



# STOCKYARD HILL WIND FARM

Action from the previous District 16 Volunteer Fire Brigades Rural Championships which the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm will again support this year.

Newsletter No.17 | February 2016

Welcome to the 17th 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

In early 2014 Origin commenced discussions with the community about the possibility of increasing the turbine tip height from 132 to a maximum 165 metres. Since that time we have continued our engagement with turbine manufacturers as part of project development works.

In considering the proposals put forward by turbine manufacturers it has become clear there have been continued advances in turbine technology that would result in improved wind farm performance and output. These improvements may be achieved by installing turbines with an increased overall tip height.

As a result of these assessments, Origin has now determined to seek a Planning Permit Amendment that

would allow a maximum wind turbine tip height of 180 metres (which is the maximum height reached by the turbine blade).

Origin has completed the initial design and environmental & technical assessments for the revised wind turbine dimensions required to accompany an application to amend the Wind Energy Facility planning permit. These assessments result in a reduction of at least 8 wind turbines from the 157 locations approved in the existing planning permit.

The authority responsible for assessing this application is the Victorian Minister for Planning and at this stage, we are working towards submitting a planning permit amendment application in the coming months. Origin will continue

to keep landowners, neighbours and the broader community informed of the progress of this process and will be available to meet and discuss the proposal with any interested parties.

If approved, the amended planning permit would enable the project to generate renewable electricity at a reduced long run average cost and deliver benefits to electricity consumers by using the latest wind turbine technology.



Origin is now seeking a Planning Permit Amendment to increase the turbine tip height to 180 metres.

## EPBC approval timing extended

The project has received a variation to a condition of approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, which extended the allowable project commencement date for a further three years. This means the project can commence up until February 2019 without further consent by the Minister for Environment.

## New 100 metre meteorological mast installed

Origin installed another meteorological mast (met masts) in December 2015, adding to the pre-existing six masts that were installed across the site in 2008 and 2012.

The new 'met mast' is 100 metres high, which enables further quantification of the wind resource on the project site at or near the anticipated hub height of turbines now being proposed for the project under the permit amendment.

Met 'masts' are used to measure important meteorological data including wind speed, wind direction, ambient temperature, atmospheric pressure and relative humidity. This data is processed and modeled to determine the long run average wind conditions at the site and how wind speed varies with height above the ground. This information is in turn used to predict how much energy the project will produce, what type of mechanical loading effect the wind will have on the turbines across the blade swept area and also in modelling the noise behaviour of the wind farm.

As the wind conditions can vary with the seasons, collecting wind data at various locations around the project site over a number of years is important to the project to add certainty to our modeling forecasts. The Stockyard Hill Wind Farm project team used the collected data to undertake new calculations and modelling of the project to further refine our appreciation of how the latest wind turbines available on the market will perform compared to those previously considered for the site.

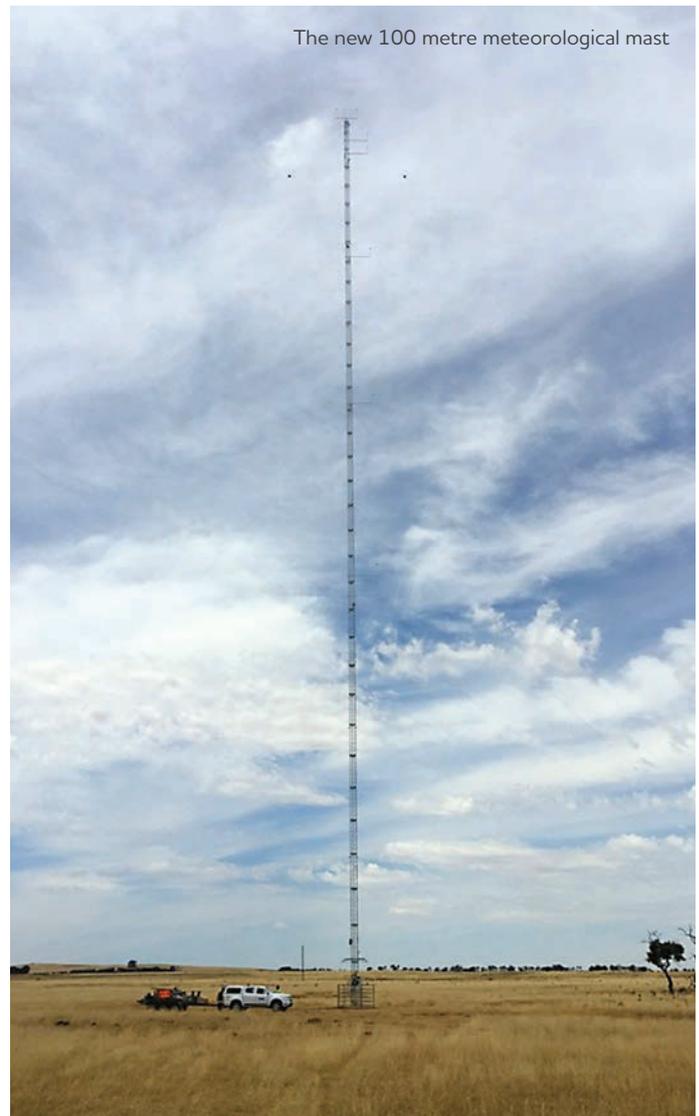
## Community investment

Origin seeks to support local programs and organisations which contribute to one or more of the following:

- Skills, education and training
- Community safety, health and wellbeing
- Sustainable population growth
- Natural resource stewardship
- Community events and activities that promote and enhance community connection

In recent months, Origin has provided support to the following local groups:

- Trawalla Primary school – to enable purchase of new educational materials
- Skipton Progress Association – to help with the delivery of the Association's annual Christmas event.
- District 16 Volunteers Fire Brigades Victoria Rural Championships – to help the Committee manage the championships locally.



The new 100 metre meteorological mast

Further information on the community investment program and how to apply can be viewed at [www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au/community-investment-program](http://www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au/community-investment-program)

## Project presentations

The Stockyard Hill Wind Farm project team is happy to speak with community groups who are interested in the development of this project. If your community group wishes to receive a project presentation, please call 1800 753 730.

## CONTACT US

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