

Waipipi Wind Farm

Newsletter
Edition

10

March
2021

Wind Farm Update

The wind farm installation phase hit two major milestones with all 31 turbines fully erected on February 12th and all turbines operating and generating electricity on February 25th.

The main crane has been demobilised from site along with other equipment used during the installation phase.

The turbine construction crews will continue demobilising during March and the full time Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy operations and maintenance staff will continue their onsite role of keeping the turbines maintained and running.

All civil works have been completed apart from ongoing maintenance and rehabilitation works. These works are expected to be complete in April. All electrical works have been completed on site and at the Waverley Transpower substation. Ongoing maintenance activities will continue.

Once full demobilisation is complete, remaining onsite will be the permanent operations and maintenance facilities for the full-time staff. The site access road adjacent the R&L trucking yard on SH3 will be closed once all construction activities are complete.

Since the beginning construction (October 2019) there have been over 300,000 hours of work completed onsite, the equivalent of 156 full time employees working in the Waverley area.

Photo below: Installation Crew before the Final Lift
Over page: Final Rotor Lift at Turbine 21

Waipipi key facts

Installed capacity:
133 MW

Annual production:
450 GWh per year

Wind turbine type:
SWT130 – 4.3 MW

Number of turbines:
31

Tower height:
95 metres

Blade height:
160 metres

Rotor diameter:
130 metres

Site area:
980 hectares

Transmission line:
11 kilometres of 110kV overhead transmission on monopoles

Construction timeframe:
Approximately 18 months



Since commencing construction, the following works have been completed:



Constructed an onsite access track network of more than 21 km;



Completed the ground improvement and foundation construction at all 31 turbine locations;



Installation and connection of the underground electrical cabling and fibre to all turbine sites;



Completion of the onsite substation and connection works at the Transpower Waverley substation;



Completion of the transmission line from the site to the Transpower Waverley substation; and



All 31 turbines assembled and commissioned.

Fun Facts

- Less than 2% of land affected post construction
- Wind turbine generators (WTG's) spin at 12rpm
- The wind farm will produce enough clean energy each year to power about 65,000 homes
- Average site wind speed = 31kph at hub height
- Swept area of turbine blades = 13,273m²
- Distance from ground to blade at bottom of rotation = 30m
- Each foundation = 430m³ concrete and 65 tons steel
- Over 15,000m³ of concrete poured
- Over 2,000 tons of reinforcing steel used
- Over 21km of site roads built
- Over 57km of 33kV underground cable connecting the turbines
- 11km of transmission line and 91 poles to Transpower Waverley substation



Community Engagement

Tilt Renewables is committed to engaging with the community to ensure there is consistent, transparent and open communication. A Community Consultative Group has been established and is made up of representatives from within the Patea and Waverley communities. A Community Consultative Group meeting and site visit was held in December. Minutes from the CCG meetings can be found on the project webpage.

A site viewing and parking area at the end of Dryden road, along with wind farm information boards is currently being developed. This area is expected to be completed in the coming months.

A wind farm open day is being planned after the completion of all onsite activities. With the ongoing COVID-19 risks and restrictions the date has not yet been established, but once confirmed a notice will be provided to the local community and surrounding area.

COVID-19 Update

Construction activities at Waipipi Wind Farm have continued under the guidance of the COVID-19 Alert Levels, as directed by the New Zealand Government. Specific and diligent site control measures continue to be implemented to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19.

Contact us:

For more information, or to provide any feedback, please visit the project website

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