Media Release

25 September 2002

Joint Venture partners welcome latest approvals for BassGas project

Origin Energy as Operator of the T/RL1 Joint Venture today welcomed the Victorian Government recommendation to proceed with the BassGas project in line with the joint Environmental Effects Statement/ Environmental Impact Statement (EES/ EIS), subject to conditions.

The Minister for Planning, the Hon. Mary Delahunty, MP released the recommendation following a rigorous assessment process coordinated by an independent panel between 9 May and 6 June 2002. The panel assessed the joint EES/ EIS against a wide range of stakeholder, environmental and regulatory requirements and heard submissions from the public.

The final Government sign-off for the project now rests with Federal Minister of the Environment and Heritage, the Hon. Dr. David Kemp, MP.

Project Manager BassGas, John Stead commented, "Today's announcement is excellent news for the Joint Venture. Following months of extensive consultations with key stakeholders we're very pleased that the EES/ EIS process has addressed the major state requirements.

"The BassGas project is significant as it will bring the first alternate gas supply into south eastern Australia since the Gippsland gas fields were developed around 25-years ago. We anticipate sales gas production from the Yolla field will begin in the third quarter of 2004," Mr Stead said.

Origin Energy estimates that the BassGas Project will produce enough gas to service up to 67 terajoules of gas sales a day, together with substantial volumes of condensate and LPG. It is expected to supply around 10 percent of the Victorian natural gas market over the next 15 years.

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Origin Energy has agreed to purchase 95 percent of the 20 petajoules of gas produced per annum for its Retail business.

Project Timeline:

Construction of:	**Construction Completed**
32km, onshore pipelines	Q1 2003
75MMSCFD onshore gas plant near Lang Lang	Q1 2003
147km, sub-sea pipeline	Q1 2004
Offshore production platform	Q1 2004
Sales gas production comes online	3Q 2004

The participants in the T/RL1 Joint Venture are:

Origin Energy, (Operator)	37.5%
AWE	37.5%
CalEnergy	20.0%
Santos	5.0%

ENDS

<u>For more information, contact:</u>

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About Origin Energy: With a history dating back 140 years, Origin Energy is a leading Australian energy provider and participant in most segments of the energy supply chain including natural gas and oil exploration and production; power generation; energy retailing and trading; and asset management services. Origin Energy supplies energy to more than 2 million homes and businesses.