

30 January 2024

Proposed wind farm near Pahiatua | Update on changes to design, and consenting

Kia ora,

We're writing to update you on the proposed wind farm near Pahiatua, near Makomako Road and Ballance Valley Road. We have moved from the scoping stage into the start of the consenting stage where detailed assessments will be carried out. We want to let you know that based on early specialist assessment and community feedback, we've made some changes to the design.

This update provides information about these changes, what to expect from the consenting process and how you can be involved.

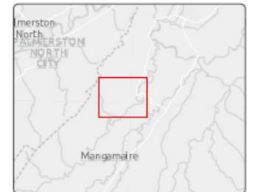
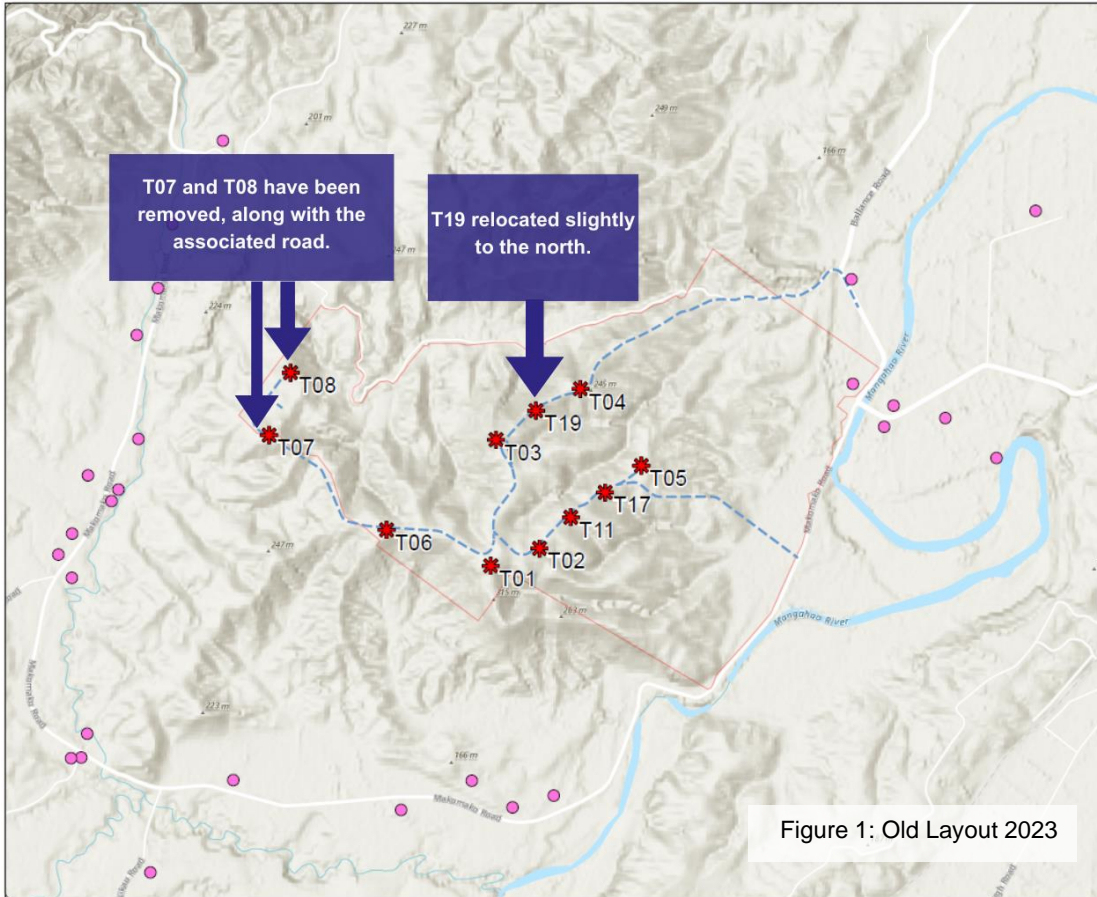
Updated design based on community feedback

In October 2023, we shared the proposed wind farm layout and invited the Pahiatua community to comment on the proposed design. We'd like to thank you for all the feedback we received, through our community event, by email, phone and in person.

We've carefully considered your feedback and have made some changes to the proposed layout, which reduce visual and noise effects for neighbours on Makomako Road.

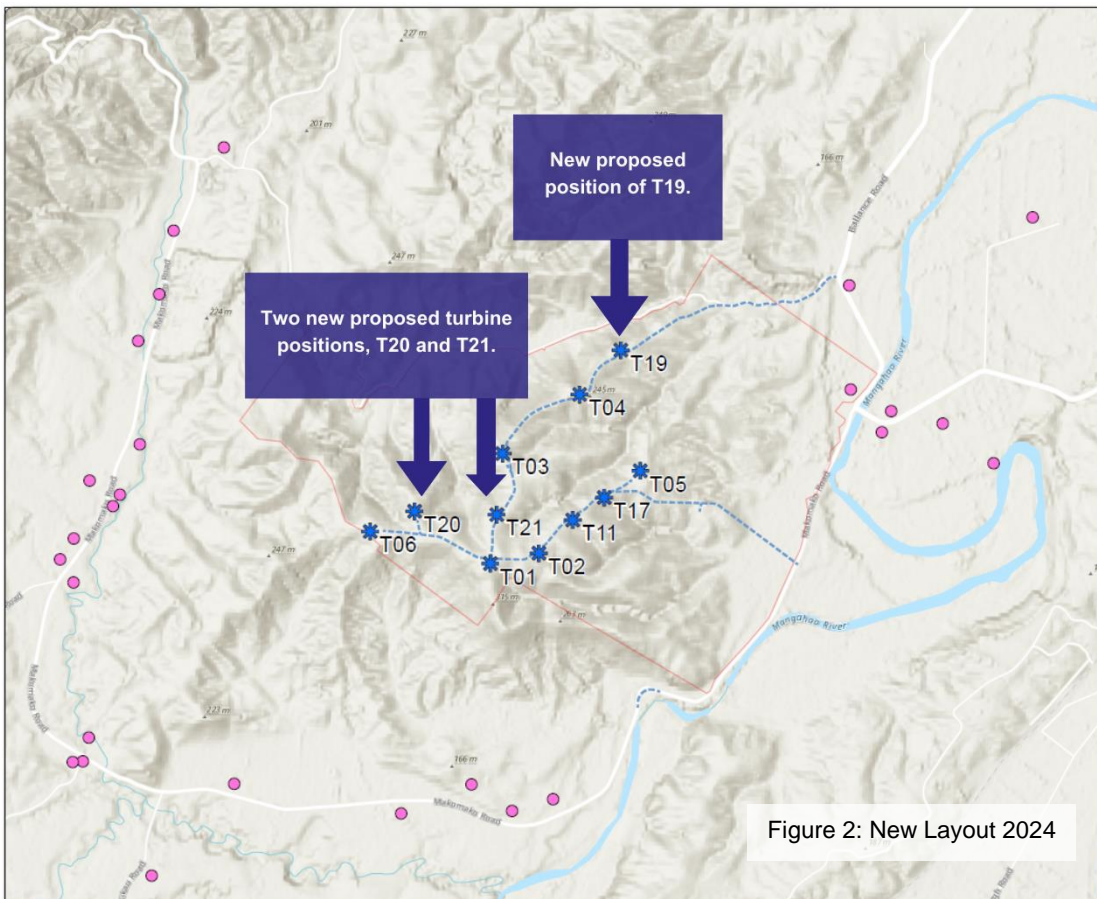
- We've removed turbines 07 and 08, including the access road. There are two new proposed turbine locations, turbines 20 and 21.
- We've relocated turbine 19, slightly to the north.
- We've decreased the maximum turbine tip height (top point of the extended blade) from 220m to 200m.

The revised layout (see next page) proposes up to eleven turbine sites, two access road options and will include a transmission line(s) option.



Legend

- ✳ Turbines (previous)
- ✳ Turbine (revised)
- Dwellings
- Roads (proposed)
- Site boundary



The consenting process and timing

New Zealand’s electricity demand is increasing, and we don’t have enough power generation to supply forecasted demand. Part of our decision to move forward is to support the government target to double renewable energy generation over the next few years.

The proposed wind farm will need to be consented under district and regional plan rules. Over the next few months, we’ll prepare our consent application, which will include specialist assessments, Assessment of Environmental Effects, and a summary of community/stakeholder engagement.

We’re considering one of three possible consenting pathways and will keep you informed of the option we choose.

| Pathway | Timing |
|---|---|
| Standard council resource consent application Direct referral to the Environment Court | Aim to lodge by mid-2024. Councils would decide whether to publicly notify the application (a public submission period would follow if it’s notified). A decision on direct referral to the Environment Court could be made around that time. |
| ‘Fast-track’ consenting process which goes through the Minister for the Environment and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). | A referral application could be made to the Minister by late March / April 2024, if this pathway is chosen. If the referral application is successful, the consent application could be lodged with the EPA by about September 2024. |

We would like to emphasise that we will be continuing our consultation regardless of which pathway is chosen and there is still opportunity to participate in a fast-track consenting process. You can find more information about the fast-track consenting process on the EPA website: <https://www.epa.govt.nz/fast-track-consenting/>.

What next?

We’re looking to send out monthly email updates. If you don’t want to receive these, or would prefer a hard copy, please let us know via Pahiatuawind@aurecongroup.com.

In March, we will hold another community event – we’ll share more information in next month’s update. If you have questions, please call us on 027 395 9352 or email Pahiatuawind@aurecongroup.com.

Ngā mihi

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