

Mount Emerald Wind Farm: Update.



Indicative view of the proposed wind farm from Moffat Drive, Rangeview.

Ratch increases ownership of Mount Emerald.

Ratch Australia Corporation reached an agreement with locally based partner Port Bajool to acquire its 50 percent stake in the Mount Emerald Wind Farm Project.

The share purchase agreement, which is subject to approval by the Foreign Investment Review Board, was struck in late June and will increase Ratch's ownership in the project to 100 percent. The deal follows close on the heels of Ergon Energy's decision to purchase all of the electricity generated by the wind farm through to the end of 2030.

Ratch Business Development Manager, Anthony Yeates, confirmed the takeover was planned.

"This transaction was always timed to follow the signing of a power purchase agreement. Port Bajool has been a valued partner and has played a major role in getting this project off the ground," Mr Yeates said.

"Ratch is committed to expanding our renewable business in Australia and answering the country's call for cleaner energy," he said.

The \$360 million Mount Emerald Wind Farm will start construction this year on 2,400 hectares of land near Walkamin and is expected to be completed within two years. The project which has received approval from both Queensland and Australian governments includes up to 63 turbines to potentially generate enough electricity to power 75,000 homes each year.

Keeping noise to a minimum.



As part of our commitment to environmental and community protection, final baseline noise monitoring has just been completed.

In May, six sites were established around the wind farm, to undertake six weeks of continuous collection of noise monitoring data. The data will now be used to provide added detail and information about the existing noise environment of the district before the wind farm becomes operational.

Preferred contractors announced for Mt Emerald.

Subject to completion of the necessary contracting agreements and project financing arrangements, construction of the Mount Emerald Wind Farm will be undertaken by preferred contractors Vestas and Downer Group.

Vestas is the global leader in wind energy technology and service solutions, while Downer is a leading Australian engineering and construction company with substantial experience in wind farm project delivery. Long term operations and maintenance services for the project would be carried out by Vestas.

Vestas has installed more than 50,000 turbines in 75 countries and has considerable experience in all the key disciplines – engineering, transportation, construction and operations and maintenance.

Vestas and Downer will share responsibility for the entire 180MW project including the supply and construction of the turbines, a substation, cabling to the grid, civil and electrical works, and wind monitoring equipment.

Ratch Business Development Manager, Anthony Yeates, confirmed the contractors would provide many opportunities for local workers and suppliers.

“The Vestas and Downer submission clearly demonstrated that their companies very much share Ratch’s commitment to providing clear pathways for local people to participate in the project,” Mr Yeates said.

Downer, which has an office in Cairns, will largely take responsibility for local purchasing which is likely to include a wide range of products and services from fencing contractors, concreters, welders, electricians, plant and equipment operators, transport contractors and administrators.

Workers and suppliers interested in participating in the construction of the project should visit the Downer website at www.downergroup.com.au to register their interest. Earlier registrations received through mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au have been forwarded to the Downer team.

Join the Mt Emerald Wind Farm Committee.

Ratch is setting up a community committee to promote local feedback and ensure the project’s long term success.

Nominations for the Mount Emerald Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee have already started flowing in since Ratch first advertised the call in early July.

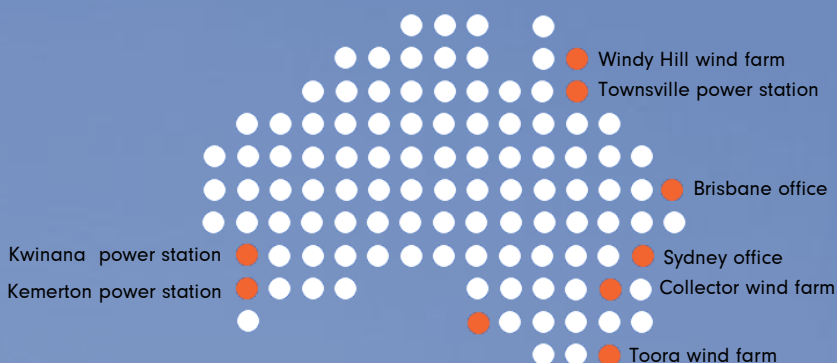
The purpose of the Committee is to provide a forum for open discussion between Ratch and the community on issues directly relating to the construction and operation of the wind farm, of its environmental performance and community relations.

The Committee will have up to eight members, comprising a Chair and Project Secretariat, and six community representatives.

An initial meeting will be held within a month of selection of the Committee with subsequent meetings held once every three months thereafter.

Applications may be downloaded from the Mount Emerald Wind Farm website and nominations close August 31.

Ratch is answering Australia’s call for cleaner energy.



For more information

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

or email

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