

KAIWERA DOWNS WIND FARM

April 2026 Newsletter



Dawn at the wind farm, 24 March 2026

WELCOME

Welcome to this newsletter. After two years on this site we've made good progress across the program, below-ground, at ground-level works, with bringing in the parts and standing up the turbines, and with our connection to the Grid. At this stage of the project, the milestones keep coming.

Huge thanks to the local community and road users for your ongoing patience. If you're curious about the project or have any concerns, let's chat (email below). We may include the query in our next newsletter in case others are also interested.

Please forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested. They can join our distribution list for future updates on the project and the community fund at kaiweradownswindfarm@mercury.co.nz



PROGRESS ON SITE

Out of 36 turbines as 30.03.26



BELOW GROUND

Wind turbine sites excavated	COMPLETE
Foundation concrete pours complete	COMPLETE
Turbine locations ready for installation	31/36

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

Towers installed	21/36
Nacelles and blades installed	21/36
Wind turbine complete*	21/36
Operation & maintenance building and workshop	COMPLETE
Sub-station	COMPLETE
Transmission line	COMPLETE
Transmission connection	COMPLETE

*Includes mechanical and electrical completion (internal ladders, lifts, electrical cabling etc).



PUSHING AHEAD OVER SUMMER

At this stage of the project, the milestones keep coming as the teams have made the most of the summer season. Coming up in April the first 'string' of six turbines will be livened and start generating

electricity – these are the northern-most turbines and will be visible from SH93.

All internal roads (around 34km) are now complete, and the foundations and hardstands for each wind turbine are now excavated and built. The final three to be finished are at the edge of the project site, pictured overleaf looking south-east.



Turbine locations 34, 35 and 36. All hardstands are now complete.



The biggest cranes you ever saw are used to assemble the turbines



OUT AND ABOUT IN YOUR COMMUNITIES

The third annual community funding round was open during February, and word had spread. There were applications from 25 groups and projects! We're super grateful to our local panel who managed to support 13 applicants. One of the recipients was Southland Cancer Society, who applied for funding towards their grocery and petrol voucher assistance programme with a focus on local patients. They told us "Rural areas are some of the hardest places to find grant support, and Mercury are doing a wonderful thing helping their local cancer community, especially as petrol prices are spiking and rural patients need to drive more to get to local and Dunedin appointments."

We'll be putting up more information about who was successful this year on our webpage over the next week or so, for more info check out mercury.co.nz/kaiwera-downs-community-fund

The **Pukerau Cemetery Support Group Trust** is one group that has received support from our Community Fund.



Margaret with signage at Pukerau cemetery.

Last month we were hosted by Catherine and Margaret Pullar at the Cemetery. It was a delight to see the restoration of the cemetery in a quiet part of Pukerau (even though the high quality wind resource nearly swept us off our feet!). This historic cemetery is a beautiful source of connection with local families past and present. The Fund has supported restoration of the Hay and Purvis graves, and work is about to begin on the Eadie grave.

We were stoked when **Mataura School** invited Stu Davie and Katy Scoullar along to talk about renewable energy and our nearby wind farms. And then we returned the favour, having the whole school up to Kaiwera Downs 1 wind farm on a rare wind-less day.



Mercury's Stu Davie and Katy Scoullar inspected roads built by Mataura School children in their sandpit – definitely some roading engineers in the making.

GETTING IN TOUCH

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