



ASX/Media Release

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Origin acquires Wind Power and 1460 megawatt wind development pipeline in Victoria

Origin today announced the acquisition of Wind Power Pty Ltd, including its portfolio of high quality wind farm development sites in Victoria. Together with existing sites and options this increases Origin's access to a wind development portfolio by 1460 MW to more than 2000 MW.

Origin Managing Director, Grant King said, "The acquisition of Wind Power, which has a track record of delivering high quality wind projects, strengthens our development expertise in wind and complements our capabilities in power project construction."

"We have long supported the Federal Government's policy response to climate change and the acquisition of Wind Power will assist in meeting our obligations under the expanded National Renewable Energy Target to ensure 20 per cent of Australia's electricity is from renewable sources by 2020," Mr King said.

Wind Power has a number of premium wind resource sites including their 484 MW Stockyard Hill Wind Farm¹ located near Ballarat. Stockyard Hill is one of the most competitive projects of its kind in Australia with a high quality wind resource and an estimated capacity factor of 40 per cent.

The Wind Power acquisition builds on the extensive renewable energy positions already held by Origin across Australia and New Zealand including investments in wind, hydro, geothermal and solar technologies.

Origin has been an active participant in the wind sector since early this decade when Australia's first commercial wind farm was opened at Codrington in Victoria - with the offtake fully contracted to Origin. Origin now has more than 390 MW of wind capacity under long term Power Purchase Agreements.

"With the expectation of higher renewable energy targets, Origin commenced its own physical build and has an extensive portfolio of wind options with high capacity factors in good locations in NSW and Victoria," Mr King added.

In addition to meeting the regulatory requirements for renewable energy, the acquisition of Wind Power helps to support Origin's customer demand for GreenPower. Origin has the largest number of green customers in Australia, with more than 480,000 accredited GreenPower and GreenGas accounts.

Wind Power Director, Andrew Newbold said Wind Power was dedicated to the development of wind farms throughout Victoria.

¹ <http://www.wind-power.com.au/Projects/Stockyard/index.asp>



"We are looking forward to becoming a part of Origin and benefiting from the additional expertise and capability they will bring to our wind farm developments," Mr Newbold said.

As one of Australia's leading wind farm development companies, Wind Power has been developing an impressive pipeline of projects across Victoria. Development Approval has been lodged for Stockyard Hill, which is expected to create up to 250 direct jobs during construction and approximately 30 during operations. Lexton is a 38 MW project for which Development Approval has been granted.

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About Origin Energy

Origin Energy is Australasia's leading integrated energy company focused on gas and oil exploration and production, power generation and energy retailing.

Listed in the ASX top 20 the company has approximately 4,000 employees, is a leading producer of gas in eastern Australia, is the largest owner and developer of gas-fired electricity generation in Australia and is a leading wholesaler and retailer of energy. The company services more than 3.5 million electricity, natural gas and LPG customers across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. Origin's strategic positioning and portfolio of assets provide flexibility, stability and significant opportunities for growth in the ever changing energy industry. Through Australia Pacific LNG, its 50:50 incorporated joint venture with ConocoPhillips, Origin is developing Australia's largest CSG to LNG project based on Australia's largest CSG reserves base.

In New Zealand, Origin is the major shareholder in Contact Energy, the country's leading integrated energy company, operating geothermal, thermal and hydro generation facilities and servicing electricity, gas and LPG customers across both the North and South islands. Origin also operates several oil and gas projects in New Zealand and is one of the largest holders of petroleum exploration acreage in the country.

Origin has a strong focus on ensuring the sustainability of its operations, is the largest green energy retailer in Australia and has significant investments in renewable energy technologies.

For more information go to www.originenergy.com.au

About Wind Power

Wind Power is a Melbourne based company dedicated to the development of wind farms throughout Victoria and Australia. The company was established in 2001 and has grown steadily over the years to become one of Australia's leading wind farm development companies. Wind Power has a number of premium wind resource sites throughout regional Victoria and is involved in numerous projects at different stages of development.