



# “Engineering and environmental assessments continue for the Castle Hill Wind Farm project.”

“Here’s an update on our plans for the future.”

Welcome to the second Genesis Energy Castle Hill Wind Farm newsletter.

As a rather wet winter turns into spring the team at Genesis Energy has been hard at work on the proposed Castle Hill Wind Farm project. Since our first newsletter in July, Genesis Energy has continued the engineering and environmental assessments to determine the effects of the proposed wind farm and the first public open days were held at the Alfredton Hall on 10 and 11 September 2010.

This newsletter provides an update on these activities as well as an update on what we are planning in the future.



Castle Hill Wind Farm location

## The Castle Hill Wind Farm Project

In July 2010, Genesis Energy announced its proposal for a wind farm on a site approximately 20 kilometres east of Eketahuna and Pahiatua and 20 kilometres north east of Masterton. The project will help meet anticipated growth in demand for more electricity in the North Island.

### Resource Management Act process

The Castle Hill Wind Farm lies across the boundary between two regional councils (Greater Wellington Regional Council and Manawatu – Wanganui Regional Council (Horizons)) and two district councils (Masterton District Council and Tararua District Council).

Approval for the project is required under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the relevant councils’ Regional and District Plans.

Genesis Energy anticipates lodging an application for resource consents for the Castle Hill Wind Farm before mid 2011 following the completion of engineering and environmental assessments and in consultation with the community, iwi, Councils and other people and organisations with an interest in the wind farm.

### Environmental effects assessments

As part of the resource consent application, Genesis Energy is undertaking a number of environmental assessments to understand the potential effects (positive and negative) of the construction and operation of the wind farm on the surrounding environment. The assessments being undertaken include:

- Landscape and visual
- Noise
- Traffic and transport
- Ecology
- Hydrology and hydrogeology
- Archaeology
- Electro and magnetic Fields (EMF)
- Electricity industry
- RMA planning assessment
- Recreation and tourism
- Economic impact
- Shadow flicker
- Radio and telecommunications
- Aviation

Engineering and design activities are also being undertaken to define the parameters of the wind farm. This is necessary to enable the assessment of the potential environmental effects of its construction and operation.

### Spring wind monitoring results

Wind monitoring masts were erected during 2009 at six locations around the site to measure wind speed and other meteorological conditions. Results are confirming early indications that the wind resource across the site is very suitable for wind generation.

If you think it’s been windy lately you’d be right! The recent spring months have shown some very windy periods, with storms throughout the country. The Wairarapa was no exception. On the evening of Sunday 5 September, the monitoring masts recorded the highest wind speed so far of 49.8 metres per second – just shy of 180 kilometres per hour! These wind speeds are almost as high as those in a hurricane (defined as sustained wind conditions of 120 kilometres per hour or 33 metres per second).

But don’t worry. These gusts aren’t a concern for the wind turbines as they are designed to withstand wind gusts up to 70 metres per second (250 kilometres per hour).



Visitors at the open day

### Public open days – September 2010

In September, the Genesis Energy team met with local residents, stakeholders and school children at the first public open days at Alfredton Hall. The Genesis Energy project team and several consultants were available to answer questions over the two days and material covering all aspects of the project were on display.

Approximately 120 people attended the open day as well as students from Alfredton and Tiraumea Schools. The Alfredton School Parent Teachers Association did a great job of ensuring all visitors were well fed!

Feedback received from the open day will contribute to the environmental assessments and ongoing consultation process. If you were unable to attend the open day, the display posters from the open day are now available under 'future development' on the 'generating electricity' page of our website [www.genesisenergy.co.nz](http://www.genesisenergy.co.nz). To obtain hard copies of this material, please contact us using the contact details below.

### Upcoming consultation and communications

At Genesis Energy we place great value on building mutually beneficial long-term relationships with the communities in which our projects reside.

Our project team will continue engaging with the local community throughout the coming months and would like to encourage you to share opinions, questions or concerns with us using the contact details below.

We'd also like to encourage you to attend the second open day in early 2011 at the Alfredton Hall where you can view and comment on the results of the environmental and engineering assessments. Invitations and details will be posted to you closer to the time.

### Other Genesis Energy activities in your area

In the coming months, Genesis Energy will be coming to the Wairarapa to roll out its 'Schoolgen Cluster Days'. Students from 12 local schools will have the opportunity to learn first-hand about sustainable electricity from energy experts. The interactive day will see four students from each school building an electrical circuit from a photovoltaic solar panel and designing and constructing their own wind turbines.

### What is happening next?

Genesis Energy is continuing with the detailed environmental and engineering assessments that will lead to lodging a resource consent application for the project. The following is an outline of our next steps:

- Refinement of detailed environmental and engineering design assessments
- Ongoing consultation and response to community feedback
- Development of mitigation measures
- Second Public Open Days – presentation of results of detailed assessments and refined wind farm proposal
- Response to feedback from second open days (review of environmental assessments and engineering design and proposed mitigation measures)
- Lodge resource consent application (Greater Wellington Regional Council, Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council (Horizons), Masterton District Council and Tararua District Council).
- Public given the opportunity to make formal submissions
- Hearing – public given the opportunity to be heard in support of submission
- Decision released

The Castle Hill Wind Farm is a very exciting project for Genesis Energy and New Zealand. We look forward to working with our stakeholders and the community on this project and welcome your feedback and input into the project.



Schoolchildren at the open day

} “Talk to us about the project...”

### Main point of contact:

For more information about Genesis Energy and the Castle Hill Wind Farm project or if you would like to give us your feedback, please contact:

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