

KAIWERA DOWNS WIND FARM

September 2026 Newsletter



L-R Riki Parata (Hokonui Rūnuka), Stew Hamilton (Mercury), Matu Coleman-Clarke (Hokonui Rūnuka), Joseph Mooney (MP), Penny Simmonds (MP), Jo Brand (Hokonui Rūnuka), Ben Bell (Gore District Council), Rob Hamilton (Mercury), Scott St John (Mercury).

WELCOME

Welcome to this final newsletter for the construction of the Kaiwera Downs Wind Farm. Together, the two stages of this project have delivered the South Island's largest wind farm. Thanks to the incredible hard-working teams involved, all 36 turbines of the second stage (and all 10 of the first stage) are standing and either on, or ready for service. Together, the 46 turbines will produce enough power each year for around 96,000 homes.*

Everything that needs to be built is now standing up on the hill, and we expect to reach full generation by November this year, as per our original plan. Final commissioning, testing, site rehabilitation and removal of the project construction site will continue through to early 2027. All pictures in this newsletter thanks to Caleb Lay (Hōnetana Productions).

Please forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested.

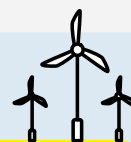
* Number of homes powered per year based on annual average home use of 7000kWh.



WE CELEBRATED

It was a perfect day on 9 September with long views to snowy mountains. We hosted representatives from Hokonui Rūnuka, Mayor Ben Bell, MPs Joseph Mooney and Penny Simmonds, local farmers and community, and people from all the teams who had made this wind farm a real live energy-producing thing. More pictures over the page.

STAGE 2: THE BIG NUMBERS



\$486M Investment in Stage 2



\$100M (estimated) to local economy through employment, support services, our contractors using accommodation, and hospitality



34km New roads within site



150km 33kV electrical cable to deliver electricity from the turbines to the site substation



24km Fencing constructed on site so farming operations can continue



129 Full time equivalent staff working on the project
Local services include included engineering, consulting, surveying, design, labour and support services



30 Nationalities worked on the project



TELLING THE STORY

We know that this area of the country has a long and rich history, and it's an honour to now be part of it. We've worked with local iwi and historians to create storyboards to tell this story. These will be put up on SH93 at rest area next to the monument to Otarua Hotel later in the year.

We hope local people and visitors to the area will stop by and learn more about the history of the area, and how it's farmed today (hint: including wind farms). And when it's on our website, we'll email everyone on our mailing list.



OUT AND ABOUT IN YOUR COMMUNITIES

Thank you for your hospitality over the past years while we've built the wind farm.

The Kaiwera Downs wind farm community fund will continue to support nearby projects and groups in the communities (next funding round opens end January 2027).

Find out more mercury.co.nz/kaiwera-downs-community-fund

We are already looking forward to the Christmas Carnival in Gore. For the fourth year running, we'll pick up the tab to offer free fairground rides as well as putting on our yellow bee t-shirts to hand some jellybeans about. And something else to float your boat, once again we'll be getting amongst it as a judge of the floats in the Christmas Parade.



Where's Wally style shot of the mix and mingle



Mercury team get our selfie game on



Mercury's Philip Wong Too and Stu Davie with Mayor Ben Bell



GETTING IN TOUCH

If you have questions or concerns or you'd like to join our mailing list for occasional updates
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