

Next community open day

With the project design further advanced, and the effects assessments largely complete, it's timely for us to hold another open day for the community. Please come along if you want to learn more.

Waiinu Energy Park community open day

12.00 - 7.00pm, Monday 9 June 2025

Waitōtara Hall, 12 Kaipo Street, Waitōtara



Part of the project site.

About Meridian

Meridian Group is one of New Zealand's largest listed companies and employs around 1,000 people across New Zealand. The New Zealand Government is our majority shareholder at 51%.

As a retailer we sell electricity to homes and businesses through two brands – Meridian and Powershop.

We generate around a third of the country's electricity needs, all from renewable sources – wind, water and sun. We own and operate seven hydro stations, six within the Waitaki Hydro Scheme plus the country's largest – Manapōuri Power Station – and seven wind farms around New Zealand.

We're also building new projects to further strengthen New Zealand's electricity supply, stay ahead of growing demand and ultimately lower power prices for kiwi homes and businesses.



Meridian Assets Map.

Investing for New Zealand

Low hydro lake levels and an acute shortage of gas last winter highlighted the need for New Zealand to quickly bring more renewable developments online to help shore up our energy security.

Besides recently completed projects such as the 176MW [Harapaki Wind Farm](#) and the 100MW Ruakākā Battery Energy Storage System, Meridian has a large pipeline of new developments underway that will deliver additional generation capacity for many years to come. This will see us commit around \$1 billion to future developments this year, and at least \$3 billion by the end of the decade.

We recently announced:

- the start of construction of the 130MW [Ruakākā Solar Farm](#)
- consent for our 90MW [Mt Munro Wind Farm](#) near Eketāhuna
- a power purchase agreement with Harmony Energy / First Renewables in respect of their joint venture to build the 150MW [Tauhei Solar Farm](#) in the Waikato
- a 50-50 joint venture with Nova Energy to build the 400MW [Te Rahui solar farm](#) at Rangitāiki near Taupō.



Meridian's recently completed Ruakākā battery.

In addition, we're working on the repowering of Te Rere Hau Wind Farm near Palmerston North – a project that will replace the original turbines with much more efficient ones that'll generate a lot more power.

We also have a considerable pipeline of future development options. This is important because we estimate that for Meridian to deliver our share of the country's renewable energy needs, we'll need to build the equivalent of 20 Harapaki Wind Farm-sized renewable generation assets by 2050.

It's a huge challenge for our business, but it's critical if we're to make sure New Zealand continues to have all the electricity it needs and that this is available to homes and businesses at affordable prices.

Any questions?

If you have questions about the Waiinu Energy Park, check out our website at www.meridianenergy.co.nz/waiinu-energy-park, come along to the open day, or email us at renewables@meridianenergy.co.nz.

Please pass on this newsletter to anyone you know who might like to receive it. They can [sign up for updates here](#).