

Stockyard Hill Wind Farm

Newsletter

Edition 5: January 2010



Together we can
make a difference.™

Welcome to the fifth 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, 35 km west of Ballarat. More copies are available by either contacting us, or downloading from our website.

Where are we at?

Planning Application goes on public exhibition

The planning application for Stockyard Hill Wind Farm was placed on public exhibition on December 5, 2009. Separate applications for the removal of native vegetation associated with the power line route and the construction of a terminal station to feed electricity to the national grid have also been placed on public exhibition.

This represents a critical stage in the planning assessment process and follows many months of expert investigation to assess the impacts the project may have on the environment and broader community. This is now your opportunity to have a look at the planning applications and their associated studies, and, if you wish, provide a written submission. Written submissions may be sent to The Minister for Planning, C/- Planning Panels Victoria, Level 1, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne 3002.

To assist interested members of the community, Origin has prepared shortened summary guides for each of the three planning applications. These summary guides and each of the three planning applications and their accompanying reports can be downloaded from the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm website: www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au

Hard copies of all three planning applications are also on display until January 30, 2010 at the following locations:

- Department of Planning and Community Development, Grampians Region, Ballarat Office, 111 Armstrong Street North, Ballarat;
- Skipton Post Office, 33 Montgomery St, Skipton.

Copies of the line route and terminal station planning applications can also be viewed at the Corangamite Shire Council Office (Camperdown), while the wind farm planning application can be viewed at Pyrenees Shire Council (Beaufort) and the Beaufort Information Centre.

As part of the on-going consultation during this period, Origin representatives have been meeting with members of the community to discuss the project and the planning process. If you would like to meet with us or wish to request a copy of our summary guides, please call 1800 753 730 or email Stockyardhillwindfarm@originenergy.com.au.

What's next?

The public exhibition period concludes on January 30, 2010. The Minister for Planning will soon appoint panel members to review the planning applications and submissions made in relation to each application. This planning panel will also hear from submitters as part of their deliberations. At the conclusion of the hearings, the panel will prepare a report with recommendations (not decisions) for consideration by the Minister.

A more detailed overview of the planning process can be found at <http://www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au/planning.html>



New website launched

Origin has launched a new project website for Stockyard Hill Wind Farm. The website (www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au) has been developed to provide the local community and other interested parties with the most up-to-date project information available. Full copies of each of the three planning applications, all supporting materials and summary guides are available for download from this website. We will be updating this site as new information becomes available.



Focus on local investment

One of the most significant regional benefits expected from the construction and operation of the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm is an increase in regional economic activity. A socio-economic assessment was completed as part of the wind farm planning application. This assessment projected a full time workforce of up to 246 would be required during the construction phase and a further 123 full time employees would be required by contractors.

For the regional economy (covering Pyrenees and Corangamite Shires), this means up to \$23 m would be spent by this workforce during each year of construction with local service providers such as cafes, accommodation providers and restaurants. A further \$50 m is estimated to be spent within the region by households during each year of construction as a result of income changes. Typically, this will be additional expenditure on hospitality and recreational services.

During the life of the project, it is expected that approximately 30 people will be directly employed to manage the operations of the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm. It is expected that this level of on-going employment would see up to a further \$9 m spent annually on goods and services within the region.



Introducing Paul Duboucin

Paul joined the Origin community relations team as a Regional Stakeholder Advisor following an impressive and varied career in community relations and communications. In more recent years, Paul's work has focused on consulting and building relationships with communities around infrastructure projects.

You may have already met Paul in the last couple of months as he makes his way in and around Stockyard Hill to hear first-hand what people have to say about the wind farm project. Paul is available to talk about the project and answer questions so please get in touch by calling 1800 753 730 if you wish to speak with him about the project.



Contact us

Origin – Major Development Projects (Melbourne)
Level 3, 765 Glenferrie Road
Hawthorn VIC 3122
Phone: 1800 753 730 Fax: (03) 9819 0120
Email: StockyardHillWindFarm@originenergy.com.au
Web: www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au