



**MANAGING DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
15 OCTOBER 2008**

Ladies and Gentlemen

Since listing in 2000 Origin has had a strong record of delivering growth for shareholders.

We have had a compound annual growth rate in underlying earnings per share of 17% and a compound annual growth rate in Dividends per share of 30%.

Notwithstanding the recent turmoil in global financial markets that have seen significant reduction in the share prices of many companies our shareholder return over this period has averaged 35%.

We are clearly now living in uncertain economic times and many market commentators are predicting challenging times for the economy both globally and within Australia and the subsequent impact this will have on the outlook for Australian companies.

The Chairman in his address used the term a “decade of growth” - I would like to talk briefly today to the projects and opportunities Origin has before it that will see Origin continue its record of continuing growth.

We remain optimistic about our future even though the economic outlook looks more challenging than ever.

We have continued to grow Origin based on our strategy as a fuel integrated generator/retailer. As a result we have continued to invest in assets that grow our business, particularly in upstream and generation. These investments will drive the Company's growth over the next few years.

The offshore Otway Gas Project was completed and fully commissioned at the end of the last financial year. This project is now operating reliably and will be a significant new contributor to full year earnings this financial year.

In July, we purchased the 640MW Uranquinty Power Station from Babcock & Brown Power. This project was in an advanced stage of construction. The first of four turbines is now commissioned and the power station will be fully completed early next year. The acquisition of this power station is our first major investment in the NSW energy market.

Expansion of the Quarantine and Mt Stuart Power Stations in SA and Queensland is also progressing well. The expansion of these power stations will support our growing retail business in South Eastern Australia and Queensland. Both projects should be completed in 2009.

Kupe, our gas and liquids project in the Taranaki Basin in New Zealand, is also progressing well in very challenging circumstances. Demand for skilled labour, materials and resources in the petroleum industry is very high - despite these challenges we expect this project to be completed in the middle of next year.

Whilst Origin has contracted with a number of counterparties for renewable energy supply from wind farms, Origin has now secured a number of development sites. Construction has commenced on a 30MW project at the first of these sites at Cullerin in NSW - we expect this project to be the first of a number of renewable energy projects including wind, solar and geothermal that will be necessary for Origin to acquit its obligations under a number of State and Federal renewable energy schemes.

Origin's largest single power station project, the 630MW Darling Downs Power Station is also well into construction. This will be the largest combined cycle power station in Australia using highly efficient environmentally friendly gas turbine technology. It will use coal seam gas from origin's extensive coal seam gas reserves and support Origin's large electricity retail business in Queensland. This project is targeted for completion in 2010.

In July we announced our decision to proceed with the construction of the 550MW Mortlake Power Station in Victoria. This power station will use gas from our interests in the Bass and Otway Basin Gas projects and support our electricity retail business in Victoria particularly during periods of high electricity demand and high prices.

Through our 51.4% interest in our subsidiary, Contact Energy, we are also exposed to a number of exciting projects.

Contact and Origin will jointly develop an underground gas storage facility in a depleted onshore oil and gas field in the Taranaki Basin in New Zealand. This will be a critical piece of energy supply infrastructure that will help balance gas supply and electricity demand.

Contact Energy also has a very strong and competitive position in geothermal energy in New Zealand - this gives the team at Contact Energy world class skills in geothermal energy. Contact is both redeveloping and expanding these assets with the first stage being the Te Mihi geothermal development. This project should be completed by 2011.

Renewable energy will play an increasing role in New Zealand energy supply. In addition to geothermal energy, Contact is developing some large wind farm projects. The biggest and most advanced of these is Hauāuru mā raki which will have a capacity of 540MW. The project will be developed in stages, with the first stage due on line in 2013.

This set of opportunities provides significant momentum to Origin's growth. In addition to these projects, the Company can now add the largest opportunity yet secured by Origin. The development of our extensive CSG asset will supply the production of LNG for export to overseas markets.

Over the past ten years, Origin has acquired and developed an extensive portfolio of CSG acreage, covering the “sweet spots”, in the Queensland Coal Seam Gas industry. With prove, probable and possible reserves of 10,138PJ and contingent resources of 15,869PJ, Origin has demonstrated a resource position that is substantially greater than required to support Origin’s domestic channels to market.

As the Chairman mentioned in his address, we conducted a CSG monetisation process to accelerate the development of these large CSG reserves.

ConocoPhillips was the successful bidder in this process. They will acquire a 50% interest in our CSG assets for a payment of up to \$9.6 billion to establish a joint venture with Origin which will produce CSG to satisfy our existing domestic requirements and establish an export channel through the production of LNG.

ConocoPhillips bring two important skills to our CSG to LNG joint venture which will be established on completion of the transaction.

Firstly, they have extensive experience in the development, construction and operation of LNG projects. This is evidenced by the successful construction of the Darwin LNG project, only the second LNG project developed in Australia.

The Darwin train size is 3.5 million tpa and it is the intention of ConocoPhillips that up to four of these trains be built to be supplied by CSG.

The second important skill is their long history of successful operation of CSG projects in the United States. The San Juan Basin in New Mexico is the leading CSG project in the world with annual production from this Basin at a level similar to total gas production in Eastern Australia.

Origin is already the leading producer of CSG in Australia through our established projects in Queensland. The establishment of the Origin/ConocoPhillips Joint Venture brings together two organisations committed to the development of the full potential of Origin’s extensive CSG interests.

The payments by ConocoPhillips to acquire their 50% interest in the Joint Venture will transform Origin’s Balance Sheet and financial position.

The initial payment of US\$5 billion will effectively eliminate Origin’s net debt and provide a substantial cash balance. As the Chairman has indicated some of this cash will be used to fund an additional dividend and an on-market buyback of shares. Even after these commitments, the Company will still have substantial Balance Sheet capacity to fund growth.

I trust that following this brief presentation, shareholders can see why we are optimistic about our future. We have a substantial set of projects ahead of us. We have some exciting opportunities through our exploration and development activities. We think that a number of interesting acquisition opportunities may also emerge given current market conditions. At a time when capital markets are in disarray and securing capital for growth is more difficult, we will be receiving a large cash injection by virtue of the ConocoPhillips transaction.

We believe that the next few years will present more opportunities to grow either by acquisition or development. Your company is very well placed to pursue a decade of growth.

Thank you.