

Mount Emerald Wind Farm Update



The last blade being lifted into place to complete the last of the 53 wind turbines at the Mount Emerald wind farm.

All turbines up

The last of the 53 wind turbines which make up the Mount Emerald wind farm was fully installed on the 22nd September 2018. Nineteen months after the construction work started, the final blades and nacelle were pieced together at WTG 30 bringing to an end the turbine installation at the site.

While some civil works are continuing on site to finalise the roads and drainage, the main focus will now transition from installing the turbines to commissioning them. Commissioning work will see a range of tests and checks undertaken on each of the wind turbines and the electrical infrastructure to ensure everything works as it should, and the power generated will be acceptable to enter the grid network.

During this time, turbines will be operating and generating power, but may be restricted depending on what stage the commissioning works are at.

At present the wind farm is limited to a maximum output of 60MW, 1/3rd of what will be available when it is fully complete.

Ratch's EGM Business Development, Mr Anthony Yeates confirmed the project was less than two months away from being completed.

"We're on track for a November completion date. Once fully operational, Mount Emerald will be the biggest wind farm in Queensland and will deliver in the order of 540,000 MW hours of renewable energy, which is predicted to meet the annual needs of approximately 75,000 North Queensland homes over a 20-year period," Mr Yeates said.

"Everyone at Ratch, including our contractors and many local suppliers share a great sense of accomplishment. The site's rugged and hilly terrain presented many challenges plus we were committed to delivering a very high level of protection to the local ecology," he said.



RATCH-Australia Corporation For more information, please visit ratchaustralia.com or mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au



ALL DELIVERED – the last of the 159 blades crosses the Beatrice River on its way to the Mount Emerald wind farm.



Wind farm lends a helping hand

Ratch's Site Engineering Representative, Paul McDonald, officially handed over a new support trailer to the Atherton Ambulance team on September 21.

Ratch's funding of this trailer is a precursor to its annual \$200,000 Community Benefit Fund, which comes into effect once the site officially begins operating at the end of the year.

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

In Brief

- All of 53 foundations have been poured.
- All of the components have been delivered to site.
- All 53 wind turbines have been fully erected.
- 41 wind turbines now operating as part of commissioning.
- Site is currently limited to 60MW (33% of full capacity) while network performance testing is underway.
- Initial generation has supplied the electricity needs of some 30,000 average households.

The trailer is stocked with a range of items from portable gazebo's to water and other essential equipment used by the Atherton Ambulance and other Emergency Services on the Tablelands when they attend incidents in the region.

Mr McDonald, who lives in the region with his family, actually hoped the donation wasn't put to good use.

"We had no hesitation in answering the call for the trailer, but the less its used the happier we will be," he said.