

Mount Emerald Wind Farm Update



Aerial view of the Powerlink Switchyard in the foreground, with a number of turbines in the background waiting to commence operating.

Mount Emerald Wind Farm starts to power up – first generation achieved

Ahead of the \$360 million project achieving full commercial operation in November, the first turbines have started to turn as part of a staged testing and commissioning process being conducted by project developers Ratch Australia Corporation. The test is a significant milestone as it announces Mount Emerald's "electrification" and follows the completion of the site's substation and switchyard which are now energised and will connect the project's generation to the national electricity grid.

Ratch's EGM Business Development, Mr Anthony Yeates said getting the first of the wind turbines turning was very important step for the project.

"It's a very important milestone and is the culmination of lot of work by a lot of people over a very long period of time. We've now commenced generating electricity and sending it into the grid, and we'll be ramping up the amount of generation over the next few months as additional turbines get commissioned. We've invested thousands of hours into site preparation and building the project and now we get to see it in action and producing electricity," Mr Yeates said.

Forty-two of the 53 turbines have now been raised and another eight partially completed while all of the 800 tonne concrete foundations have now been poured. Less than a kilometre of high voltage underground cabling is left to be installed.

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

In Brief

- All of 53 foundations have been poured
- 42 of 53 wind turbines have been fully erected
- Another 8 wind turbines have been partially completed
- 98% of the clearance works have been completed
- 94% of the components have been delivered to site
- 99% of the underground electrical cabling has been placed

Wind Farm all delivered

Ten months since Cairns Port received its largest cargo and hundreds of locals lined the main roads of Malanda to wave through the trucks, the final delivery of wind turbine components for the Mount Emerald Wind Farm is scheduled to be made before the end of the month.

Since October last year, six cargo vessels containing blades, towers and more than 450 components have transited through the port totalling an estimated 185,000 revenue tonnes of cargo. Most mornings, a convoy of specially designed trucks has been winding its way from Cairns Port via the Bruce and Palmerston highways to the project site near Walkamin on the Atherton Tablelands. Each truck takes up to five hours to complete the 207km route at an average speed of 50km/hour.

The route to site has seen the first truck leave Cairns Port at around 5am, Monday to Saturdays, before heading south along the Bruce Highway to access the Palmerston Highway. They typically reach Malanda around 7-7:30am, Kairi 7:30-7:45am and Tolga 7:45-8am, before reaching site at 8:30-9am. Tower section trucks have been leaving at around 6am and 9am; arriving at site before lunch time, with nacelle deliveries occurring on Tuesday and Thursday.

With now less than 10 blades, 2 nacelles and 14 tower sections left to transport, any of the public who have not yet seen these huge pieces up close are encouraged to do so.

Few traffic delays have been experienced, despite the size of the task, and RATCH would like to thank the local road users and the many people who have taken the opportunity to stop along the road and watch the procession go past; taken and shared photos; and waved to our drivers and escorts who helped to ensure the safe delivery of all of our components.

From first day to first generation, local suppliers leave mark at Mount Emerald

While the project uses turbines by Danish manufacturer Vestas, local suppliers such as Gregg Construction, HEH Civil and Watto's Earthmoving have left their name on the project.

"We've been involved on the project since 2009 where we provided some upgrades to the road into the site," said Gregg Construction's Ken Gregg whose company has been responsible for civil and excavation works, labour hire, ground surveys and dust suppression.

"We're very proud of what we've done on what was a very challenging site. We share a great sense of accomplishment and we've felt valued by Ratch and its contractors since day one."



Powerlink Construction team cutting into the existing 275kV powerline and redirecting it to the recently completed wind farm substation.

Ratch's Kim Forde goes back to school

Ratch Community Engagement Facilitator, Kim Forde has covered a lot of ground in five years on the project.

Kim has spoken to 1,700 people this year alone, fulfilling Ratch's commitment to keeping our local communities informed and up to date with our progress. This includes 14 schools in the region.

At Malanda State School, Kim recently partnered with year 5 student Kirby Horan and her teacher Ms Cara Moynihan to develop and undertake an energy efficiency audit of the school.

Kim will also double as a judge of a competition run by Kirby for students at her school to identify energy saving opportunities. A mini model of a Mt Emerald turbine will be presented to the two winners of the competition.



Ratch's Community Engagement Facilitator - Kim Forde (right) with Malanda State School student Kirby Horan (left).



Community group updated on progress

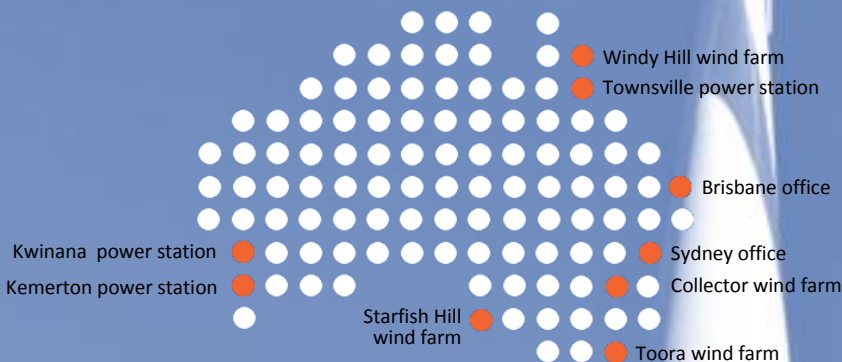
With construction nearing completion, about 30 members of the Community Consultative Committee and their families were hosted on a site tour on August 5 by Ratch Community Engagement Facilitator Kim Forde and Site Engineer, Paul McDonald

The visitors were taken to tower site nine which offered the best views across the site.

Ms Forde said most Committee members were surprised by how much had been achieved since their last visit a year ago.

An official opening with a chance for members of the public to see the completed wind farm is being planned for November.

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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