



# STOCKYARD HILL WIND FARM

Newsletter | Edition 9: August 2011

Welcome to the ninth edition of the Stockyard Hill newsletter. This newsletter provides information to the communities involved in the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm development situated between Skipton and Beaufort, 35km west of Ballarat. More copies are available by either contacting us, or downloading from our website.

## Studies and surveys to ensure approval conditions met

Over the coming months, Origin will conduct a range of environmental, engineering and planning assessments to ensure the proposed wind farm development complies with the granted State and Federal approval conditions.

These assessments will involve site surveys by ecologists, the installation of wind monitoring masts and topographical surveys.

Work to determine whether the Striped Legless Lizard, a species listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999, is present at the site is already underway. Tile shelters will shortly be placed at various locations and will record lizards passing across their surface. A specialist will check the shelters in late spring and early summer.

As well as this, an aerial topographical survey will help to clarify the ideal and exact locations for turbines, and flora surveys will focus on identifying any impact on the Spiny Rice-Flower (also listed under the EPBC Act), and highlighting any further areas of Natural Temperate Grassland of the Volcanic Plains.



## Winter and spring energy saving tips

Temperatures will remain crisp for the remainder of winter and the beginning of spring, which means many people will spend more time indoors with their heaters and other appliances running more than usual.

Origin's Energy Efficiency Advocate, Anne Armansin, has some simple tips to keep energy consumption down over the coming weeks.

### Anne's tips:

- We advise you take all necessary steps to ensure your home is well insulated, draught free with curtains or blinds securely fitted to large glass areas like windows, doors and skylights before daily temperatures drop.
- Place non slip rugs on bare wooden or tiled floors.
- If you have ceiling fans, reverse the blade rotation direction to force warm air away from the ceiling and back to you.
- If your heater has a positive thermostat set the temperature to 20°C. Remember - the higher you set the thermostat, the higher your energy consumption and the higher your bill.
- If you are leaving the home for more than an hour – turn whole house systems off or use the timer function so you do not waste energy.
- If using portable heaters, ensure they are well ventilated and clear of obstruction that could pose a fire hazard.
- Always turn a portable heater off when you are about to leave a room unoccupied.
- Set house rules regarding heater use i.e. only when minimum temperatures are due to be 10°C or less.
- Cook casseroles or roast dinners in the oven on cold days - the oven generated heat will warm you and the kitchen.

## Beaufort vs. Skipton John Fraser Challenge Shield

For the first time in more than 80 years, the Beaufort and Skipton football and netball clubs met on 25 June 2011 and reignited a friendly local football and netball rivalry while competing for the John Fraser Challenge Shield.

Although Beaufort walked away winners, ties between the two clubs were celebrated at a joint post game sit down dinner, which was proudly supported by Origin.

The dinner gave players and supporters the chance to come together and celebrate the competition and each other's company on a historic occasion. The sale of meals, a raffle and bar takings were also used to raise funds for the season ahead.

Money raised from the event will be divided by both clubs and directed to fund new sports equipment for the junior sections of the clubs, an annual day trip for junior members to an AFL match in Melbourne, and to helping cover the costs of junior accreditation coaching training.



Beaufort in attack during the game.  
Photo supplied by the Pyrenees Advocate

## Did you know?

The Stockyard Hill Wind Farm development will encompass approximately 120km of gravelled access tracks, hardstands, construction compounds and foundation bases. These require a significant amount of gravel and general road construction material, which could be up to 650,000 tonnes of material.

Due to the road and general repairs across the State from Victorian floods earlier this year and the demands of other Victorian projects, road and construction aggregate is in short supply.

We are interested to hear from local contractors that may have suitable material for our needs in advance of construction commencing.

This is just one example of opportunities for local contractors that may arise during the construction phase.

Community relations advisor Ian Courtney is available by calling the project hotline on 1800 753 730.

## Contact Us

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