

Mortlake Power Station Project

Community Newsletter

No 6 October 2006

This is sixth in a series of Project newsletters and our last for 2006.

Our goal is to keep you informed of Origin Energy's progress in gaining approvals for the proposed gas-fired power station 12km west of the township of Mortlake (with a nominal capacity of 1000MW) and a 78km gas pipeline from near Port Campbell to the proposed site.



Artist's impression of the proposed Mortlake Power Station

Approvals obtained

Following an extensive community consultation period, the first stages of approvals for the proposed Mortlake Power Station have been received. In July, an announcement by the Energy Industries and Resources Minister, Theo Theophanous provided Origin Energy with general Victorian Government endorsement for the proposed Mortlake Power Station.

As part of the planning process, the Minister for Planning, Rob Hulls has also released the Minister's Assessment of the Project, having considered the Environment Effects Statement, public and Government submissions, and the advice of the independent panel of experts appointed to review the Project.

"I am satisfied that the Mortlake Power Station will make an important contribution to the Victorian Government's objective of maintaining a secure, efficient and affordable supply

of electricity while reducing the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector. The social and economic benefits of the project are therefore of State significance."

Minister for Planning's Assessment

The Minister's Assessment comes as the culmination of more than two years of Project development and community consultation.

The Assessment and Ministerial announcement are pre-cursors to receiving a final approval for the Project: a works approval from the Environmental Protection Authority; approval of amendment C20 to the Moyne planning scheme by the Minister for Planning; and a pipeline permit from the Minister for Energy Industries and Resources.

Once these regulatory approvals are received for the Project, the final decision rests with the Board of Origin Energy who will decide whether to proceed to construction of the power station and associated pipeline.

Revised timeline

As was reported in local newspapers in mid September, Origin has revised the earliest date for the decision on the construction timeframe by up to 12 months for the Mortlake Power Station.

We are still continuing with the project development and we are actively working to have everything in place, ready for the time when the Origin Board makes its decision to proceed with construction.

In the immediate future we will continue:

- Project development to secure final regulatory approvals
- negotiations with local landowners on access for the proposed pipeline route
- community consultation and stakeholder updates.

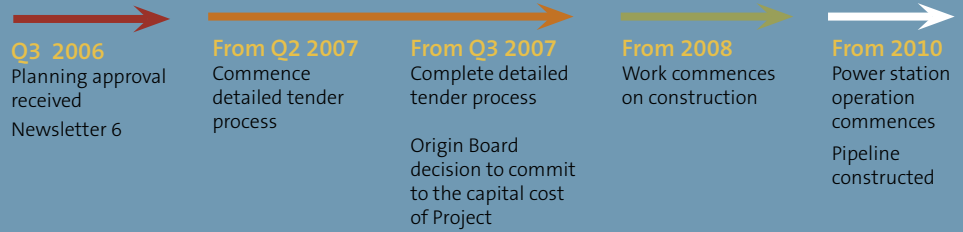
Construction timeframe

If Origin gains final approvals the timing of the construction would be contingent on a number of factors, including the assessment of supply and demand factors in the electricity market.

Victoria will still need generation capacity early next decade, so while the Project's original "earliest completion date" of 2009 has been revised, the Mortlake Power Station is still set to deliver power within this period.

Timeline

Indicative earliest dates



Employment and business registers

Origin will engage an experienced power station construction contractor. Therefore we will not be engaging any labour directly, but a website has been set up so that businesses and individuals can register their interest for employment and contracts by completing an online registration form.

Visit <http://powerstation.nga.net.au/> to register.

These details will be supplied to the main construction contractor, when selected, for use at its discretion.



Businesses and individuals can register their interest for work online



Contact details

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