



# STOCKYARD HILL WIND FARM

View north towards Mt Ercildoune;  
November 2013

Newsletter | Edition 14: November 2013

Welcome to the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Stockyard Hill newsletter. This newsletter provides information to the communities involved in the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm development. More copies are available by either contacting us, or downloading from our website.

## Project update

Origin continues to progress the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm as one of its key energy development options for the future.

For the remainder of 2013 and throughout 2014 we will be working to fulfill the project's permit conditions, including key assessments for traffic and transport, flora and fauna and noise, progressing investigations for an on-site quarry, finalising transmission line easement negotiations and design and confirming the final project design.

## Transmission line update

In addition to technical and engineering feasibility assessments, it is necessary to determine if the proposed transmission line will impact on protected and endangered plants and/or animal species.

Over the last twelve months, Origin commissioned a range of flora and fauna assessments along the proposed transmission route.

Qualified botanists and ecologists surveyed areas covered by the proposed transmission route to identify protected and endangered plant and animal species known to inhabit Victoria's Western Plains.

Agreements continue to be entered into with landowners along the proposed transmission route, thereby confirming the alignment of the power line. The data collected during flora and fauna assessments will be used to determine if the state or federal approvals will be required based on the alignment being secured.

These may include a permit for the removal of native vegetation from the Victorian State Government and/or confirmation from the Federal Government as to whether the activities associated

with the construction and operation of the powerline will significantly impact on species or communities listed within the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)*.

## Meteorological masts

Origin installed five new meteorological masts or 'met masts' over winter 2012.

These 'met masts' are used to determine how much energy the project will produce, what type of mechanical effect the wind will have on the wind turbines and also help in modelling and understanding the noise behaviour of the wind farm.

As the wind can vary with the seasons, collecting twelve months of wind data at a met mast is an important milestone. The Stockyard Hill Wind Farm project team will be using the recently collected information to undertake new calculations and modelling of the project to further refine our appreciation of how the wind turbines will perform.

In early September, the Clean Energy Council reported that wind farms provided a record amount of power in August setting new records in four states, including in Victoria. The figures showed Victoria's wind farms produced the equivalent of 7.9 per cent of the state's electricity over the month, beating the previous record of 5.4 per cent\*. In this same period, our masts on the wind farm site recorded wind speeds between 70 and 80 kms/hour over multiple days.

This information has reconfirmed our belief that Stockyard Hill Wind Farm has the potential to harness one of Victoria's best wind resources.

\* Clean Energy Council 'August windy enough to light up 155,000 homes' <http://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/mediaevents/media-releases/September-2013/130904-Windy-August.html>

## Wind farm quarry investigation

The Stockyard Hill Wind Farm project team has progressed the option of developing a quarry within the project site to supplement the large amounts of crushed rock and bulk fill material needed for the wind farm construction.

In previous projects of similar size in the region, the transport of materials caused impacts to the community through high volumes of loaded heavy vehicles using public roads, in some instances leading to road surface damage. Having this material available within the project site is expected to help minimise the amount of truck movements on the public road network, especially outside the immediate vicinity of the wind farm.

Possible suitable locations for the quarry were assessed in conjunction with landowners, and selected using a feasibility assessment that examined social, economic, technical and environmental considerations. The development will be subject to Department of State Development, Business and Innovation and Pyrenees Shire Council approval, as well as require the consent of other relevant stakeholders.

Origin is now consulting directly with neighbours to the proposed quarry facility and will continue to provide project updates to the broader community via future editions of the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm project newsletter.

If approved, the quarry would operate for approximately three years, starting when construction of Stockyard Hill Wind Farm begins. The quarry is expected to involve the removal and processing of up to 1.2 million tonnes of earth material for use across the wind farm site for access tracks, hard stands and foundations for the turbines.

Following the submission of the planning application to the Pyrenees Shire Council the broader community will have the opportunity to submit their views to decision makers.



## Sponsorships – Carngham bushfire appeal

The devastating bushfires in the Carngham district in January this year left widespread damage. Origin was pleased to support the Community Enterprise Foundation Group appeal to support the Carngham community as they recover. The funds raised in this appeal are being used to aid the recovery and reconstruction effort as well as supporting the community recovering from the devastating bushfires.

Other groups who have also benefitted from the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm community investment program during the past 12 months, include; Skipton Primary School, Volunteer Fire Brigade District 16 Championships, Beaufort Agricultural Show, Beaufort Girl Guides, Skipton Football Netball Club and the Skipton Progress Association and Mechanics Hall.

## New sponsorship application process

Origin is keen to invest in programs and initiatives that benefit the local community and to support local groups who conduct activities that help build sustainable communities.

The Stockyard Hill Wind Farm team has developed a new, streamlined application process that provides detail around the way we determine if we are able to support requests.

Applications will be reviewed biannually, in April and October. Any applications submitted throughout the year will be saved and reviewed at these times.

Sponsorship and donation requests will be considered if they support one of the following themes:

- Safety
- Environmental sustainability
- Skills and education
- Community spirit.

More information about our community investment program and the application form can be found on our website on the community page. [www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au/community](http://www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au/community)



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