

## Media Release

30 August 2010

# Uranquinty community 'switches on' to solar power

The Uranquinty community today 'switched on' to solar power with the commissioning of a new solar system at the Uranquinty Community Hall. The new solar panels will produce clean energy, avoid the production of greenhouse gas emissions and help to create a new revenue stream to fund local Uranquinty community activities.

Under the solar partnership arrangement, Origin Energy, Australia's leading integrated energy company, recently installed a 2.3kW solar electricity system on the roof of the new Uranquinty Community Hall.

Fourteen solar panels now cover the northern facing roof of the Uranquinty Hall, generating clean energy from the sun. The solar system is expected to generate more electricity than is needed to power the hall resulting in an additional revenue stream to help fund local community activities. It will also avoid the production of more than 70 tonnes of greenhouse gas over the life of the system.

Community Relations Advisor for Origin's Uranquinty Power Station, Lisa Glastonbury said that from today, all the activities at the Uranquinty Community Hall will be powered by clean, green, renewable energy. "Through this partnership, Origin has provided the tools to help the Uranquinty Progress Association and Wagga Wagga City Council, in their journey toward a sustainable future," said Ms Glastonbury.

Under the NSW Government's Gross Feed In Tariff (FIT) scheme, the Progress Association will be paid a premium for all the electricity that is generated by the cells installed on the hall roof and fed back into the grid.

Bruce Harris, President of the Uranquinty Progress Association, said that today was a great step forward for the small township of Uranquinty. "Small villages like Uranquinty often struggle to find the resources to support community activities. The income generated by the solar system will help us to make the new hall a real focus for local events and activities," he said.

"We will be watching our new gross meter with interest, to see how much electricity the system generates and how much revenue this produces for the Progress Association," Mr Harris said.

Mayor Pascoe was on hand to help the community celebrate the official handover. "This is a very positive partnership between Origin Energy, Wagga Wagga City Council and the Uranquinty community," he said. "Council already has a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through green power and it is fantastic to now see solar panels on a Council-owned building as well," said Mr Pascoe.



Origin's Uranquinty Power Station, which uses natural gas to generate cleaner electricity, supplying reliable, safe power to homes in the Riverina and beyond; is involved in a number of new initiatives to support and benefit the local community. Mrs Glastonbury said, "We are looking forward to developing a program of educational tours for school groups in the region as well as conducting site tours for local community groups."

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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 one of Australia's largest CSG to LNG projects 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](http://www.originenergy.com.au)