

KAIWERA DOWNS WIND FARM STAGE 2

September 2025 Newsletter



Members of the local community consultative group and other neighbours join us to drive through the site

WELCOME

Welcome to this newsletter as winter leaves us, but spring is keeping us on our toes.

After a kinder winter than last year we've made good progress on site. Huge thanks to the site teams and local businesses getting behind this project, and for the support (and patience) from local people.

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 UPDATE

Each turbine is located on a hardstand, with a crane pad and component laydown areas. After the foundations are poured and backfilled and the crane pad is completed, they are handed over to Vestas who will stand up the turbines.

- ▶ Foundations dug: **23**
- ▶ Blinding (base concrete layer): **20**
- ▶ Foundations poured: **18**
- ▶ Roads built on site: **27km** (of 34km)
- ▶ Cabling: **75km** (of 90km)

Each foundation includes around 400cm³ of concrete, and a steel cage of around 50 tonnes, and the two on-site batching plants will make at least 80m³ of concrete per hour that is trucked through site by around a dozen trucks to carry out a steady pour.

Once finished, there will be 34km of roads throughout the site, high enough spec to carry heavy trucks and their loads and heavy cranes. So far, approximately 27km of roading has been completed and the last 7km has been stripped out and having the subgrade constructed.

Cabling connects each turbine to the substation so that the energy can flow to the grid. This is laid through site through a separate cable trench that is dug outside the road corridor between turbines and through to the substation. About 75 km of cable connecting the turbines has been laid, of 90km required to complete this work.

From there, construction is underway of the poles that will take the lines from the substation to the main connection near SH93. Base tower sections for the transmission infrastructure have been stood and the upper sections are beginning to be installed by crane.



HANDS ON THE TOOLS

As work spreads out across the site we have crews doing roading, fencing, pouring concrete, laying cables, building a substation, standing power poles, crushing rocks, blowing up other rocks ...

Most days we have about 125 personnel on site, and this will ramp up with Vestas and additional sub-contractors starting to arrive over the next couple of months. There could be over 200 people on site on busy days.

A site compound has been established where most teams are based. And the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building is now mostly constructed, and will be the future hub for the team looking after both ends of the wind farm (Kaiwera Downs 1 and 2).

KEEPING AN EYE ON OUR ENVIRONMENT

Preparation is underway to carry out our first round of falcon monitoring this summer. The site staff haven't spotted any since construction began last year, so it will be interesting to see if Wildlands spot any with their trained eyes!



Starting work on network connection point



Electrical work at sub-station

THE SUB-STATION

Around 50 crew were involved in building the new sub-station. Civil construction is all but done with Martin Civil Construction looking after the drains, ducting and building the station. The electrical fit-out is underway with two 120 tonne transformers due to site end of this month. The substation will connect to the 220kv line 2.5 km away.

LOOKING AHEAD

Kit will begin to be delivered to site in early December. The big trucks from Southport are planned to travel the same route as they did to the Kaiwera Downs 1 construction: up SH1 and onto SH93 or via Kaiwera Road. Blades will be transported through Edendale, Wyndham, and Matarua and up SH93.



For more information, or to provide any feedback, please visit:
mercury.co.nz/kaiwera-downs or email: kaiweradownswindfarm@mercury.co.nz