

Rangitaiki: Lodestone Energy's Edgumbe Solar Farm

KEY FACTS

OUR NAME

Our thanks to Ngāti Awa who officially bestowed the name “Rangitaiki” Solar Farm on our Edgumbe Solar Farm. The Rangitaiki name is associated with both the plains and river, with meaning to most iwi within the rohe.

OUR FARM

Rangitaiki, borders the Rangitaiki river on the Edgumbe plains. The farm consists of nearly 60,000 solar panels supported by more than 6,300 piles across an expansive area spanning 50 hectares. The site has a capacity of 32.4 MW and is expected to produce approximately 54 GWh annually, which is enough energy to power over 7,500* households.

To ensure smooth operations, six inverters have been installed on-site, optimising the conversion and distribution of electricity. This farm is designed to continue to be generating electricity for more than 35 years.

CONSTRUCTION & OPERATION

Construction of the farm started a year ago in March 2023 and the farm is due to be fully commissioned in April 2024. A dedicated team of more than 90 construction staff have worked to bring this project to fruition, many of whom were from the local community.

There is little or no audible impact on neighbours as the only moving part is the panels when they are gradually tracking the sun.

AGRIVOLTAIC DESIGN

The design for the farm aims to maximise the combined production of electricity and agricultural activity. Panels have been installed at least 2 metres above ground allowing for livestock grazing and lower density shading on vegetation beneath. Leaving larger spacing (9-11 metres) between the rows means more room for machinery and light diffusion to arable land.

