

Cullerin Range: thank you, everybody

ORIGIN Energy's \$95 million

Cullerin Range Wind Farm began generating electricity into the NSW grid in July. During the eight months of construction around 60 people coming from the local area undertook fencing, electrical and labouring work. Ian Purcell, Origin's Cullerin Range Project Manager, said he and the whole Origin team appreciated the way they had been welcomed by the local community and the town of Gunning.

For Origin, safety is always a priority. This held true not only during construction, but also when the turbines were designed.

"The turbines have been engineered to protect them from lightning strikes, and a detailed earthing design has been incorporated within the tower and foundation," Ian said.

The wind farm has the capability to shut itself down should onsite conditions require, and each "nacelle", which houses the generator, is fitted with duplicate sensors to detect wind speed and direction.

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Ian said "Origin had conducted rigorous on-site assessments of all safety systems, and everything was in order. The turbines had been serviced after turning for 500 hours and maintenance will continue."

"All the temporary site facilities and offices have been removed from the site, and with these great early spring rains, the grass is beginning to grow back around the whole site," he said.

Origin visit to local school a big hit



Origin's Lou Fazzalari talks about wind power with the children at Dalton Primary School.

WIND farms fascinate children, so as the turbines started to turn, Origin's Cullerin Range development team visited local schools to field questions from eager students. How does wind power work? How are the sites chosen? Where do wind turbines come from?

Origin's Ian Purcell and Lou Fazzalari talked with more than 1500 students at 30 schools in the wider region surrounding Cullerin Range, including Yass, during July and August.

"Many students were keen to start a career in the wind industry after I explained that during the vertical rescue training I abseiled 80 metres down the side of the tower!" chuckled Lou. Older students looked at the advantages and challenges of wind power, renewable energy and the future of energy generation in Australia. Younger students were able to get creative with their paints and crayons.

"It was a great experience and very rewarding for us and, I think, the students, too," said Ian.

Go to Origin's education website originenergy.com.au/education to see some wonderful artwork by younger artists inspired by the theme of wind power.

Cullerin Range turbines – blowin' in the wind



Energy harvested from the Cullerin Range wind turbines is fed into the NSW electricity grid. While wind power is an ancient form of energy, modern computer technology enables the wind turbines to adjust their angles according to the wind direction.

AT full power, Cullerin Range turbines generate enough power for about 15,000 NSW homes. The power harnessed by the 15 turbines is fed into County Energy's 132kV Goulburn to Yass distribution line. This line passes through the northern corner of the site.

"This is one of the better locales for wind," said Origin's Wind Operations Manager, Stuart Atkinson. "It's an excellent site. And due to the wind blowing more than we expected since commissioning and the quality of the turbines we are getting greater genera-

tion than anticipated." Ian Purcell said that construction of the Cullerin Range Wind Farm was a major logistical exercise. "The turbine towers were made in Portland, Victoria and the high-tech blades were imported from Germany".



Above left: The grass is beginning to grow back now that construction work has finished, and the early spring rains have given recently planted native trees a great start in life. **Above right:** Looking like a contemporary sculpture, the sleek turbine captures the Cullerin Range breeze and converts it into energy to power NSW homes.

Majestic



Silhouetted against the darkening sky, a Cullerin Ridge wind turbine works on as the working day comes to a close.