



## Harapaki Wind Farm Development, Hawke's Bay

May 2020 Update | EDITION #2

Kia ora koutou

The world has shifted. Since my last update to you in December, COVID-19 has turned our world upside down. I hope you and your families are keeping well; it certainly has been a challenging time for many.

I want to give you all a brief update on our wind farm development project. I realise there are many other things of greater concern right now, but nonetheless, I want to keep you abreast of where things are at. Please see overleaf for our latest updates.

As well as speaking to a number of people individually about the development of the wind farm, this eNewsletter is a way of keeping you and the wider community informed. Please feel free to forward it on to anybody else that you think may be interested.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at [harapaki@meridian.co.nz](mailto:harapaki@meridian.co.nz).

Ngaa mihi

### **Robert Batters**

Project Manager

Harapaki Wind Farm Development Project

### **About the project**

Our Harapaki wind project involves the development of a wind farm in the Maungaharuru Range, approximately 35km northwest of Napier.

Meridian Energy has a consent to build 41 turbines on Meridian-owned land in the Range, which once constructed, will generate enough renewable energy to power around 70,000 average kiwi homes.

Our Harapaki wind project is part of Meridian's mission to meet New Zealand's growing demand for electricity with 100% renewable energy.

### **Preparatory work underway**

Since my last update to you in December, the team at Meridian Energy has been steadily moving closer to being 'deployment ready' for when we receive approval from the Meridian Board to commence construction of our wind farm in the Hawke's Bay.

This included selecting Hick Spartan JV (a joint venture between Hick Bros Civil Construction and Spartan Construction) as the preferred civil construction contractor, should the construction of the wind farm take place this year. As part of their preparations, and prior to the COVID-19 lockdown, Hick Spartan JV began re-surveying the roading alignments on the windfarm site using drone technology.

In addition to the civil construction contractor, Meridian Energy has reviewed the tenders from wind turbine suppliers and we hope to make a decision on our preferred supplier soon. We've also issued requests for tenders to other suppliers of major electrical components required for the wind farm.

Safety improvements at the wind farm site entrance on State Highway 5 were also carried out earlier this year and NZTA continue to undertake roading remediation works in the area as part of their own maintenance work programme.

### **The arrival of COVID-19**

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the world over. Our project team has been working closely with our suppliers and service providers to understand how the pandemic may impact the supply of major plant and equipment, as well as how a major construction project will operate under our COVID-19 Alert Levels.

Once we're clear on when and how we can deliver this project in a COVID-19 environment, we will be moving ahead with seeking approval from our Meridian Board to commence construction.

Meridian remains committed to building a wind farm in the Hawke's Bay. With many New Zealanders having already felt the economic impact of COVID-19 in terms of job and income losses, we strongly believe in the economic benefits this construction project will bring in terms of employment opportunities for the people of Hawke's Bay as well as providing a clean, renewable energy for New Zealand's future.

We will keep you updated on progress over the coming weeks.

### **Visual simulations**

At the Te Pōhue Community Meeting in November, a few of you were interested in seeing what the Harapaki wind farm will look like once constructed. To this end, we've published computer-generated simulations, created by Landscape Architects Boffa Miskell, which show the proposed Harapaki Wind Farm from a range of vantage points around the wind farm site.

These visual simulations can be found on our website at the following address: [www.meridianenergy.co.nz/harapaki](http://www.meridianenergy.co.nz/harapaki).

If you have any questions or concerns about the Harapaki Wind Farm Development project, please email me at [harapaki@meridian.co.nz](mailto:harapaki@meridian.co.nz).

### **The meaning of Harapaki**

Harapaki was a name selected by the people at Meridian Energy. The word itself translates to 'escarpment', reflecting the dramatic limestone escarpments of the Maungaharuru.