

# STOCKYARD HILL WIND FARM

Newsletter No.16 | August 2015

Welcome to the 16th 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.

Origin has now resumed the environmental and technical assessments required to support an application to amend the project's planning permit. The authority responsible for assessing this application is the Victorian Minister for Planning.

If approved, an amended planning permit would enable Origin to use the latest wind turbine technology. Modelling suggests newer turbine technology is likely to produce more clean energy based on the same or less number of turbines.

Although a final turbine design has not yet been selected, the turbine capacity is expected to remain within the same range as originally envisaged in the approved planning permit (up to 3.4 MW).

At this stage we are working towards lodging the planning permit amendment application to the Victorian Minister for Planning in the first half of 2016 and we will continue to keep landowners, neighbours and the broader community informed of the progress of this process.

## Changes to the Victorian Planning Provisions

When Origin started discussions with landowners about amending the wind farm planning permit in early 2014, the Victorian Planning Provisions required wind farm developers to obtain the consent of landowners whose houses are within two kilometres of a proposed turbine location. To date, Origin has obtained the consent of nearly 90% of landowners.

In April 2015 the Planning Provisions were changed by amendment VC124. This amendment changed the allowable distance of a turbine to a dwelling from two kilometres to one kilometre with the landowner's consent.

Origin has and will continue to honour the consent agreements entered into with landowners within two kilometres of a turbine, despite this change in government policy.

## SODAR monitoring – mobile wind data unit to strengthen case

SODAR (*sonic detection and ranging*) monitoring was initiated in December 2013 and will continue up until the commencement of construction.

SODAR monitoring units are designed to measure wind speeds, direction and inflow angle information at various heights above ground level. Complementing the meteorological monitoring masts (“met masts”) already in the project area, the SODAR monitoring units are portable, stand-alone units with their own solar power supply and communications system.

Origin is able to move the SODAR units to different locations across the project area. The data from these units will continue to complement data from the six stationary met masts to improve our knowledge of the wind flow, vertical wind profile and wind resource distribution across the entire project area.

The data we’ve received to date reinforces our belief that Stockyard Hill Wind Farm is one of the strongest performing wind sites in Australia.

### Community investment

Origin was pleased to contribute funds to the Lismore community bus committee, which is raising funds to replace the ageing Lismore community bus.

Replacing the bus was rated as a top priority in a survey completed by local groups and residents. As well as providing a vital service to the local aged care network, the community bus provides safe transport to social functions, is available for the school



to use for excursions, and relieves the pressure of not having reliable transport in the district.

The Lismore community bus committee, formed by dedicated residents, has raised approximately \$40,000 to date. The committee will be hosting further fundraisers, with the goal of raising the remaining funds needed to purchase a new bus in the next 18 months.

Both the Skipton Football and Netball Club and the Beaufort Football and Netball Club also benefitted from the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm community investment program during the last community investment cycle. The Skipton Football and Netball Club received funds towards a new scoreboard for their netball courts; and the Beaufort Football and Netball Club for equipment and coaching for junior netball teams.

Applications to the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm community investment program are reviewed biannually, in April and October. Any applications submitted throughout the year will be saved and reviewed at these times. More information about our community investment program can be found on the community page of our website. [www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au/community](http://www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au/community)

### 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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