

# Turitea wind farm Community Liaison Group



Tēnā tātou

This emailed PowerPoint pack would have been discussed at the previously scheduled Community Liaison Group meeting on 9 February, which was unable to be held due to precautions around the spread of Covid-19.

Having to cancel this in-person meeting means that **Dennis Radich**, Project Director, will not have a chance to say his farewell to you in person. Dennis will be leaving Mercury late next month after having driven Mercury's wind development strategy, and latterly this project, for over a decade. We wish him well.

Our project manager **John Campbell** will also finish up, this month. John brought huge experience to this project: we proudly introduced him as someone who has built more wind farms over his career than there are currently operating in New Zealand (!) and we have benefited from his knowledge and guidance.

**Glen Twining**, who has attended past CLG meetings, will be taking over as Project Manager. Glen has over 20 years experience in Mercury and has been involved with running this project since 2018.

## PROJECT UPDATE



2



*Pictured: Looking north from the Reserve across the 33 operating turbines*

We're very glad to be able to tell you that the Northern end of the site is almost complete, with all 33 turbines generating renewable energy to the grid. Three of the four sections have been handed over to Mercury (and will be operated by a new Vestas team day to day) and the fourth is pending.

North:

- Rehabilitation works continue and fencing is being reinstated
- The northern office compound near the North entrance on Aokautere/ Pahiatua Track is being dismantled, with a crane used to remove empty office Portacomms.
- Turbine servicing is ongoing.

Reserve Road earthworks are ongoing, with trimming, filling, proof rolling and capping of the final area through to the Southern zone.

South:

- Major civil earthworks continue to shape the landscape upon which to erect the turbines, with culvert installation and roading being put in place
- Ongoing work in the Browns Flat substation area, with over 600 piles installed so far to support the substation foundation

## NOISE – TIMELINE

2021	February	Noise first reported; noise monitoring units installed by environmental acoustics consultants (Marshall Day)
	April	Noise monitoring information provided to Electrix
	July	Electrix queries which properties are impacted
	August	Mercury re-engages Marshall Day for further noise monitoring
	September	Electrix attends site, dampers installed to close apertures in the poles Mercury engages acoustic inspection services to assist in identifying the source of the noise
	October	Acoustic inspection results inconclusive due to wind conditions not being appropriate during their attendance at site
	November	Electrix commits to installing blanking plates to cross arms of the poles
2022	January	Blanking plates installed. After further noise complaints, Mercury inspection identifies further holes in poles that have not been plugged and calls for further attendance on site by contractor



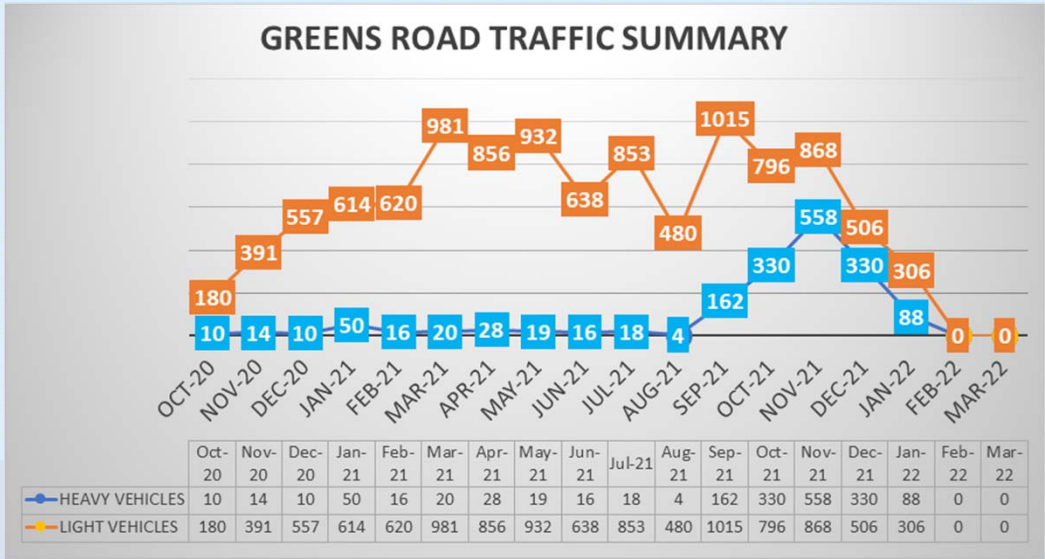
We acknowledge that some residents around the Kahuterawa and Greens Road areas continue to be frustrated by wind-induced noise from the transmission infrastructure. While we have tried repeatedly to identify and address the situation, and believe this is now partially resolved (in January the entire line was shut down for two days for this and other works to be safely carried out), we know that this will be of little comfort to those who remain impacted.

The timeline shows the ongoing attempts by our contractors Electrix, who installed the infrastructure, Marshall Day (environmental acoustics consultants who monitor the noise) and Northpower (acoustic inspection services, who were engaged by Mercury to help identify the specific source of the noise) to be on site during the right conditions in order to locate what parts of the structure need to be addressed. Unfortunately Northpower, who have expertise in this field, are not local and therefore have to schedule their time on site in advance and monitor the wind conditions and resulting noise they find on those days.

Electrix assures us that they are taking this situation very seriously and understand the impact it is having on some people in the community, as do we.

They will return to site to make further adjustments as soon as conditions allow. Mercury is also seeking availability from Northpower to return to site in the offending wind conditions, understanding the difficulties in coordinating this.

### GREENS ROAD TRAFFIC SUMMARY



We agreed to share the ongoing count of truck movement numbers on Greens Road.

This is the latest monthly traffic summary for Greens Road (to end of January).

Willem Venter (Vestas Environmental Professional for Turitea) sends this to the Council each month, and a table showing the number of heavy vehicle movements (one in, one out equals 2) on Greens Road.

## ACCESS TO THE SOUTHERN SITE ENTRANCE



5



*Pictured (left) Greens Road; (right) a board is used as part of the tracking of truck deliveries into the south to keep within consent conditions.*

Work on the southern section of the site is continuing, with site access for the components to build the 27 turbines to remain via the northern site entrance as planned and consented. The existing consent limits heavy truck movements on the roads in the south. As we've said before, we are working with the contractors involved to explore options for greater efficiency in trucking materials for the earthworks and roading yet to be constructed, directly to the southern part of the site.

Late last week Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) granted us permission to take the application to vary our consent conditions directly to the Environment Court. We continue to consider the benefits of going through this process before making any further decisions, and we'll keep you informed of developments as this is a dynamic situation with different contractors, scheduling on the project and even the weather playing a part.

We are continuing to work with our contractors on efficiencies across the construction programme, with the consent variation proposal a part of this ongoing effort.

As part of the work towards this potential solution, the project team have reviewed the numbers for total and daily truck numbers. With the concerns raised through the feedback process as a starting point, they've overlaid the progress being made on the Reserve Road, coming up with a reduced set of truck numbers that have been adjusted in the consent variation application:

	Daily max. truck numbers	Cumulative max. truck numbers
Current consent	34	5,800*
Previous request as notified	150	22,000
Revised request	50	13,500

*already taken place*

*\*around half of these truck movements have*

The new draft Construction Traffic Management Plan that was produced to address concerns from the feedback process is now being reviewed, to include these new reduced numbers and the corresponding reduction in traffic impacts.

**The revised draft Construction Traffic Management Plan will be shared with you later this month via email and loaded to the [turiteawindfarm.co.nz](http://turiteawindfarm.co.nz) website, for your review and feedback.**

In a separate but related correspondence with PNCC, we have sought explicit approval from the Council for our continued use of the southern access to the site, as is required under the consent.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING



6



*Pictured (left) track work and environmental controls on farmland in the South; (right) gecko in transit.*

Works in the North are continuing to be closed out, with areas being progressively handed back to landowners following fence reinstatement, removal of sediment control ponds, topsoiling areas and re-vegetating the landscape by spraying hydroseed.

During this summer earthworks period, a Ngahere gecko was discovered within the earthworks area. We activated our lizard management response and the lizard was relocated safely to an approved location, under the guidance of local DoC advisers. Last year we re-homed 22 geckos that had been removed from site for their safety during construction in the area. Watch the video (<https://youtu.be/LXS2SUUGXfw>).

Bulk earthworks in the South are full steam ahead. The photos show the significant scale of bulk earthworks, where the access roads between the turbines are being constructed, as well as cut and fill areas where the existing ground level is either lowered or raised to provide level platforms for the turbines. Sediment retention ponds can be seen in the photos, which remove sediment from the incoming dirty water, and encourages sediment to settle out, and allows clean water to discharge from the site.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION > [TURITEAWINDFARM@MERCURY.CO.NZ](mailto:TURITEAWINDFARM@MERCURY.CO.NZ)

Thank you for your interest in the Turitea Wind Farm. Our team is available to discuss any questions that you may have. Please email [turiteawindfarm@mercury.co.nz](mailto:turiteawindfarm@mercury.co.nz) or call us on 0800 201 520 and we'll get back to you directly. You'll find further information about the project at [www.turiteawindfarm.co.nz](http://www.turiteawindfarm.co.nz)