



Waiinu Energy Park

December 2025 Update | EDITION #4

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the latest update on Meridian Energy's proposed Waiinu Energy Park. We don't have a huge amount of news, but we wanted to check in before the holiday period.

Project update

Over the last few months we've been continuing to meet with people who are potentially affected by the proposed Waiinu Energy Park – if you'd like to meet with us, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

As mentioned in the [last update](#), we're seeking referral into the Fast-Track Approvals process for this project. It provides certainty about the steps we need to take to gain approval to build the project.

It's taking us a little longer than anticipated to prepare our application for referral into the fast-track process, and we now intend to submit it in the new year. From that point, it'll be a few of months before we learn the outcome of the referral application.

If we're accepted into the fast-track process, we'll then need to submit our substantive application – i.e. the application that needs to be considered and approved before the project can go ahead.

There's information on the process available at fasttrack.govt.nz.

If we're not accepted into the fast-track process, we'll consider other consenting options available through the Resource Management Act.

Construction underway on Meridian's first solar farm

Meridian recently began construction on our first solar farm in New Zealand at Ruakākā in Northland.

With 250,000 solar panels covering an area the size of 170 rugby fields, the 130MW Ruakākā Solar Farm will be capable of producing up to 230GWh of electricity per year – enough to power around half the homes in Northland.

Having invested more than \$1 billion in the last five years, Meridian is investing a further \$2 billion over the next three years in new renewable energy generation and storage. As more new wind and solar assets are built, it'll lighten the demand on the country's hydro lakes to produce power year-round and reduce reliance on expensive thermal fuels like coal and gas.

The Ruakākā Solar Farm project has a strong sustainability focus. More than 79,000 tonnes of construction carbon emissions will be completely offset. In addition, we plan to enhance and protect an existing 18ha wetland and create a native habitat area of around 11.7ha, including a new 5ha wetland. Local employment is also being prioritised.



A 3-D rendering of the
Ruakākā Solar Farm

Any questions?

We'll provide another update once we learn the result of our fast-track referral application.

In the meantime, if you have questions about the Waiinu Energy Park, check out our website at www.meridianenergy.co.nz/waiinu-energy-park or email us at renewables@meridianenergy.co.nz.

You can also phone us on 0800 496 496 or write to us at:

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

Ngā mihi,

Michael Thomson

Project Development Manager – Waiinu Energy Park
MERIDIAN ENERGY