



Media Release

2 December 2009

Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Planning Applications on public exhibition

Origin's Stockyard Hill Wind Farm project near Ballarat in Victoria has been placed on public exhibition as part of its planning permit applications under Victoria's assessment process.

Origin Executive General Manager Major Development Projects, Mr Andrew Stock said that Stockyard Hill Wind Farm has the potential to provide enough renewable energy for the equivalent of approximately 270,000 typical homes, as well as deliver investment and jobs in regional Victoria.ⁱ

The public release of the planning permit applications and the associated expert reports follows nearly two years of extensive planning, research and consultation.

The State and Federal Governments have established a transparent process for assessing the design and environmental considerations associated with wind farm developments. This includes the call for comment and the appointment of an independent assessment body to review the project and conduct public hearings, which is expected to occur in the first half of 2010.

Origin is working in partnership with some landowners in the district which have options to place turbines and associated infrastructure on their land.

Mr Stock said the company would be engaging with the community through information sessions, advertising, a project-specific website and mail outs to ensure the public had an informed basis for assessment. He said a hotline had been established and members of the Origin project team were available for discussions and to answer questions.

Mr Stock said the planning and development of wind projects, such as Stockyard Hill Wind Farm, were a part of Origin's response to meeting its customer demand for green energy and obligations under the Federal Government's 20 per cent Renewable Energy Target legislation.

The proposed Stockyard Hill Wind Farm is located between the towns of Beaufort and Skipton, approximately 150 km north-west of Melbourne and 35 km west of Ballarat.

Submissions must be in writing and directed to:

The Minister for Planning
c/- Planning Panels Victoria
Level 1, 8 Nicholson St
East Melbourne VIC 3002

The deadline for submissions is 30/01/2010



For further information visit www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au

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About Origin Energy

Origin Energy is Australasia's leading integrated energy company focused on gas and oil exploration and production, power generation and energy retailing.

Listed in the ASX top 20 the company has approximately 4,000 employees, is a leading producer of gas in eastern Australia, is the largest owner and developer of gas-fired electricity generation in Australia and is a leading wholesaler and retailer of energy. The company services more than 3.5 million electricity, natural gas and LPG customers across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. Origin's strategic positioning and portfolio of assets provide flexibility, stability and significant opportunities for growth in the ever changing energy industry. Through Australia Pacific LNG, its 50:50 incorporated joint venture with ConocoPhillips, Origin is developing one of Australia's largest CSG to LNG projects based on Australia's largest CSG reserves base.

In New Zealand, Origin is the major shareholder in Contact Energy, the country's leading integrated energy company, operating geothermal, thermal and hydro generation facilities and servicing electricity, gas and LPG customers across both the North and South islands. Origin also operates several oil and gas projects in New Zealand and is one of the largest holders of petroleum exploration acreage in the country.

Origin has a strong focus on ensuring the sustainability of its operations, is the largest green energy retailer in Australia and has significant investments in renewable energy technologies.

For more information go to www.originenergy.com.au

ⁱ The number of houses powered is based on an estimated average usage of 7 MWh p.a. and an annual expected generation of approximately 1,891 GWh of electricity per year (based on a long term average forecast with a specification of 2MW turbines).