

# Mount Emerald Wind Farm Update



## Major milestone reached at Mount Emerald Wind Farm

Construction at the Mount Emerald Wind Farm reached an important milestone on the 11th August, when the first of the 53 turbine foundations was poured.

The 800-tonne foundation will be replicated for each turbine to provide an immovable base, ensuring it can withstand the region's strongest winds. Safety and quality control requirements are rigorous throughout this process.

Each footing is an octagonal based pyramid roughly 17m x 17m, and tapers from an edge depth of 450mm to 2.5m at the centre. Footings will contain roughly 50 tonnes of reinforcing steel and 350m<sup>3</sup> of concrete.

The site of each footing is first excavated to the correct depth and then the reinforcing cage is placed before the concrete is poured. Concrete is delivered from the onsite batching plant in a continuous pour lasting around 6 hours and will require up to 70 truckloads. A designated group of concrete trucks have now arrived onsite and are unlikely to leave until the job is complete.

Once the concrete has cured and been engineer certified to the appropriate specifications, the foundation is backfilled with rock and soil to match the natural surface level. At this point the foundation is ready for the bottom section of the tower to be bolted to it.

At present, 14 of 53 turbine locations have been excavated ahead of the first turbine erection scheduled for late November.

### Turbine components delivery

Wind turbine components will start to arrive at Cairns Port in October and will then be delivered to site over an eight month period.

The delivery route will see trucks head south from Cairns and use the Bruce, Palmerston and Kennedy Highways to get to Walkamin, before using Hansen and Springmount Roads to get to site.

All parts will be delivered with the approval from the Department of Transport and Main Roads for oversize loads.

## Road construction keeps impacts to a minimum

A major component of Mount Emerald's civil works program has been the construction of a 12.7km main access road which traverses the site.

The road which has up to a 15-degree grade in some areas is now nearing completion. It provides a delivery and transit route from the project's onsite office at the site's eastern entrance, up the hill and across to the Powerlink substation near the western edge of the site.

Access tracks to the various turbine sites all stem from this main access road.

Detailed site clearance activities are conducted prior to any road areas being disturbed.

Clearance activities first inspect the area for endangered flora and fauna species, unexploded ordinance and cultural heritage items. If identified specific management plans are used to either preserve, remove or make the area safe.

An extensive rehabilitation and revegetation program will ensure our environmental footprint remains very small. Less than three percent of the total site will be used.

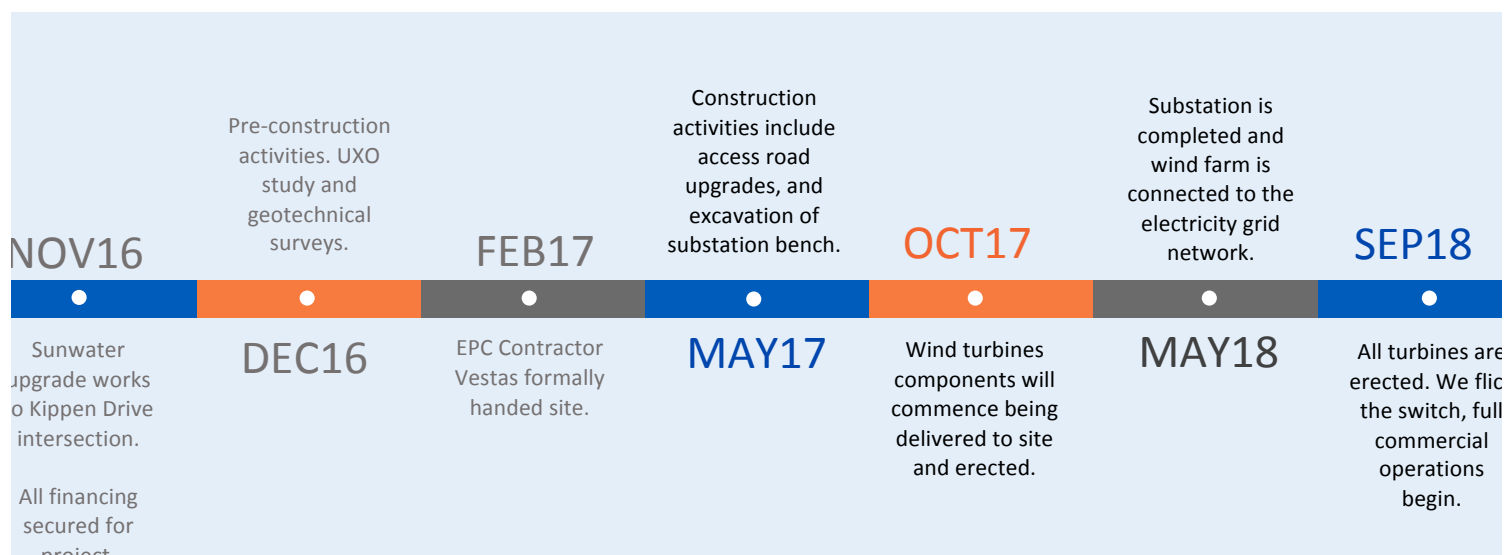


## Introducing the Mount Emerald plant nursery

Endangered plants are being avoided on-site wherever possible, however in some cases ecologists are having great success in relocating plants to new homes away from construction.

Teams are also collecting a variety of native seeds and seedlings to propagate new plants for revegetating the site after construction.

To assist in the success of these programs a green house has been established on-site where plants can be grown or held before being planted.





## Ratch continues Mareeba Rodeo Sponsorship

A record crowd of more than 14,000 were on hand to cheer on cowboys and cowgirls at this year's Mareeba Rodeo on July 15&16. This is the third year Ratch has been involved with the Rodeo which is one of the region's major annual community events.

The Ratch big screen ensured spectators were able to see all thrills and spills up close. Ratch will be looking to widen its support of regional events once its Community Benefits Fund is initiated after the Mount Emerald Wind Farm is completed.



*QUEENSLANDER!: A highlight of this year's Mareeba Rodeo was the Battle of the States with Queensland triumphing over New South Wales.*

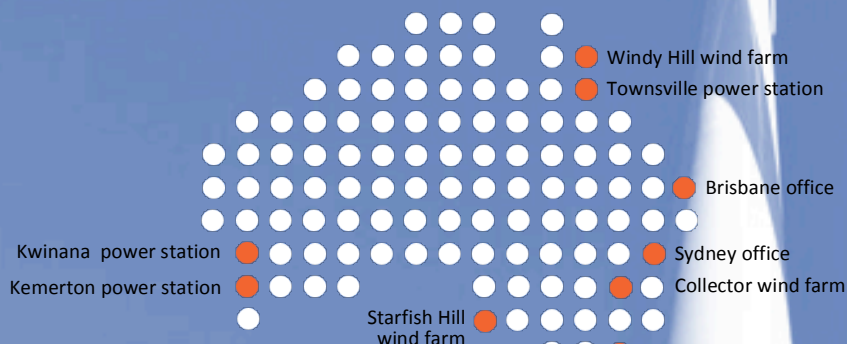


## Atherton Show goes off with a bang

Ratch's first year of sponsorship for the Atherton Show in July helped fund a spectacular fireworks and laser show.

Ratch's Community Relations Manager Kim Forde was also on hand to present the prize for best wood carving as part of the Arts & Crafts Exhibition.

Ratch is answering Australia's call for cleaner energy.



For more information

Please visit  
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**RAC**