

White Hill Wind Farm Opens

8 July 2007

The first operational wind farm in the South Island opened in July 2007. Boffa Miskell provided a range of environmental consulting services to Meridian Energy for the White Hill Wind farm, near Mossburn in Southland.

Boffa Miskell completed the landscape and ecological assessments, coordinated the resource consent application and compiled the numerous technical reports required for the assessment of environmental effects.

Resource consent was granted in December 2004 with no appeals and construction began in March 2006.

The 29 two-megawatt turbines will produce enough electricity to supply about 30,000 average households.

Boffa Miskell ecologists designed a bird monitoring programme for White Hill. This has focused on New Zealand falcon, which is a threatened species, and began before construction to understand flight patterns and behaviour. Monitoring will continue now the turbines are operational so that any changes in falcon behaviour or survival can be recorded and remedial action taken if necessary. This will also help in understanding the potential implications and appropriate design of windfarms in other areas with falcons.

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