

Mount Emerald Wind Farm Update



Photo courtesy Ports North

First shipment of project freight sails into Cairns Port

Construction of the Mount Emerald Wind Farm has reached another major milestone with the first shipment of project freight arriving at Port of Cairns on the 20th September. The vessel Erna Oldendorff arrived at the Port carrying tower sections for Ratch Australia Corporation's \$360 million project.

The first shipment was followed by a second vessel, the Emerald (purely a coincidence), docked on the 27th September and was loaded with 81 of the 159 turbine blades to be delivered for the project.

Over the life of the project's construction, six cargo vessels containing over 450 components, such as blades and towers, will transit through the Port of Cairns totalling an estimated 185,000 revenue tonnes of cargo.

Once unloaded the various components will be stored at a newly constructed holding facility at Tingira Street, before they can be transported to the wind farm site.

For more information, please visit ratchaustralia.com or mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au

Freight sets new records

The delivery of the turbine blades on September 27 represented the largest cargo to ever transit through the Port of Cairns.

Unloading and transporting the 57m wind turbine blades was an impressive sight.

Two on-board cranes lowered each 16-tonne blade one at a time onto a truck with an extendable 40m tray at full length.

The blades were then transported to the laydown area at Tingira Street under police escort.



The first truckload of turbine components will be transported from the cargo laydown area in Tingira Street, Cairns to the 2,422 hectare wind farm site near Walkamin in October.

Trucks will head south from Cairns and use the 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 according to a detailed route assessment plan.

Safety will be a priority and roads will not be closed during transit as the plan will accommodate opportunities for motorists to regularly pass the trucks so as to reduce any inconvenience.

NOV16	Pre-construction activities. UXO study and geotechnical surveys.	FEB17	Construction activities include access road upgrades, and excavation of substation bench.	OCT17	Substation is completed and wind farm is connected to the electricity grid network.	SEP18
Sunwater upgrade works to Kippen Drive intersection.	DEC16	EPC Contractor Vestas formally handed site.	MAY17	Wind turbines components will commence being delivered to site and erected.	MAY18	All turbines are erected. We flick the switch, full commercial operations begin.
All financing secured for project.						

Wind farm creates jobs for 300

The promise to create employment opportunities is ringing true with the number of people inducted to work on the site passing the 300 mark in September.

From the outset, Ratch has placed a high importance on securing a high level of local content for the construction works. This commitment to local participation would seem to be working with around 110 people engaged who live within 50km of the site.

More than 20 local suppliers have been contracted from the wider Cairns region including:

- HEH Civil (Mareeba) – Kippen Drive intersection upgrade
- Watto's Earthmoving (Atherton) – Kippen Drive upgrade
- Gregg Construction (Mareeba) – Equipment and labour hire
- 4 Elements Consulting (Cairns) – Environmental Consulting Services
- The Concreters (Cairns) – WTG Foundations
- Chris Dempsey Cranes (Atherton) – Cranes and Logistics
- Innisfail Carrying Company (Innisfail) – Logistics
- Staff Services (Cairns) – Labour hire
- Wongabel Quarries n Concrete (Atherton) – Concrete and quarry
- Cross Solutions (Cairns) – Engineering Survey
- FNQ Precast (Tolga) – Pre-cast concrete panels
- One Steel (Cairns) – Steel Reinforcing
- Mbarbarum Indigenous Corporation (Cairns) - heritage survey

Many local businesses have also benefitted from the \$360 million investment; including Mareeba Toyota, Mareeba Hire, TERMS Quarry, BP's at Tolga and Mareeba, local accommodation services, O'Donnells Office Supplies, and various food suppliers and cafes.

Local companies wishing to participate in the project can register their interest via a dedicated Industry Capability Network (ICN) webpage:

<http://www.gateway.icn.org.au/project/3884/mount-emerald-wind-farm>



Construction of Powerlink substation starts

A major component of Mount Emerald’s civil works program to date has been the preparation of the area allocated for Powerlink’s substation near the western edge of the site.

The Powerlink bench is the largest cleared area on the Mount Emerald site at around 170m long and 100m wide. Over the past four months, the area has seen extensive earthworks conducted to produce a flat bench underlaid by 1m of fill material. The fill material was sourced directly from the excavated spoil which was crushed on-site and compacted to form a solid basis for the future substation.

The area is now controlled by Powerlink who have started building the infrastructure needed to connect the wind farm to the existing Chalumbin – Woree 275kV transmission line which traverses the site.

Construction of the substation is scheduled for completion in May next year.

Other civil construction milestones during September include the completion of the Kippen Drive/Springmount Road intersection by Mareeba’s HEH Civil and the commencement of upgrades to the Site Entry Road (Kippen Drive) by Atherton’s Watto’s Earthmoving.



Ratch updates local Chambers of Commerce

Ahead of the first delivery of components to site on October 9, Ratch Australia was busy in September updating local business communities on the project.

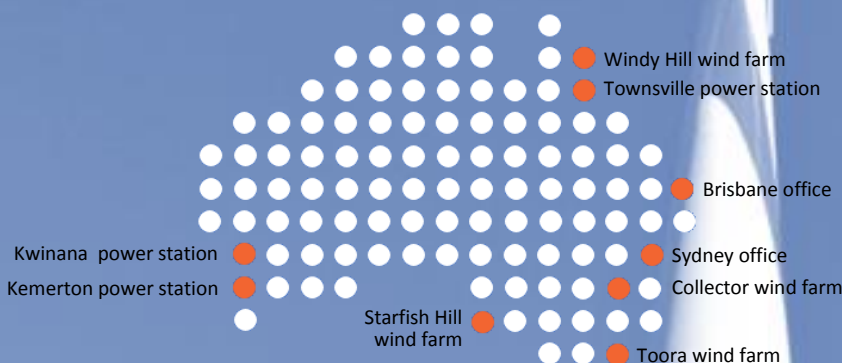
Project Construction Manager Rene Kuypers and Community Relations Manager Kim Forde spoke at a Malanda Chamber of Commerce meeting on September 21, before making a presentation to the Mareeba Chamber of Commerce a few days later.

Mr Kuypers said it had been a challenging six months preparing the site.

“This is widely regarded as one of the most challenging builds in the renewable industry”, Mr Kuypers said.

“We’ve cleared and constructed 42km of roads so we can get up there and get the turbines delivered to their final locations.”

Ratch is answering Australia’s call for cleaner energy.



For more information

Please visit ratchaustralia.com.au, or mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au

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