Mount Emerald Wind Farm Update

Ratch encourages local companies to participate in Mt Emerald's construction

On November 2, Ratch announced the company had signed an engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract with wind turbine supplier Vestas. Vestas will be responsible for construction of the project with major subcontractors Consolidated Power Projects (CPP) and Civil & Allied Technical Construction (Catcon).

Vestas shares Ratch's commitment to provide clear pathways for local people to participate in the project. Potential suppliers that wish to provide materials or services should register their interest by directing enquiries to;

For Wind Turbine erection, testing etc.;

Vestas Australian Wind Technology
Sefa Izzet
Project Manager – Construction
seizz@vestas.com
03 8698 7359

For earthworks, concrete, building or other general activities;

Catcon
David Baker
Construction Manager
davidb@catcon.com.au
08 8347 1888

Expressions of Interest (EOI) that have previously been submitted have been passed on to Vestas for consideration. Suppliers do not need to register twice.

Please note an EOI to supply goods or services does not constitute any status of approval. A pre-qualification process will also be undertaken prior to, or as part of any evaluation.

Early Works to Start

Before construction can commence on the wind farm itself, there are a number of other jobs that need to be completed first.

One of these jobs is the protection of the irrigation pipeline which lies under Kippen Drive. This pipeline runs underneath Granite Creek and connects the open channels on either side.

Starting in late November, a number of concrete slabs will be placed over the pipeline to act like a bridge and remove any of the current or future traffic loads.

This early work should be completed before the end of December.

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

RATCH-Australia Corporation

Ask Anthony.

Project Q&As with Ratch Executive General Manager, Business Development, Anthony Yeates.
Send your questions to info@mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au

How fast do the blades turn?

The blades rotate at between 6-18 revolutions per minute. At low wind speeds the blades will turn more slowly, but as the wind increases so too does the rotating speed. At a wind speed of around 50km/h, the maximum of 18 rpm is reached. For higher wind speeds the maximum rpm is maintained by the blades which pitch (or turn out of the wind) to reduce the load and keep the speed constant.

What happens when the wind stops blowing?

When there is no wind, the wind farm will not produce any electricity. From data collected at site this is expected to occur for around 5% of the year. During these times electricity will still be available through the electricity network. The power grid is designed to cope with variability in both the power being generated and the electricity being used. When one generation source reduces power another is increased to take its place. The network operator constantly matches the electricity generation available to the electricity demand.

What are a turbine's lifetime emissions?

Wind turbines produce almost no greenhouse gas emissions during their operation. It takes a turbine around six months to produce the amount of energy that goes into its manufacture, transport, installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning after its 20 to 25 year lifetime. Wind energy has the lowest 'lifecycle emissions' of all energy production technologies.

What other environmental benefits does wind power bring?

Wind energy emits no air pollutants or particulate deposits which can be detrimental to human health and negatively impact terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. While the turbines do contain oil and hydraulic fluids, these are fully contained within the steel tower. Unlike fossil fuel and nuclear power plants, wind technology uses no water to produce electricity. Given the fact water scarcity is pressing and will be exacerbated by climate change and population growth, wind energy is key to preserving water resources.

Community Consultation Committee (CCC) profile

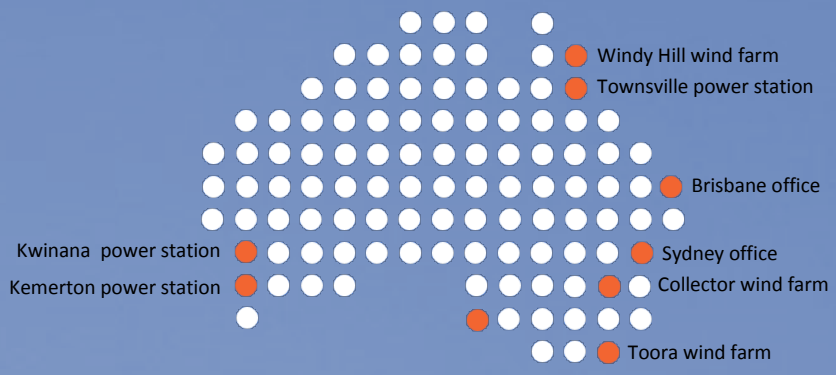
Dr Turton's appointment as Chairman of the CCC in August follows a highly distinguished career as an environmental scientist and geography academic.

Steve knows the FNQ region well having spent the past 20 years engaged in a number of senior roles as a director and professor at James Cook University in Cairns.

Dr Turton is an Immediate Past President of the Institute of Australian Geographers and has recently been appointed as a Director of Terrain Natural Resource Management Limited. He is also a Distinguished Fellow of the Institute of Australian Geographers.

He currently works as an Environmental Consultant and Adjunct Professor at CQ University.

Ratch is answering Australia's call for cleaner energy.



For more information

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

or email

info@mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au

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