



Media release

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COMMUNITY GROUPS SET TO BENEFIT FROM WIND FARM FUND

The launch of the Mount Emerald Wind Farm Community Fund has sparked strong interest from local groups, with more than 40 applications received from Far North Queensland organisations.

Ratch-Australia, the owner and operator of the wind farm, will donate \$200,000 to support local causes every year of the turbines' working lives.

Now that applications have closed for the initial grants, an advisory committee made up of local representatives will face a tricky decision to weigh up the submissions.

Advisory Committee Chairman Tom Braes said: "I'm delighted that we have received so many high-quality applications for a wide range of projects across the area.

"We will undoubtedly have our work cut out to choose between many of these thoughtful submissions but I'm very pleased to be sharing this task with three community-spirited people from Atherton and Mareeba."

Ratch-Australia Executive General Manager Anthony Yeates added: "The wind farm is the largest operating in Queensland and will be generating a significant quantity of much-needed clean power for the next 25 years.

"We recognise that it's also important for us to make a direct contribution to the community hosting the project and so we look forward to finding out the advisory panel's decisions on which of these worthy initiatives will secure the first grants."

Applications for the second round of funding will be considered later this year. Projects or initiatives located within a 50km radius of the wind farm are eligible for funding. Groups and organisations that miss out this time will be able to reapply in subsequent rounds.

Application forms and guidance for applicants, as well as information about the wind farm and how it was built, are available at www.mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au

ENDS

Notes to editors

- Ratch-Australia is an independent power producer that owns and operates a portfolio of energy projects across the country with a total installed capacity of more than 800MW.
- Mount Emerald Wind Farm is located between Atherton and Mareeba, approximately 5km west of Walkamin.
- The wind farm comprises 53 wind turbines with a maximum height to the blade tip of 148.5m.



- Construction started in February 2017 with the first electricity generated and exported to the local network in late 2018.
- The wind farm is anticipated to generate between 500 and 600 million KWh of renewable electricity per annum. This is approximately equivalent to the annual electricity requirements of between 75,000 and 90,000 homes in Far North Queensland.
- Visit www.mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au