



Tim Cosgrove, Ray Brown, David Francis (Infratec) and Ben Hessell ready for work to start on the Taylor Pass solar farm site

Here comes the sun - energising Marlborough's future

Marlborough Lines is excited to announce onsite work of its first solar farm in Blenheim, is about to commence.

The one-hectare solar farm will have the capacity to power 175 homes each year and is the first project in the electricity distribution company's programme aimed at building its renewable energy generation portfolio.

Marlborough Lines General Manager of Engineering and Development Ray Brown says the programme of work is also about continuing to operate as a successful business and sharing returns with its beneficiaries, the Marlborough community.

"As a consumer-owned business, we're focused on delivering reliable services and sustainable returns to our customers," Ray says.

"Our investment into renewable energy is all part of the global drive toward increasing renewable energy resources, and it makes sense for us to create and

deliver solar-powered energy in Marlborough as we are blessed with an abundance of sunshine."

Currently, most of the region's power comes from the Waitaki hydro scheme in South Canterbury, some 600 kilometers away, resulting in an inevitable loss of energy along the way. By producing our own power, we lose less electricity during the long-distance transport of electricity, he says.

Work on-site at the solar farm, which is located at the southern end of the Marlborough Lines Field Services Depot in Taylor Pass Road, will commence soon and is due for completion mid-way through 2023.

The project will be carried out by Infratec, one of New Zealand's leading renewable energy developers.

Marlborough Lines Business Development Engineer Ben Hessell says the 852kW solar farm is just the first in Marlborough Lines' plans to develop renewable energy resources.

"We'll be lodging two more consents for significant solar farms in Ward and Seddon in the coming

weeks. Further development work will be progressed before making a final investment decision on these plants, both of which would also feed electricity into our local grid," he says.

"One project at Yealands will be capable of producing 4MW of power, which is five times the scale of our Taylor Pass solar farm. The Ward solar farm will be around 10MW, over twice the size of Yealands."

All three of the Marlborough Lines solar farms would produce enough electricity to power 3,100 homes.

Ray says Marlborough Lines will recoup the investment of its renewable energy programme by selling the electricity produced.

"Continued investment in generation projects, such as producing our own sources of renewable energy will ensure Marlborough Lines maintains electricity supply as demand grows and continues to provide value to Marlborough consumers.

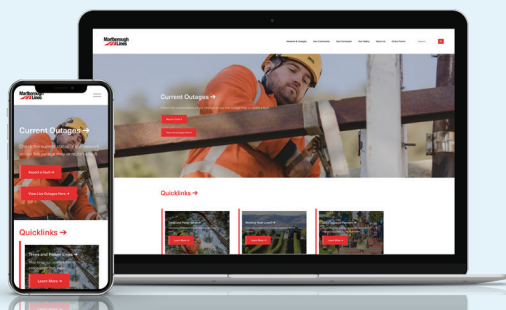
"It's all part of our mission to deliver sustainable regional growth and equity through people, technology, and environmental leadership."

Have you checked out our new website?

Our new and improved website is a great way to get information about power outages, as well as access online forms for a range of services Marlborough Lines provides including:

- Requesting a new or altering an existing, electricity connection
- Connecting distributed generation (e.g., solar)
- Requesting a safety disconnect
- Close Approach Permit applications
- Requesting a cable location
- Registering your EV
- Job applications
- Sponsorship applications

Scan the QR code to check it out or visit www.marlboroughlines.co.nz



Consumer Survey

Thank you to the over 2,500 people who participated in our annual Consumer Survey in August.

The results show an overall satisfaction rate of **87%** (slightly down from 89% in 2021).

We are working through the detailed results which will give us more insight to how happy our consumers are with our services and capabilities and how well we are meeting consumer needs and expectations. We can then act on that information to improve our services and performance.