



2022 IECA AUSTRALASIA ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS TURITEA WIND FARM

Mercury NZ Ltd (Mercury) hold a suite of resource consents authorising the construction and operation of Turitea Wind Farm on the northern end the Tararua Ranges, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Turitea is New Zealand's largest wind farm and is helping to build New Zealand's sustainable, lowemissions future. Once complete, Turitea Wind Farm will generate a total capacity of 222MW and will increase New Zealand's renewable electricity annual generation by 2%.

When completed in 2023, the finished development will comprise 60 wind turbine generators (WTG) split between two main areas, the Northern Turbine Zone (33 turbines) and the Southern Turbine Zone (27 turbines). Each zone will include a sub-station, with each being linked by overhead transmission lines connecting into the New Zealand National Grid. Extensive earthworks were required to construct all access tracks into each WTG, as well as upgrading South Range Road and Reserve Road which link the Northern and Southern Turbine Zones.

The wind farm is located largely within the Turitea Water Supply Catchment Reserve (Turitea Reserve) which supplies two thirds of Palmerston North city's drinking water, and on adjacent private land mostly used for agriculture. As part of the development of the wind farm, there has been extensive controls and features put in place to minimise or mitigate our impact on the environment we are working in. Over 170 sediment control ponds, 10km of silt fencing and numerous large clean water diversions have been installed on this ecological and culturally significant site. A total of four fish passage culverts have been installed to provide passage to native fish under the new NES-Freshwater guidelines and we have been able to successfully navigate challenging conditions associated with intense rainfall, snow and high winds associated with this exposed construction site.

Despite these challenges, the site has been able to maintain a compliance rating of 98.8% over 2021- 22 which has been recognized by the regulator with reduced site visits per month. This score represents the scoring system of 1-4, with 98.8% of the scores being the best practise score of a '1'. Turitea Wind Farm has been used as an example of an exemplary site for erosion and sediment control standards for local operators and other projects. We have also been proud to facilitate the IECA fieldtrip in July 2022 to contractors and companies from all over the lower North Island and further afield.

Continuous water quality monitoring in the receiving catchments has allowed us to monitor how we are performing in terms of water quality discharging from our site and we have gone above and beyond the best practice as built guidelines to ensure our devices are structurally sound and fit for purpose.

Turitea Wind Farm recognises the concept of kaitiakitanga, which is the guardianship and protection of our environment This principle guides our long term thinking and the ways in which we work with the environment, natural resources, and what we leave behind.