



# STOCKYARD HILL WIND FARM

Proposed quarry will be located to the south  
of the Stockyard Hill Wangatta Road

## Quarry Planning Permit Application SUMMARY GUIDE

Origin Energy (via subsidiary entity Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd) is developing the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm (SHWF) project in south-west Victoria.

Origin is seeking to develop a quarry within the Wind Energy Facility (WEF) project boundary to supply crushed rock for use during construction.

The quarry will be used to supplement the large amount of crushed rock and bulk fill material required to construct the wind farm for a period of approximately three years. The quarry material will be required for the access track network, hardstands, wind turbine foundations and possibly for upgrades and repair and remediation of local roads.

Experience gained from other projects of similar size in the region, have shown that the transport of large amounts of materials caused impacts to local roads. Having this material available within the project site will help minimise the amount of truck movements on the public road network.

This guide outlines the proposal, outcomes of the environmental assessments and approval process.

### PROPOSED QUARRY

The quarry will include the following features:

- A quarry pit to supply the volume of basalt required – the pit is proposed to be approximately 300 metres by 500 metres in area
- Water dam to manage surface water and sediment control
- Internal quarry access tracks
- Overburden and top soil storage areas
- Crushing and screening facilities
- Site office, car parking, workshop and amenities

As the quarry will be a temporary facility, it will be rehabilitated and returned to farmland following completion of wind farm construction.

The quarry has been positioned within the wind farm away from dwellings, with the nearest occupied residence approximately 1.7 kilometres away.

Positioning of the quarry has also considered native vegetation and waterways while allowing for a large number of wind turbines to be accessed from the quarry without the utilisation of public roads.

The quarry has been designed as a shallow pit to allow extraction near the surface in consideration of the groundwater table and also to support rehabilitation back to farmland.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING ASSESSMENT AND APPROVALS PROCESS

In Victoria, the operation and development of quarries, such as the one proposed at the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm, requires a Work Authority to be granted. The Work Authority process includes the endorsement and approval of a Work Plan as set out in the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990, including an Environmental Management Plan.

The Work Plan (Work Authority 1518) for the temporary quarry associated with the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm was endorsed by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources on 5 May 2014.

It includes environmental assessments for:

- air
- noise
- groundwater
- blasting
- flora and fauna
- heritage impacts
- community engagement
- rehabilitation.

Details regarding the results of assessments which form part of the endorsed Work Plan were published in the October 2013 edition of the *Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Proposed Wind Farm Quarry Fact Sheet* which is available from the project's website. There has been no change to these assessments since this publication.

The next step in the approval process is to seek a planning permit for the use and development of an 'Earth and Energy Resources Industry' (a quarry), subject to the provisions of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme. The endorsed Work Plan forms a part of the Planning Permit Application.

The environmental assessments undertaken for the Work Plan focuses on (operational) activities within the site, whilst the Planning Permit Application primarily deals with potential offsite impacts.

The additional assessments prepared to inform and support the Planning Permit Application relate to potential traffic, social, and landscape and visual impacts.

### Landscape and Visual

A high level appraisal was undertaken to assess the potential visual impact of the quarry on the surrounding landscape. The conclusions drawn from this assessment were that the quarry is located in an area of low visual exposure within a farming landscape. The visual sensitivity of the site is low and the existing roadside vegetation along Stockyard Hill – Wangatta Road will further constrain views of the quarry. The proposed quarry will not block any views across the region and its visual impact, when considered in the context of the wind farm construction, as well as its temporary nature, is considered relatively minor.

Following the completion of the wind farm, the quarry site will be rehabilitated back to a landscape form (farmland) which is consistent with the surrounding environment.

### Traffic and Transport

A traffic assessment and framework management plan has been prepared to accompany the Planning Permit Application. This assessment showed that vehicle movements associated with the quarry will be limited to the quarry set-up and the movement of employees on and off the site.

During operation, the movement of materials from the quarry site will be managed as part of the broader wind farm traffic management plan which will be prepared for the WEF. The wind farm traffic management plan will be prepared in accordance with the approved permit for the wind farm and will be prepared in consultation with Pyrenees Shire Council, Corangamite Shire Council and VicRoads, and must be approved by the Minister for Planning.

The proposed access arrangements for employees during the construction and operation of the quarry will be to use the existing road network which is currently not used to capacity.

Parking will be provided for all employees on site during the operation of the quarry. A detailed traffic management plan will be prepared by the contractor(s) for the quarry construction phase.

During operation, the presence of an on-site quarry will result in an overall reduction in daily heavy vehicle traffic on surrounding public roads during the construction of the wind farm. This is due to a high number of heavy vehicle trips occurring on the internal project track network, rather than on the external public road network (An on-site quarry reduces the number of deliveries using public roads by 35% compared with an off-site quarry).

### Social

A social-impact assessment has also been prepared to accompany the planning permit application. It provides consideration of impacts on the surrounding community due to the construction and operation of the proposed quarry. This study included the two nearest population centres of Skipton and Beaufort. The results of the assessment highlighted the perceived social impacts on health and safety, damage to roads caused by heavy vehicles, and high demand for crushed rock resulting from the large number of major projects in the region.

The conclusions drawn from the assessment indicate that avoiding sourcing crushed rock offsite will reduce the number of truck movements generated by the project on roads and will not contribute to the cumulative social impact of major projects in the region. The development of an on-site quarry will provide economic and employment opportunities for the surrounding region.

## CONSULTATION

Origin commenced first notified the community regarding the proposed quarry feasibility study via the project community newsletter in October 2013. Updates to the design and planning of the quarry have been provided in subsequent issues of the newsletter.

All landowners and occupiers within 5 kilometres of the quarry have been directly informed about the quarry proposal. Origin continues to engage with the community to address any concerns.

Engagement has also occurred with state and local government agency stakeholders. These stakeholders have assisted in providing feedback on the initial feasibility assessment and on the development of the regulatory applications for the proposed quarry site.

The Pyrenees Shire Council can be contacted on **03 5349 1100**.

For more information visit [www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au](http://www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au) or call our project hotline on **1800 753 730**.