

Media Release

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Uranquinty goes green under solar partnership

The Uranquinty community is set to benefit from a new solar partnership agreement between Origin Energy, Wagga Wagga City Council and the Uranquinty Progress Association.

Under the agreement signed at Wagga Wagga City Council offices today, Origin Energy, Australia's leading integrated energy company, will install a solar electricity system on the roof of the recently completed Uranquinty Community Hall.

Community Relations Advisor for the Origin's Uranquinty Power Station, Lisa Glastonbury says the partnership will enable the community to offset their electricity use, reduce their carbon footprint as well as create an income stream to fund worthwhile community activities.

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

"We have listened to the Uranquinty community and are excited to develop this partnership together with Wagga Wagga City Council and the Uranquinty Progress Association to generate positive outcomes for the local area," said Mrs Glastonbury.

Mayor Pascoe said that this was a positive step toward embracing a lower carbon future and installation of the solar system on the Council owned community hall was in line with Council's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2020. "This is a fantastic opportunity to broaden green power usage in the community," he said.

Bruce Harris, President of the Uranquinty Progress Association, said the agreement was very exciting and will further strengthen the relationship between Origin and the Uranquinty community. "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.

Origin's gas fired Uranquinty Power Station, which supplies reliable, clean, safe electricity to homes along Australia's eastern seaboard; 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