

NZ Windfarms

POWERED BY NATURE

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of shareholders of NZ Windfarms Limited ("NWF" or "the Company") will be held at Link Market Services Limited (Level 30), PwC Tower, 15 Customs Street West, Auckland 1010 on Wednesday 20 December 2023 and online via the Link Market Services web link www.virtualmeeting.co.nz/NWFSGM23, commencing at 11:00am.

If the physical meeting has to be cancelled or moved to an alternative venue, NZ Windfarms will provide shareholders with as much notice as is reasonably practicable (no later than a week before the meeting) via the NZX announcements page, the share registrar, and by email to RSVPers.

It is important that shareholders who plan on attending the physical meeting RSVP to info@nzwindfarms.co.nz. Should there be excess attendees, shareholders who respond will be allocated a seat on a first in, first serve basis. In addition, should a physical meeting not be possible, then the Company will contact RSVPers directly to inform them of any changes.

Online Instructions: When participating online, shareholders will require a device to connect to the internet and a valid email address for verification purposes. Online participation details are set out below. If you would like to ask a question via the online platform you will require your shareholder number (CSN).

If you have any questions, or need assistance with the online process, please refer to the Virtual Meeting Guide attached or contact Link Market Services Limited on +64 9 375 5998 between 8:30am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday.



THE BUSINESS OF MEETING WILL BE:

A. ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS: The following resolutions will be voted on at the meeting:

Resolution 1: Approval of Repower Transactions

That the Company giving effect to the provisions in the Investors' Agreement described in the notice of this meeting by:

- selling to the joint venture established under the Investors' Agreement certain assets of the existing windfarm which are necessary for the repower project including consents, land, wind rights, roading and electrical grid connection infrastructure at financial close;
- investing in the joint venture as required to enable it to retain up to a 50% interest in the joint venture; and
- raising equity in the Company's investment vehicle for the joint venture provided that such equity does not result in the Company ceasing to control, or own directly or indirectly more than 50% of, that investment vehicle;

be approved.

Resolution 2: Ratification of Share Placement

That the issue by the Company of 43,209,500 ordinary shares to Meridian Energy Limited on 25 October 2023 be ratified.

Resolution 3: Remuneration of Directors

That the directors be authorised to increase the remuneration per annum of the independent directors of the Company by 4% and of the Chair of the Repower Committee by a further \$10,400 both with effect from 1 July 2023 pursuant to the per position sums shown in the "Proposed Remuneration" column of the table in the explanatory notes of the notice of this meeting.

B. OTHER BUSINESS

To consider any other matter raised by a shareholder at the meeting.

On behalf of the Board

Craig Stobo Chairman

About NZ Windfarms Limited

NZ Windfarms Ltd is a long term specialist wind farm owner and operator, with its revenue coming from the sale of sustainably generated electricity from its Te Rere Hau wind farm.

The Te Rere Hau wind farm is located on North Range Road in the Tararua Ranges outside of Palmerston North. The wind farm has 91 turbines with a capacity of 46 MW producing enough clean energy to power about 16,000 homes, or in excess of half the households in Palmerston North. In comparison to generate the same amount of energy, a gas-fired power plant would emit roughly 64,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide, the same as an additional 23,000 cars on the road.

NZ Windfarms Ltd (NWF) is a public company listed on the NZ Stock Exchange. Up to date share trading information can be obtained from the NZX website.



EXPLANATORY NOTES

Listing Rules and Companies Act

The Company is listed on the NZX Main Board and must comply with the Listing Rules. In addition, various provisions of the Listing Rules are included in the Constitution. The Companies Act, the Constitution and the Listing Rules contain specific requirements which are relevant to the resolutions comprised in this Notice.

NZX Listing Rule 5.1.1, in summary, prohibits the Company from entering into a transaction, or a related series of transactions, to acquire, sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of assets that:

- would significantly change, either directly or indirectly, the nature of the Company's business; or
- involves a gross value above 50% of the average market capitalisation of the Company;

unless the transaction is approved by ordinary resolution of shareholders.

In Resolution 1 the Company now seeks that shareholder approval in relation to implementation of aspects of the Investors' Agreement and transactions described below because, if Final Investment Decision is achieved and the transactions proceed:

- the Company's business will change because it will cease being an owner and operator of a windfarm and will transition to being an investor in a joint venture to develop and own a windfarm, and a renewable energy developer;
- the Company will sell all its windfarm assets in exchange for equity in the joint venture for an agreed purchase price of \$50.3 million, which exceeds 50% of its average market capitalisation; and
- the Company must raise further equity to retain a 50% share in the joint venture entity. Under the terms of the Investors' Agreement this new equity can be invested by the Company or alternatively direct into the Company's investment vehicle in the joint venture (subject to the Company retaining greater than 50% ownership and control of its investment vehicle). The residual equity funding the Company is likely to need to raise to maintain a 50% equity interest in the developed wind farm is expected, subject to assumptions set out below, to be approximately \$40 to 75 million. This may exceed 50% of its average market capitalisation depending on the market price of the Company's shares at the time. The Company seeks approval to raise that equity direct in its investment entity.

The entry into the Investors' Agreement and the transfer of the Company's development assets (not required for the existing windfarm) to the joint venture in exchange for equity was not a transaction requiring shareholder approval under Listing Rule 5.1.1.

Several of the other transactions to implement the Investors' Agreement as described below relating to the financing and construction of the proposed repower and extension and the Power Purchase Agreement would require shareholder approval if they were undertaken by the Company or a subsidiary of the Company. However, as the entities undertaking those transactions will be jointly owned by Meridian Energy Limited and the Company, none of those entities will be a subsidiary of the Company. So, while they are important to explain the proposal, shareholder approval is not sought for those transactions.

Any equity raise by the Company (and not direct into its joint venture investment entity) would be effected in accordance with applicable Listing Rules and is not the subject of the shareholder approval now sought.



Nature of Resolutions

Resolutions 1, 2 and 3 are ordinary resolutions, meaning that they can be approved by a simple majority (more than 50%) of the votes cast, subject to voting restrictions that preclude Meridian Energy Limited from voting on resolutions 1 and 2.

Set out below is further information on the resolutions to be proposed at this Meeting.

RESOLUTION 1: APPROVAL OF REPOWER TRANSACTIONS

On 25 October 2023 NZ Windfarms Limited (**NWF**) entered into an Investors' Agreement with Meridian Energy Limited (**Meridian**, New Zealand's largest electricity generator) to pursue the development and repower of Te Rere Hau wind farm through a joint venture, subject to conditions including NWF shareholder approval, and Final Investment Decision by both parties which includes satisfactory consenting, third party contracting and financing arrangements.

In accordance with the Investors' Agreement, some low-value development assets will be transferred immediately to the joint venture (wind rights on expansion land and new transmission land and easements). However, the sale of named remaining assets currently in use by the existing wind farm will only occur once NWF shareholder approval is obtained and various conditions have been satisfied including Final Investment Decision.

A summary of the Investors' Agreement and other documentation to implement transactions contemplated by it is set out in Section 11 below.

The transactions contemplated by the Investors' Agreement, including the sale of these NWF assets and NWF's investment in the joint venture, are major transactions for NWF that must be approved by ordinary resolution of shareholders under the NZX Listing Rules. The Board considers it appropriate, and NWF is contractually obliged, to seek that shareholder approval now.

If granted, this approval will enable the Board to make the Final Investment Decision – so that there is clear alignment and agreement on the new direction of the Company. Subject to this support, Meridian has agreed to fund third party development expenditure for the repower up to an agreed amount through to Final Investment Decision.

Although Meridian became a shareholder of NWF on the date of the Investors' Agreement, it has agreed that it will not vote on this major transaction resolution.

1. What is the Te Rere Hau Repower?

Once built, the repowered Te Rere Hau wind farm is expected to produce approximately 740 to 753 GWh of renewable electricity, 7x the existing wind farm, and 1.7% of New Zealand's electricity production. If built now, it would be New Zealand's second largest wind farm after the neighbouring Turitea wind farm.

NWF has secured resource consent from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for the repower of its wind farm with up to 30 new larger turbines. On 20 October 2023 NWF lodged a new application for resource consent for a further 9 turbines on the adjoining Aokautere Forest Block (Aokautere Extension) under the New Zealand Government's Fast Track Consent process.

NWF has secured conditional access to a new transmission corridor through a combination of a land purchase and an easement, allowing the new wind farm to connect directly to the Transpower Bunnythorpe-to-Wilton transmission line, whilst maintaining a backup (referred to as "Hotel power") with the existing connection through the Mercury Energy-controlled Tararua 3 (T3) substation under a contract with Mercury that expires in 2031.



NWF has secured access rights to land for the repower, including that for the Aokautere Extension, through a combination of owned and leased land, and wind rights agreements.

2. Why Repower?

The rationale for repower can be summarised as:

- Transition from older wind turbine technology;
- Fully utilise the wind resource;
- Generate substantially more renewable electricity;
- Larger revenue stream, with more electricity price certainty; and
- Reduced operating expenditure (Opex) per MWh with a planned long-term operations and maintenance contract.

Te Rere Hau wind farm was constructed between 2005 and 2011 and occupies a world-class wind location in the Tararua Ranges, attracting a Class 1A IEC rating. Advances in wind turbine technology since commissioning of the existing fleet of 91 two-bladed WF500 turbines mean wind resource at the site is not now fully utilised. The existing fleet (if not repowered or replaced) would likely require gradual decommissioning of units commencing from 2032 and reach the end of its economic life somewhere between 2036 and 2046.

NWF has been investigating a repower to ensure sustainable and profitable operation of the wind farm in the long-term, by taking advantage of more efficient turbine technology. NWF has also been able to negotiate a significant expansion option with its neighbour, Ernslaw One, called the "Aokautere Extension", which will improve the economics of the repower.

The current 91 x 0.5MW turbines have produced 108 GWh on average during the last six years and have a P50 generation output of 117 GWh and capacity factor of approximately 29%. Installation of up to 39 modern, three-bladed turbines (between 4.2MW and 5.0MW each) across the existing and Aokautere Extension sites should increase electricity production approximately seven-fold to about 740 to 753 GWh and a capacity factor of approximately 50%.

This increase in generation capacity, combined with a 15-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Meridian (discussed in further detail below) provides a larger revenue stream with lower risk. Newer turbines usually also have significantly lower operating and capital costs on a per MWh basis, and lower overall financial risk since they operate in a wider range of wind conditions and are supported by a long-term Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) operations and maintenance contract covering the turbine life (expected to be 30 years).

In addition, if the repower proceeds, Te Rere Hau will benefit from visual uniformity with neighbouring wind farms in the Tararua Ranges. NWF anticipates that the repower will contribute towards further decarbonisation of the electricity generation sector and New Zealand's transition to a carbon-zero future. A repowered and expanded wind farm is expected to generate 781 full-time equivalent local jobs (FTEs) during construction and 122 FTEs in ongoing operations.

3. Why Meridian?

Although NWF has operational expertise, the development expertise and capital cost estimate of in the order of \$500-600m¹ required to repower an enlarged wind farm without a long-term PPA in place was viewed by directors as problematic for a small wholesale merchant generator with a market capitalisation of approximately \$47.7million (at 21 November closing market price of \$0.144). Following our request for expressions of interest and an intensive engagement process, Meridian was selected as the preferred partner, and both parties have been working to complete the documentation required to present a comprehensive proposition to shareholders, summarised in Section 11.

¹ Real 2023 \$ excluding capitalised interest.



Meridian is NZ's largest electricity generator, with a market capitalisation of approximately \$13 billion (at 21 November) and majority share ownership (51%) by the New Zealand Government. Meridian has an external S&P rating of BBB+ (stable). Partnering with Meridian gives NWF an opportunity to enable the repower and extension of Te Rere Hau wind farm whilst providing potential to pursue future development opportunities.

In NWF's view, Meridian's proposal most closely aligns to NWF objectives, by maximising returns to shareholders, enabling an ongoing influential NWF ownership stake and optimising project delivery through wind development expertise. Key elements of Meridian's proposal include:

- Meridian offers robust wind development experience, including the currently under-construction Harapaki wind farm. Meridian is well placed to apply its learnings and efficiencies from its other operational wind farms to this project.
- Value-accretive transaction structure, including Meridian agreeing to fund certain development costs up to the Final Investment Decision and to utilise non-recourse project finance debt with a view to maximising equity returns.
- Enables NWF to retain a position of influential ownership, with NWF having a right to a 50% ownership stake (subject to finance) and corresponding representation on the project company board, as well as a lead position on certain work-streams for the repower and Extension. See Section 11.
- Competitive off-take arrangement whereby, if the repower project proceeds, Meridian will provide a 15-year PPA for 100% of the electricity generated by the wind farm, with market pricing subject to certain minimum and maximum inflation-indexed price parameters, providing price certainty for the first 15 years. See Section 11.
- Meridian demonstrating a desire to partner with NWF and alignment of corporate values with NWF's, despite the substantial difference in company size and resources.

4. What is the repower proposition for NWF shareholders?

- NWF and Meridian will work jointly to repower and expand Te Rere Hau wind farm, subject to conditions including shareholder approval and Final Investment Decision by both parties (with Final Investment Decision including consenting, third party contracting and financing). Given that the repower project has been and is being consented utilising the Fast-Track Approval process, the repower is required to make progress by "giving effect" to the consent within two years (31 May 2025).
- NWF and Meridian have formed a 50:50 joint venture entity to repower Te Rere Hau wind farm (including the Aokautere Extension) comprising up to 39 large turbines and a new 220 kV grid connection.
- The new wind farm is expected to cost in the order of \$500-600m and will be funded by a mix of equity and limited-recourse project debt. Subject to NWF arranging financial commitments, the equity will be funded 50:50 by NWF (or a funding entity controlled by NWF) and Meridian. If NWF is unable to fully fund its planned 50% share its interest in the joint venture will reduce. In the event NWF cannot secure funding commitments of at least 25% of the equity requirement of the project, Meridian may acquire NWF's shares in the joint venture and require NWF to transfer the assets to the project vehicle, with Meridian to pay to NWF the agreed value for such assets.
- Subject to a Final Investment Decision, Meridian will provide the joint venture with a 15-year PPA, at a market price, subject to certain minimum and maximum inflation-indexed prices.
- NWF will sell certain existing wind farm assets that are necessary for the repower including consents, land, wind rights, roading and electrical grid connection infrastructure to the joint venture for a total purchase price (including goodwill) of approximately \$47.4m and NWF will also be reimbursed approximately \$2.9m of capitalised resource consent costs.

- Meridian will fund required external development expenditure up to an agreed amount to take the project to Final Investment Decision.
- NWF will retain ownership of certain assets, including its existing towers, turbines, meteorological mast and some electrical equipment for potential alternative reuse.
- A Final Investment Decision to proceed with the Repower and the Aokautere Extension is expected in or about April 2025.
- Following the Final Investment Decision, it is expected that construction will take 2.0-2.5 years, depending on outcomes such as availability of equipment, time of year for start date, and ground and weather conditions.
- NWF will transition to becoming a renewable electricity owner and developer, anchored by the repower. NWF has a number of early-stage but promising prospects in the pipeline, which it will now seek to firm up, potentially, but not exclusively, in partnership with Meridian.

5. What are the high-level metrics of the Repower and Aokautere Extension?

The following table provides a high-level comparison of the current wind farm with the proposed repowered wind farm, including the Aokautere Extension.

	Existing	Te Rere Hau Repower	Aokautere Extension	Total Repower
Number of	91	Up to 30	Up to 9	Up to 39
Turbines				
Output per Turbine	0.5MW	4.2 to 5.0MW	4.2 to 5.0MW	4.2 to 5.0MW
Max Output	45.5MW	126-150MW	37.8-45MW	163.8 – 170MW
Annual Energy Generation (P50)	117GWh	559 – 574 GWh	166 – 194GWh	740 – 753GWh
Capacity Factor (P50)	~29%	~50%	~50%	~50%
Tip Height	45m	Up to 162m	Up to 162m	Up to 162m
Hub Height	30m	80-101m	80-101m	80-101m
Blades	2	3	3	3
Blade Length	15m	Up to 65m	Up to 65m	Up to 65m
Land area (Ha)	558ha			1207ha
Grid connection	Shared via	New owned grid	New owned grid	New owned grid
	Mercury's T3 substation	connection	connection	connection
Hotel Power	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
PPA	Short term VVFPA	15-year PPA	15-year PPA	15-year PPA
OEM support	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wind farm operator	NWF	MEL and OEM	MEL and OEM	MEL and OEM
		under contract	under contract	under contract
Opex/MWh	\$33/MWh			\$12/MWh
NWF share of EBITDAF ²	\$3-6m			~\$25-30m ³

² NWF's previously announced market guidance for FY2024 EBITDAF is \$3.0-4.5m which assumes a higher confidence full year generation estimate of 106 GWh and an estimated blended electricity price of \$92.50 per MWh which incorporates VVFPA prices levels, estimated spot prices, hedge ratios and seasonally-adjusted generation profiles. The Existing EBITDAF range in the table adopts the low end of NWF's market guidance and the upper end is higher since it reflects a normalised estimate including P50 generation of 117GWh and Energy Link forecast electricity prices in order to be comparable with the basis of the repower EBITDAF estimates.

³ The Repower EBITDAF reflects a normalised estimate based on P50 generation and other assumptions set out in Sections 5 and 6.



6. What is the financial impact of the Repower including Aokautere?

NWF has undertaken extensive modelling of the repower and Aokautere Extension and made the comparison with the existing Te Rere Hau wind farm. However, there are conditions for the repower project to proceed and NWF and Meridian are still approximately 18 months away from Final Investment Decision when they will have confirmed contract pricing for wind turbine supply and installation, and civil and electrical plant, and finalised equity and debt pricing. The Final Investment Decision will require an acceptable financial return to be demonstrated to both NWF and Meridian. In addition, the terms of the PPA with Meridian explicitly require confidentiality on the terms of the price cap and collar being paid. So the following are the NWF Board's preliminary views assuming that the repower project is completed as planned under the agreement with Meridian:

- NWF's share of EBITDAF would increase from approximately \$3-6m to approximately \$25-30m p.a. based on the assumptions set out in Section 5, and the following:
 - CPI as per Reserve Bank of New Zealand August 2023 monetary policy statement and 2% p.a. long term.
 - Electricity price forecasts sourced from Energy Link.
 - NWF's share of overhead costs is approximately \$1.5m p.a.⁴
 - No revenue from renewable energy certificates.
- The targeted project IRR is approximately 9.0% post-tax.
- NWF risk should reduce substantially because the Meridian PPA will provide a long-term contracted wholesale market-based price with a strong counterparty which is within a CPI-indexed cap and floor price for the first ten years and above a CPI-indexed floor for the next five years. In addition, operational risk will be managed through an expected 30-year turbine operation-and-maintenance contract with pricing certainty. Financial risk should be reduced through long-term 15-year non-recourse project debt finance and the financial strength of Meridian as an equity partner. In contrast, the existing Te Rere Hau wind farm is, and is likely to remain, subject to predominantly short-term pricing and illiquid market demand under variable volume fixed price agreements (VVFPAs) and an ageing turbine fleet with reducing availability over time which no longer has OEM support.
- NWF's ability to pay regular dividends should improve significantly relative to its current position.

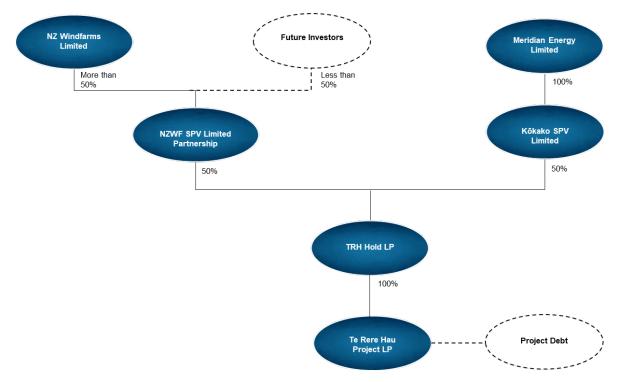
NWF is required to give effect to the fast-track consent within a two-year time frame, unless an extension to the resource consent is successfully obtained from the local councils, which itself requires substantial progress to have been made. Not progressing the repower and Aokautere Extension risks NWF's capital investment in the repower consent (and any extension consent should that be granted) being written off.

⁴ Overhead costs includes NWF's 50% share of project overheads and its own overheads but excludes costs for further development opportunities.



7. How will NWF fund its share of the repower equity in the future?

The following diagram shows an overview of the structure and proposed funding of the joint venture.



At Final Investment Decision, NWF's investment vehicle will be required to undertake a more substantial capital raise to meet its funding requirements in line with a 50% equity participation in the project vehicle. Whilst no decision has been formalised as to how this will be achieved, the Investor's Agreement between NWF and Meridian contemplates a combination of equity mechanisms. NWF will receive proceeds from contributing certain existing assets to the project (such as the consents, roading, land, and a contribution of goodwill) at the agreed value of approximately \$47.4m plus reimbursement to NWF of approximately \$2.9m of capitalised resource consent costs (i.e. totalling \$50.3m), which can fund a portion of NWF's required contribution. The remainder is expected be raised through either new shares in NWF or new equity investment directly into NWF's investment vehicle in the repower project as shown in the diagram above (subject to NWF retaining greater than 50% control of its 50% share). The Board anticipates keen interest in the latter from renewable energy investors seeking to participate directly in New Zealand's de-carbonisation thematic.

The favourable long-term PPA of 15 years with a strong creditworthy counterparty will enable substantial debt to be raised against the project, thus reducing the equity ask. The expectation is that project debt could fund 65-75% of the total repower cost, currently estimated at in the order of \$500-600m.

The residual equity funding NWF's investment vehicle is likely to need to raise to maintain a 50% equity interest in the developed wind farm is expected to be approximately \$40-75m. This assumes a gearing range of 65-75% and some allowances for development pipeline and working capital. This is in addition to the proceeds of the recent placement of shares with Meridian and renounceable rights issue.

If Resolution 1 is passed, NWF will be able to raise equity direct in its investment vehicle without again seeking shareholder approval - which would otherwise be required under the Listing Rules if the amount raised exceeded 50% of its market capitalisation at the time. However, in accordance with Resolution 1, any such direct equity must not result in NWF ceasing to control, or own directly or indirectly more than 50% of, its investment vehicle.

If NWF is unable to fully fund its planned 50% share its interest in the joint venture will reduce. In the event NWF cannot secure funding commitments of at least 25% of the equity requirement of the project,



Meridian may acquire NWF's shares in the joint venture and require NWF to transfer the assets to the project vehicle, with Meridian to pay to NWF the agreed value for such assets.

8. What are the risks?

In reaching its decision to enter into an agreement to pursue the repower though a joint venture with Meridian, the Board carefully considered the merits of pursuing the repower compared with retaining the existing wind farm. Both options carry risk.

What has become clear in this evaluation process in the Board's view is that the status quo contains material risk:

- The existing WF500 turbines do not fully capitalise on the world-class wind resource of Te Rere Hau. This has been starkly illustrated with the emergence of the new Turitea North wind farm next door, with the Mercury Energy Turitea 3.6-3.8MW turbines frequently operating in lower wind conditions (below 6.5m/s) whilst Te Rere Hau turbines remain stationary.
- The existing wind farm cannot take advantage of the Aokautere Extension opportunity due to capacity limitations of NWF's current T3 connection. The Aokautere Extension alone could provide 1.5x the current wind farm production.
- The existing transmission connection through the Tararua Wind Centre substation comes up for renewal in 2031.
- Whilst the WF500 turbines have been well maintained, it is expected that their availability performance will degrade over time. Currently, there are 91 turbines in operation (from 97 originally commissioned) and our analysis anticipates the number of operating turbines will likely start reducing in 2032 and the fleet will reach the end of its economic life by 2036-2046 (depending partly on market pricing). NWF is the only operator of WF500 turbines in New Zealand with only seven other WF500 turbines operational in the world (and the OEM has been liquidated) so their future performance and availability of parts etc is less certain than more modern turbines which are backed by substantial worldwide businesses.
- NWF is required to give effect to its Fast-Track consent within a two-year time frame, unless an
 extension is successfully obtained from the local councils, which itself requires substantial
 progress to have been made. Not progressing with this transaction therefore risks the capital
 investment by NWF being written off. Any future new consent application is likely to cause
 significant delays and add cost to the project.

As with any new renewable-energy project, there are development risks in bringing the wind farm to fruition and then operating it. However, the repower is a "brownfields" project rather than a "greenfields" project.

Specifically:

- NWF has approximately 20 years of wind data on its existing site. Using a newly-erected 60m meteorological mast and LIDAR to collect wind data over the last 18 months, NWF has been able to build up a modelled history of the wind speeds at the proposed new hub height at a P90 confidence factor.
- There is an established roading network that was recently upgraded to enable Mercury Energy's Turitea wind farm blades to be transported through the site. In addition, the new Aokautere Extension land has engineered forestry roads already laid out.
- Ground conditions for the site are well known from previous geotechnical studies and construction undertaken.
- The proposed new transmission connection to the Transpower grid is relatively short (4km) and over rolling farmland.



- Meridian has agreed to provide a 15-year market-based PPA if the repower project proceeds, subject to certain minimum and maximum inflation-indexed prices (see below) which substantially de-risks the project from a financial perspective.
- Long-term 15-year non-recourse project finance is expected to be available for funding the project, which reduces refinancing risk.
- Both NWF (on site) and Meridian (the largest wind farm operator in New Zealand) have extensive wind farm operating experience in New Zealand.

This said, the repower is still subject to Meridian and NWF agreeing to proceed with the project – i.e., Final Investment Decision. Final Investment Decision, if achieved, is expected in or around April 2025. In the meantime, the existing wind farm will be operated normally, and Meridian has agreed to fund the external upfront development costs of the project up to an agreed amount that is considered sufficient to achieve a Final Investment Decision.

9. What Consenting and Tangata Whenua Support has been received?

NWF has received resource consent to undertake the core repower under the Fast Track Consent pathway. This consent requires NWF to give effect to the consent within a two-year time frame, unless an extension is successfully obtained from the local councils. Consent was obtained in May 2023.

On 20 October 2023 NWF also lodged a formal application for Fast Track Consent for the Aokautere Extension project on the adjacent Ernslaw One land. If granted, the intention would be to proceed with the Aokautere Extension as part of the overall TRH repower project.

NWF is also working with Transpower on the final transmission line design.

NWF has worked closely with tangata whenua, Rangitāne o Manawatū, Rangitāne o Tāmaki Nui a Rua and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua on both the repower and the Aokautere Extension projects. NWF is delighted to have the formal support of Rangitāne o Manawatū and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua, and a good working relationship with Rangitāne o Tāmaki Nui a Rua. The intention of NWF and Meridian is to partner with tangata whenua in bringing the repower and Aokautere Extension to fruition.

10. What is required for Final Investment Decision?

Following entry into this partnership, NWF and Meridian will work together to progress the various aspects of the repower towards a Final Investment Decision under the Investors Agreement. Final Investment Decision is a decision point at which the parties have progressed the commercial, legal and financial aspects of the project to the point at which they can formally agree that they should go ahead with the repower and sign various documents to bring the project to fruition.

A set of Final Investment Decision parameters has been agreed under the Investors Agreement and include:

- 1. Each party has obtained equity funding commitments.
- 2. An acceptable financial return to both NWF and Meridian has been demonstrated under the project financial model.
- 3. Final form project and finance documents have been agreed for the development and financing of the project.
- 4. All material consents and authorisations have been obtained.
- 5. Meridian providing a PPA in the form (and comprising the commercial elements), as per the Investors Agreement.

While the Investors' Agreement provides parameters for the Final Investment Decision, should shareholders approve Resolution 1, the decision whether or not to proceed with the Repower and the



Aokautere Extension will be made jointly by Meridian and the Board of NWF based on prevailing circumstances and information available at the time.

11. What is the key documentation?

NWF has entered into the following agreements with Meridian:

1. **Investors Agreement** (IA): The IA is the primary document setting out the joint venture terms between NWF and Meridian. This agreement is intended to govern the relationship of the parties and provide a framework for the further development of the project as it moves toward financial close.

In particular, the IA sets out the following:

- Conditions relating to shareholder approval, Final Investment Decision parameters being met and a period of exclusivity for the development of the project with Meridian. If NWF shareholder approval for the transactions contemplated by the IA is not received by 25 October 2025, either party may terminate the agreement.
- o A proposed business plan governing the development stage of the project.
- The process for the contribution of equity by the parties and the valuation of assets, with a staged asset transfer whereby NWF will immediately transfer to the Meridian joint venture vehicle its development assets (being principally the new transmission land and easement and Transpower consent application, and certain new wind rights agreements not currently being used for the existing wind farm) but will retain ownership of all assets used in the current Te Rere Hau wind farm until financial close.
- Provision for the management of the joint venture, including the establishment of a Project Control Group to oversee the management of the project with equal representation on the Board (providing NWF meets its 50% equity contribution). Certain reserved matters will require unanimous approval of the Board, while other Board decisions will require a majority (with no casting vote for the chairperson). The initial Board members for the joint venture entities will be Craig Stobo (NWF), Philip Cory-Wright (NWF), Mike Roan (Meridian) and Guy Waipara (Meridian).
- Details relating to development costs, including agreement for Meridian to fund third-party development costs of the project up to an agreed amount through to Final Investment Decision, and the delegation of certain services to Meridian and NWF respectively with Meridian appointed as operator for the construction and operations phase of the project. Meridian's commitment to fund development costs and provide development services to the project is subject to receipt of NWF shareholder approval for the transactions contemplated by the IA by 31 December 2023, while either party may terminate the IA if development services agreements are not signed by the same date.
- Standard restrictions on the transfer of shares in the joint venture, (including a general prohibition on transfers prior to the project becoming operational without the other party's approval), and protections relating to changes in control of the parties without the other party's consent.

The IA also anticipates the entry into the following documents between the relevant parties prior to financial close:

- Power Purchase Agreement (PPA): The PPA sets out terms whereby Meridian will commit to purchase all electricity generated from the repowered Te Rere Hau wind farm and Aokautere Extension for a period of 15 years, within agreed minimum and maximum price parameters as follows:
 - For the initial 10-year period following commencement, the average ASX Otahuhu node price, adjusted for location and intermittency factors, subject to an inflation-indexed floor



(minimum) and ceiling (maximum) price with no adjustment for location and intermittency factors.

 For the remaining 5-year period until the expiry date, it is the average ASX Otahuhu node price, adjusted for location and intermittency factors, subject to an inflation-indexed floor price (with no requirement adjustment for location and intermittency factors), but with no maximum.

The PPA will commence once 80% of the design generation capacity is completed in line with the construction programme. Electricity generated up to this point (as turbines are commissioned) will be priced at the initial period price band but will not be counted as part of the 15-year term.

The PPA also sets out:

- Provisions relating to green products including renewable energy certificates (RECs), with Meridian having first option to purchase any such products from the joint venture at market value.
- o Details relating to metering, operations and maintenance.
- A mechanism for price sharing between the parties where there is a material change in costs as a result of regulatory or legal changes.
- Standard restrictions in relation to modifications and expansions, assignment and changes in control without the other party's consent.
- 3. **Subscription Agreement**: The Subscription Agreement contains additional details relating to the process for the contribution of equity by the parties from financial close and the issue of shares and partnership units in the joint venture entities.
- 4. **Development Services Agreements**: Both NWF and Meridian will provide development services to the project, in accordance with the scope set out in the respective services agreements. The Development Services Agreements will also set out:
 - Provision for the service provider to be appointed as agent and assume responsibility for the delivery of the services, subject to certain limitations on its delegated authority.
 - Key service obligations and compliance requirements to be assumed by the service provider.
 - The fees payable in accordance with the specified services and any additional services that may be required, by agreement of the parties.
 - Reporting requirements, with such reports to cover compliance with service obligations and performance against cost estimates by reference to the agreed development budget.

The joint venture established by NWF and Meridian to develop the project is unlikely to require its own staff during the development phase because services will be contracted under the Development Services Agreements. After the development is complete, staffing of the joint venture will be determined by its Board but NWF expects that any separate staffing requirements will be limited given that there will be a PPA and a planned long-term operations and maintenance contract.

- 5. Asset Transfer Agreements: The Asset Transfer Agreements outline the assets (and the agreed market values for such assets) that will be transferred to the project by NWF and form part of NWF's equity contribution for the project. NWF will transfer the assets to the joint venture in two stages:
 - The initial transfer will relate to those assets that are exclusively related to the repowering project (i.e., they do not prevent the ongoing operation of the existing wind farm).



- The balance of the assets that the parties agree are required for the repowering project will be transferred at financial close.
- NWF will retain ownership of certain assets, including its existing towers, turbines, meteorological mast and some electrical equipment for potential alternative reuse.

As a holder of more than 10% of the shares in NWF, Meridian is now, and the joint venture entities could be, related parties of NWF under the Listing Rules.

However, the Investors' Agreement was entered into before Meridian became a shareholder in NWF or those entities were established. So NWF does not currently consider that any of the transactions described above will be a transaction with a related party that will require separate shareholder approval under the Listing Rules.

12. What advisers have been engaged?

NWF has undertaken a comprehensive process to select a partner for the repower over a 12-month period incorporating an initial Expressions of Interest process including local and international parties, a shortlisting of parties and then selection of Meridian as exclusive preferred party. This process has been undertaken by NWF with the benefit of advice from a number of parties including Mafic Partners as financial adviser and structurer, Wynn Williams as corporate legal adviser, Anderson Lloyd as transaction legal adviser, Ernst Young as tax adviser, PWC as equity adviser and Goldsbury Consulting (Shaun Goldsbury) in relation to the PPA.



13. What is the timing?

The following is an indicative timetable for the Repower:

Event	Date
Investors' Agreement with Meridian signed	25 October 2023
Joint venture project entities established	15 November 2023
NWF and the joint venture entity enter into an Initial Asset Transfer Agreement for the transfer of NWF's development assets (not required for the existing windfarm) to the joint venture in exchange for equity.	December 2023
NWF and Meridian each enter into a Development Services Agreement with the joint venture (with Meridian agreeing to fund third party development costs to an agreed amount subject to NWF shareholder approval)	December 2023
Special Meeting of NWF Shareholders to approve transactions	20 December 2023
Consenting decision on the Aokautere Extension expected	March 2024
Project financial model finalised to demonstrate an acceptable financial return. All necessary consents obtained. NWF capital raise to meet its funding requirements for a 50% equity participation in the joint venture. Final form project and finance documents agreed.	January 2023 to April 2025
Final Investment Decision to proceed with the Repower and the Aokautere Extension	April 2025
Transfer of all operating assets of NWF to the joint venture in exchange for equity.	April 2025
Decommissioning of the existing windfarm.	From April 2025
Construction complete. Meridian purchases energy from the joint venture under the Power Purchase Agreement.	April – October 2027

14. Summary

Following the Board's decision in late 2021 to pursue consents for repowering Te Rere Hau wind farm, we are delighted to present to shareholders for approval our plans to monetise the value of these consents by sharing the risks and rewards of building New Zealand's second largest wind farm.

We have secured as our project development, ownership and electricity offtake partner New Zealand's largest renewable electricity generator, Meridian Energy, on a 50:50 basis. As part of the agreed commercial terms, if shareholders approve the transactions, Meridian will fund upfront third-party project development costs up to agreed amount through to a Final Investment Decision and, if the repower proceeds, enter into a 15-year Power Purchase Agreement.

Directors believe that the realisation of this repowering project will provide an anchor for future growth into other renewable energy development opportunities. We look forward to your approval and support.



RESOLUTION 2: RATIFICATION OF SHARE PLACEMENT

As part of its agreement with Meridian, the Company issued 43,209,500 ordinary shares to Meridian Energy Limited on 25 October 2023 for an issue price of \$0.155. This represented a premium of 32% to the previous market price of NWF shares (\$0.117 per share on 24 October). Meridian currently holds approximately 13% of the shares in the Company.

Meridian also agreed to underwrite a 1 for 8.5 renounceable rights issue by the Company at the same issue price which closes on 20 November 2023. Meridian has agreed to subscribe for up to 28,801,895 new shares (but so that the shares to be held by Meridian in NWF do not exceed 19.99% of all shares) if there is a shortfall in acceptances of the rights issue offer.

The placement of shares to Meridian reduced the ownership and voting interest of each shareholder in the Company by approximately 13%. Shareholders other than Meridian who do not take up their rights will reduce their ownership and voting interest in the Company by up to a further 5%.

This placement of shares with Meridian did not require shareholder approval under the NZX Listing Rules but the Board would also like the flexibility to be able to raise further equity by making a further placement up to 15% of the shares on issue, e.g. to introduce institutional or renewable energy shareholders to the NWF share register at a future date. This will further enable NWF to pursue other renewable energy opportunities.

Accordingly, the Board is seeking to "refresh" its ability to undertake placements up to 15% by asking for NWF shareholder ratification of the placement to Meridian. The Board has no current plans to use the refreshed ability to place further shares but wishes to have the ability to take advantage of further opportunities.

For the next 12 months, NWF will only make a placement with the consent of Meridian. Under the Takeovers Code, Meridian cannot hold or control more than 20% of the shares in the Company without shareholder approval or making a takeover offer.

If the Board were to make a placement of the full 15% authorised by this resolution, shareholders not receiving the placement would have their ownership and voting interest in the Company reduced by approximately a further 13%.

Meridian is restricted from voting in favour of this resolution under NZX Listing Rule 6.3.1.

RESOLUTION 3: DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

Under NZX Listing Rule 2.11.1 and the Company's constitution, no remuneration may be paid to a director in his or her capacity as a director of the Company, or as a director of a subsidiary (other than a listed subsidiary), unless such remuneration has been authorised by an ordinary resolution of shareholders.

The Company engaged Board Dynamics to provide a report on the current director remuneration at NWF and recommend changes (if any) in the current fees based on current market data since the last review in 2022. A copy of the Board Dynamics report is available in the Investor Centre section of <u>www.nzwindfarms.co.nz</u>.

The Board reviewed this market data and based on a comparison of the Company's directors' fees to the market data, considers the proposed increase of the remuneration of independent directors by 4% and of the Chair of the Repower Committee by a further \$10,400, both effective from 1 July 2023, as set out in the table below is appropriate.



Position	Proposed Remuneration	
Chair	\$166,400	
Director	\$72,800	*Fe
Chair of Audit and Financial Risk Committee (ARC)	\$10,400*	the
Chair of Repower Committee (RC)	\$20,800*	ado
Member of ARC	\$5,200*	for

*Fees for these roles are added to fees for other roles.

Neal Barclay, the CEO of Meridian Energy Limited, who has been invited to join the Board will not receive director's remuneration from the Company.

If Resolution 3 is passed, the changes to the directors' remuneration will take effect from 1July 2023. This aligns the new remuneration with the Company's balance date.



PROCEDURAL NOTES

PERSONS ENTITLED TO VOTE

Voting entitlements for the meeting will be fixed as at 5:00pm on Monday 18 December 2023. Only people registered as shareholders at that time will be able to vote at this meeting and only on their shareholdings at that time.

Voting will be by poll.

Meridian Energy Limited has agreed with NWF that it will not vote on Resolution 1 (Approval of Repower Transactions) and is restricted from voting in favour of Resolution 2 (Ratification of Share Placement) under the NZX Listing Rules.

HOW TO ATTEND THE MEETING

Unless the physical meeting has to be cancelled or moved to an alternative venue, shareholders will be able to attend and participate in the Special Meeting in person at Link Market Services Limited (Level 30), PwC Tower, 15 Customs Street West, Auckland 1010.

Shareholders may also choose to attend the meeting virtually online through the web link <u>www.virtualmeeting.co.nz/NWFSGM23</u>. By using the web platform, you will be able to watch the meeting, vote and ask questions online using your smartphone, tablet or desktop device. Please refer to the enclosed Virtual Meeting Guide for more information. Shareholders will require a valid email address to access the Virtual Meeting. To ask a question or to vote on resolutions utilising the online web platform, shareholders will require their shareholder number for verification purposes.

PROXIES AND CORPORATE REPRESENTATIVES

Any shareholder entitled to vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy (or representative, in the case of a corporate shareholder) to attend and vote on their behalf. A proxy need not be a NZ Windfarms shareholder. You may appoint the Chair of the meeting as your proxy. The Chair will vote according to your instructions. If the Chair is not instructed how to vote, he will vote in favour of all resolutions.

PROXY FORM

A Proxy Form is enclosed with this Notice of Meeting. Completed Proxy Forms must be received at the office of the Company's share registrar, Link Market Services Limited, by 11am on Monday 18 December 2023.

Please see the front page of the Proxy Form on how to return your proxy vote.

Shareholders can elect to lodge their proxy appointment online. You will need to go to the website of our share registrar, Link Market Services: <u>https://investorcentre.linkgroup.nz/voting/NWF</u>

You will be required to enter your CSN/Holder number and FIN and follow the instructions from there.

In addition, shareholders may return their completed proxy form by scanning and emailing to meetings@linkmarketservices.com

ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES IF NOT PASSED

All resolutions are ordinary resolutions, meaning that they can be approved by a simple majority (more than 50%) of the votes cast. Because all of the transactions described in Resolution 1 will be undertaken by subsidiaries of NWF, none of them is a major transaction of NWF that must be approved by special resolution of shareholders under the Companies Act 1993.



If Resolution 1 is not passed, the Investors' Agreement with Meridian will remain in place, but the Company will be unable to sell its assets to, or invest in, the joint venture and Meridian will be released from certain key obligations under the Investors' Agreement. So the Company will retain its existing windfarm operating assets but the repower project will not proceed on the terms set out above, and may not proceed at all because NWF is required to give effect to its Fast-Track consent within a two-year time frame, unless an extension is successfully obtained from the local councils (which itself requires substantial progress to have been made).

If Resolution 2 is not passed, the Board will be unable to make any placement of up to 15% of the shares of the Company on issue before 25 October 2024 without obtaining shareholder approval by ordinary resolution.

If Resolution 3 is not passed, the remuneration of directors will remain unchanged.

SHAREHOLDER QUESTIONS

Shareholders present will have the opportunity to ask questions using the online platform during the meeting or in person if the physical meeting goes ahead.

If you cannot attend the Special Meeting but would like to ask a question, you can submit a question online by going to <u>https://investorcentre.linkgroup.co.nz/voting/NWF</u> and completing the online validation process or complete the question section of the proxy form and return to Link Market Services. Questions will need to be submitted by 11:00am on Monday 18 December 2023.

Please note that not all questions may be able to be answered during the meeting. In this case, questions will be followed up after the meeting.

NO CARPARKING

Attendees at the physical meeting will have to make their own car parking arrangements.