

KAIWAIKAWE WIND FARM.

November 2025 Newsletter.



The roading within the wind farm is high quality to carry the heavy components and equipment. Here, a road is built in the northern end of site.

WELCOME.

Welcome to this newsletter for Mercury's Kaiwaikawe wind farm.

We put these out every few months to keep you up to date with what we're doing up through the wind farm build.

Please forward this to anyone who might be interested. They can join our distribution list for future updates on kaiwaikawewindfarm@mercury.co.nz

AND OFF SITE...

Northpower update

Northpower told us "some residents of Dargaville and along the transmission line route to the Mercury wind farm have had multiple power outages and disruptions over the last few months, and we really appreciate their understanding and patience during this work".

As part of this work to enable the wind farm, Northpower have been able to upgrade and maintain some their distribution network in parts of the Dargaville area including a major upgrade of the Dargaville Substation.

They told us "we are glad we can enable infrastructure to support renewable generation, and upgrade our network to be more resilient in the long run and would like to extend our sincere thanks for everyone's patience". For more info, see their website (<https://northpower.nz/case-study/mercurys-kaiwaikawe-wind-farm>)



The new switchyard is underway - image shows transformer pad and one of the gantry poles.

PROGRESS ON SITE...




BELOW GROUND

Out of 12 turbines as 10.11.25

Wind turbine sites excavated	10/12
Anchor cages to attach the towers installed	8/12
Foundation concrete pours complete	8/12
Foundations backfilled	4/12

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

Towers installed	0/12
Blades installed	0/12
Wind turbine complete	0/12
Operation & Maintenance Building and workshop	COMPLETE
Sub-station 	35%
Transmission line	75%

Getting the kit to site (when the rubber hits the road!)

The transport route upgrades that were needed for the big loads are now complete. This includes the upgrades to the bridges at Awakino and Tangiteroria, and work on SH14, Maitahi Road and Babylon Coast Road. This has been a huge piece of work by our contractors and Waka Kotahi NZTA – and we are aware has taken a lot of patience from other road users. Thank you for your patience.

A live trial run of the transport from port is planned for overnight in mid-November – this will test whether the longest loads will get through from port at Whangarei to our site. This is the culmination of all the desktop planning and crews working on SH14 and SH12 to widen or straighten corners and, where necessary, to remove or replace signs and fencing.



The Community Consultative Group looking at a poured turbine foundation on site earlier this month.

Transport of the components to build the wind turbines and substation is scheduled to begin on 17 February 2026 and will continue through until May 2026. A range of delivery trucks will be used to move the oversized (long and/or heavy) loads, and most movement will take place at night to minimise impact on local road users.



LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEW YEAR

The new 66kV transmission pole structures and line installation are progressing well. We are planning for the final installation phase of works over the coming summer months. Any required power outages or disruptions will be communicated to local residents by Northpower.

We are also expecting to complete helicopter line conductor stringing during the weeks commencing 12 January 2026 and 19 January 2026 (areas associated with hard-to-reach areas around Pamu land and cycleway / wetlands).

The Northpower Dargaville Substation upgrade is expected to be completed in two phases. The first phase is planned to be completed and livened by early June with the second phase to be livened once the wind farm is online and nearing 30% output.



COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP

We rely on your feedback to us through email (see above) or directly if you see us around town. Another way that we find out what community concerns and questions are, is through a small group of local people who meet with us quarterly. The community consultative group (pictured above) includes neighbours from the area we're building in, and representatives from iwi and DOC. There's also a council representative (huge thanks to Ash Nayyar who took this role while he was on the Council – we're looking forward to meeting the new elected member who will join us).



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

This quarter we were able to offer brand new Samsung TVs to some local community groups. Mercury's partnership with Samsung is part of our offer to our electricity customers, but it was awesome to be able to offer support on a no-strings early-Christmas-present basis to Dargaville Intermediate, Arapohue Retreat, Dargaville Museum, Dargaville Community CCTV project and Waikaraka Marae.

Speaking of Christmas, we were stoked to be asked by Rotary if we would support the Dargaville Christmas parade. Of course we will – we're definitely Christmas joy-ful to join Raine & Horne as major sponsors. Looking forward to seeing you at the Parade on 6 December. We'll be the ones in the yellow t-shirts.



Dab chicks were spotted (but no nests). The project will enhance some wetlands to create more habitat for these shallow nesting birds. Credit: Boffa Miskell

GETTING IN TOUCH

If you have questions or concerns please let us know kaiwaikawewindfarm@mercury.co.nz