

To	Company Announcements Office	Facsimile	1300 300 021
Company	Australian Stock Exchange Limited	Date	20 July 2004
From	Bill Hundy	Pages	4
Subject	ORIGIN ACQUIRES INTERESTS IN ONSHORE OTWAY PERMITS		

Please find attached an ASX release entitled "Origin acquires interests in onshore Otway permits from Santos".

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Hundy", written over a horizontal line.

Bill Hundy
Company Secretary

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ASX Release

21 July 2004

Origin acquires interests in onshore Otway permits from Santos

Origin Energy Resources Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Origin Energy Limited, announces that it has signed an agreement with Santos (BOL) Pty Limited to acquire interests in a number of petroleum exploration and production tenements in the onshore portion of the Victorian Otway Basin.

The tenements are contiguous with Origin's existing production licence PPL 8, surround the area of the Iona gas storage facility, and cover the geographic area in which the Thylacine, Geographe, Minerva and Casino gas discoveries in the offshore Otway basin will be brought ashore and processed. The SEA Gas pipeline to Adelaide in South Australia and the South West pipeline to Melbourne also emanate from this area.

The interests acquired include:

- A 100% interest in exploration permits EP 153 and production licences PPLs 4, 5, 7 and 12 covering the Mylor, Fenton Creek, Tregony and Seamer gas fields
- A 90% interest in EP 154 (a) and (b) and PPLs 6, 9 and 10 covering the McIntee, Lavers, Croft and Naylor gas fields
- 100% interest in the Heytesbury gas processing plant
- Approximately 20 km of gas pipelines

Net production out of these fields is approximately 15 terajoules per day (TJ/d), with proved and probable (2P) reserves of approximately 5 petajoules (PJ). The exploration tenements cover approximately 1,900 square kilometres.

In addition to the value associated with the production and exploration acreage, Origin Energy attributes value to the potential of the depleted fields in the area to be used for gas storage operations.

Consideration for the assets is \$25.75 million, with an effective date of 1 April 2004. The transaction is subject to the waiver of certain pre-emptive rights in respect of EP 154 (a) and (b) and associated PPLs by the other joint venture participant, various consents and regulatory/ministerial approvals.

Commenting on the acquisition Origin's Managing Director Grant King said, "Origin has a long history of exploration and production activity in the Otway Basin. We are constantly seeking to optimise our portfolio of assets in this area, which includes existing onshore production and exploration, significant offshore



exploration licences and the major Thylacine and Geographe offshore gas development project.

With this acquisition we are able to add to our onshore production and exploration activity, and will have the ability to convert depleted gas fields in the area into a gas storage project in the future.

Origin is pleased to be able to continue to support the development of a significant local energy industry in this area of south western Victoria. The region is expected to form a long term hub for gas operations, with the combination of major offshore gas resources, onshore gas fields, storage potential, and interconnection to both the South Australian and Victorian gas markets."

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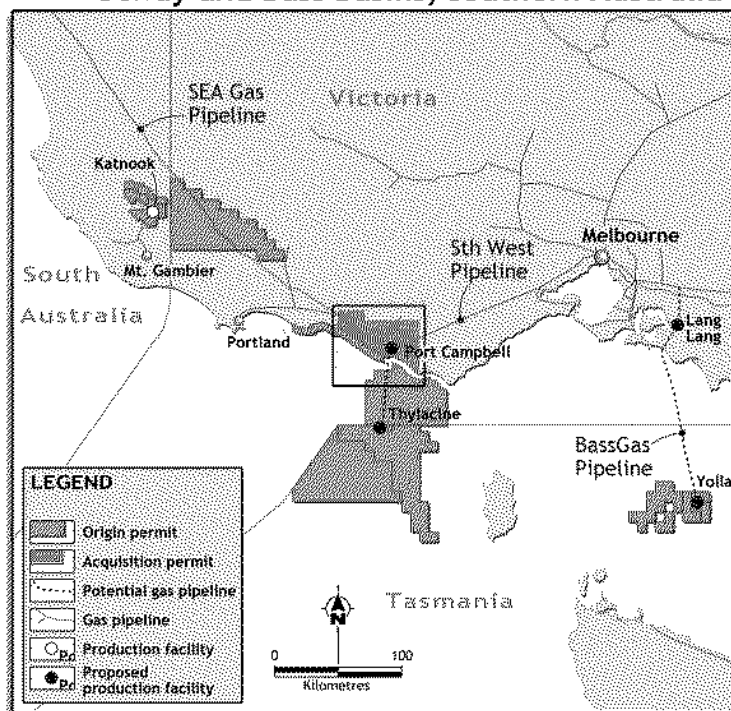
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About Origin Energy: With a history dating back 140 years, Origin Energy is a leading Australian energy provider and participant in most segments of the energy supply chain including natural gas and oil exploration and production; power generation; energy retailing and trading; and asset management services. Origin Energy supplies energy to more than two million homes and businesses and employs over 2,700 people. In Victoria Origin supplies energy to over 1.3 million homes and businesses. For more information visit the company website: www.originenergy.com.au

Maps follow

**Origin Energy exploration and production tenements
- Otway and Bass Basins, southern Australia**



**Details of tenements acquired from Santos Ltd
(as per red outline above)**

