

Turitea wind farm

Community Liaison Group



3 October 2019

AGENDA

1. Introductions; Health and Safety
2. Project update
 - Mercury overview
 - Wind Farm
 - Transmission
3. Opportunities for feedback
4. Follow ups to previous meeting

2 WHAT WE'LL DISCUSS TONIGHT



MARGARET KOUVELIS (Independent Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced representatives of the main contractors on the project:

From Electrix: Kevin Small and Alison Gardiner

From Vestas: Duncan Wallbank

MARGARET noted that hard copies of the Mercury 2019 Annual Report were available for everyone to take home. The Community Liaison Group was featured in a side panel on page 37 of the report.

DENNIS RADICH (Project Director) introduced the team from Mercury attending this meeting: Mark Henry, Chris Singleton, Katy Scoullar. New team members at this meeting are John Campbell (Project Manager), Nigel Fluit (Site Manager), Stephanie Kirk (Environmental Adviser).

JOHN CAMPBELL (Project Manager) introduced himself to the meeting. John has a long track record including around 20 years of wind farm construction experience in Scotland and Australia. He has spent the last 11 years running wind farm projects in Australia. DENNIS remarked that John has more wind farms under his belt than New Zealand does!

JOHN said that a team had now been built of experienced people, together with consultants. From now on they would be here in Palmerston North and available for discussion of any points of the project. Nigel Fluit (Site Manager) is permanently located in Palmerston North.

PROJECT UPDATE - MERCURY



Duncan Annandale and Andrew Day at Tilt's Tararua Wind Farm



iwi blessing

3 PROJECT OVERVIEW



DENNIS told the meeting that Mercury's commitment and focus on wind is 'front and centre' in the company's

Annual Report. After a decade in the early 2000s focusing on geothermal development, growing wind generation would be the focus of this decade for Mercury.

At the company's Annual Shareholder Meeting at Eden Park content was heavily focused on the near to medium future and Mercury's wind development opportunities. DENNIS shared a video with the meeting summarising Mercury's consented wind farm and transmission sites in the Manawatū.

A member of the meeting asked whether Mercury had decided to go ahead with the turbines at the southern end of the site. DENNIS said that while no decision had been made yet, the southern turbines will be put in place as soon as the commercial opportunity arises. Analysis and evaluation of the market continues.

The slide's first photograph showed Mercury's Property Manager Duncan Annandale with Andrew Day, a local landowner. The photograph was taken at Tilt's Tararua Wind Farm in the Manawatū (Mercury is a 19.99% shareholder in Tilt).

The second photograph on the slide showed representatives of Rangitāne o Manawatū and Rangitāne o Tamaki nui a Rua who blessed the construction area for the initial 33-turbine project. Also in the photograph: members of the Mercury and Vestas teams.

Mercury was continuing to engage with iwi to ensure that they were respected and involved throughout the wind farm construction and operation.



KEVIN SMALL (Electrix) updated the meeting on progress on the build of the transmission infrastructure to support the wind farm.

What have we been doing?

- *Geo tech*
- *Site mobilization*
- *Greens Road design*
- *Helicopter construction design*
- *Finalise tower and pole design and commence manufacturing*

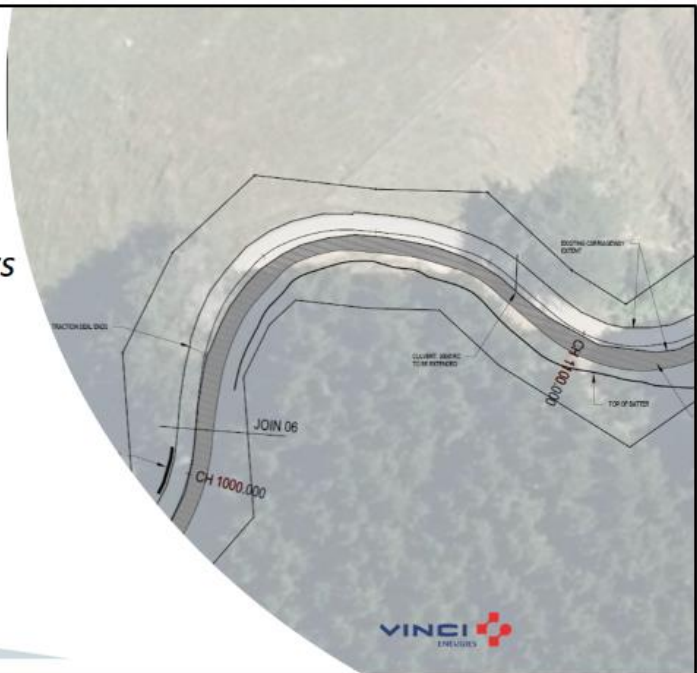


KEVIN confirmed that they were still in the “getting ready” phase, including working on structure designs, environmental and consent conditions and discussion with landowners.

- Geotech work was taking place to gain clarity around ground conditions to ensure strong foundations for the structures
- The teams were getting on to site, starting with tracks and facilities on Kahuterewa Road
- It was a consent condition to upgrade Greens Road, and work was taking place on the designs for this
- Due to the landscape some of the towers were to be located in, some towers would be put in place using helicopters rather than bulldozing tracks through highly valued eco-systems
- Towers and poles were being manufactured offshore, and would be brought to New Zealand by boat

Before Christmas

- *Greens Road upgrade*
- *Geotech in the reserve*
- *Trial construction of towers in China*
- *Foundations for poles*



KEVIN confirmed the points on the slide, outlining activity taking place between now and Christmas

Signs will be set up...

- *Windfarm construction, general awareness and 0800 number*
- *Greens Road upgrade*
- *Construction Vehicle speed limits*
- *Construction vehicle engine braking*

At different locations:

- *Beginning of Kahuterawa Rd*
- *Beginning of Greens Rd*
- *Cycle park car park*
- *Turitea Rd*



KEVIN showed examples of signage around the works Electrix will be carrying out.

He noted that the Construction Vehicle Speed Limited on the slide were for construction vehicles, not for members of the community.

He asked for further suggestions about where the signs could be placed, for the safety of all users of the area (on and off road).



KEVIN explained that traditional tower construction has sections being lowered to the crews who 'catch it' and bolt it together.

Working under suspended loads is now not accepted as best practice and alternative safer ways of working have been developed and would be used at the Turitea site.

KEVIN showed a video where crews on the ground used ropes to orientate and land pieces that were transported through the air by helicopter. Plans will be made for most efficient use of helicopters, with more than one structure being built at once, to make the most of this expensive resource.



Structure numbers



DOCUMENTS AND PLANS – MERCURY.CO.NZ/WINDUPDATES

- > Approved rehabilitation/ revegetation plan
- > Approved transmission line site environmental management plans
- > Approved Turitea site access
- > Approved Turitea weed control plan
- > Approved Wind Farm construction environmental management plan
- > Approved wind farm construction noise management plan
- > Approved wind farm site environmental management plan Area 1
- > Final Turitea Bird & Bat Report



MARK explained that all these plans had to be made and approved before construction can begin.

They are all now approved/ final from Council, and uploaded to the Mercury.co.nz/windupdates site since last meeting and notified to the community stakeholders email list. Although they are approved, they remain live documents and open for comments by stakeholders, and potential review by Council.

A member of the meeting said that the resolution on some of the graphics within the documents on the website was not high. This was noted.

FOLLOW UPS TO PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Follow ups to discussion from previous meeting
2. Dates for next meeting: 5 December, same venue

12 ACTIONS TAKEN AFTER LAST MEETING



DENNIS talked through actions taken as a result of the last meeting.

- The quality of images and maps in the slides had been improved since last meeting following feedback.
- It was confirmed that the planning around Greens Rd and Turitea Road had taken into account the walkers, horse riders and cyclists who used this road:
 - It was included in Electrix Construction Traffic Management Plan. Additional temporary traffic controls will be in place during the upgrade of Greens Rd to cover all road users, including walkers of the Te Araroa trail, by means of signage, notification on the Te Araroa trail website with alternative routes, and providing a temporary diversion around the upgrade works. We are also in discussion with a neighbouring landowner about offering walkers an alternative route between lower Greens Rd and the summit
 - It had also been noted by consultants from Palmerston North City Council as part of their considerations
- On Turitea Road, the first bridge has a blind spot. This was included in Transpower & Electrix induction/s for all workers so that they are aware of this potential hazard. DENNIS noted that there would be very limited construction traffic accessing Harts Rd via Turitea Rd (195 Trucks, between September 2019 and April 2020).

LOCAL BUSINESSES INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT

Ashhurst Engineering
ABB's local crew
Auburn Court
Advanced Security
Awatea Park (accommodation)
BakerAg
B&M Fire
BK's Motorlodge
Blackmore Valuations
Café Cuba
Distinction Cuba (accommodation)

Distinction Coachman
Quest
GHD
Higgins Concrete
John Turkington Forestry
Manawatu Golf Course
Palmerston North Airport
Silverfin Nominees (office)
Stringfellows

13 FURTHER CONTRACTS BEING AWARDED – THIS LIST WILL GROW



MARGARET told the meeting that this list of local businesses had been prepared after a discussion at the previous meeting about positive impact from the project on the local economy. As construction ramped up, this list will grow.

A member of the meeting asked about the possibility of training local people or offering apprenticeships for the maintenance of the wind farm. DENNIS said that Vestas, who will operate the wind farm for Mercury, has a 20 year history in the Manawatu, and additional jobs will come from this project. DUNCAN WALLBANK (Vestas) confirmed that there is likely to be some recruitment locally, and training is always required.

A member of the meeting asked whether helicopters would be flying over residential areas. KEVIN said that the Council consents required a noise evaluation, and that helicopters were unlikely to fly below Browns Flat. Helicopters would fly in to the Palmerston North area and possibly park at the airport overnight, then move up to the construction site where they would be used to ferry equipment that had been brought in previously by truck to the wind farm construction site. He confirmed that heavy loads would not be flown over residential areas.

A member of the meeting asked whether the payment made to landowners for transmission poles on their land would transfer to a new owner, if the land were to be sold. DENNIS said his understanding was the transmission line payments were a one-time payment.

A member of the meeting asked for clarification of an earlier point around power prices being sufficient to support development of the southern turbines. DENNIS said that wholesale power prices were not directly correlated to the prices paid by residential users, and because power generated by the wind farm was sold to the wholesale market, this is the price being considered. A decision on the commercial value of developing new generation was based on analysis of projections of what might happen for the next 25 years.

The meeting ended at 6.30pm