

To	Company Announcements Office	Facsimile	1300 300 021
Company	Australian Stock Exchange Limited	Date	18 February 2005
From	Bill Hundy	Pages	2
Subject	EASING OF GAS RESTRICTIONS IN THE SOUTH EASTERN REGION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA		

Please find attached for your information a Media Release entitled "Easing of Gas Restrictions in the South Eastern Region of South Australia".

Regards

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

Bill Hundy
Company Secretary

02 8345 5467 - bill.hundy@originenergy.com.au

Media Release

18 February 2005

Easing of Gas Restrictions in the South Eastern Region of South Australia

Origin Energy Retail Limited (OERL) has been working with its customers in the South East to manage system demand as a consequence of the recent gas supply problems.

As from today, the requested restrictions that had been in place for industrial gas customers have been eased.

No residential customers have been affected.

Kimberly Clark Australia (KCA), as the largest gas customer in the South East Region, has brought forward maintenance activities and has also agreed to reduce their gas consumption temporarily. This action by KCA will lead to a notable decrease in system demand and, as a consequence, the requested restrictions affecting other industrial customers will be eased.

All customers have been asked to continue looking at ways to conserve gas and reduce their gas consumption to assist in managing the current problem.

OERL is closely monitoring the situation but is confident, that with these arrangements, gas supply will be sufficient until early March. At that time it is expected KCA will seek to recommence certain activities and we are working together to determine what the system impact will be.

Origin Energy General Manager Public and Government Affairs Tony Wood said "Kimberley Clark Australia has been working closely with us and we appreciate their co-operation and approach to managing their gas consumption. There are still many issues to be discussed regarding the recommencement of their operations over the next couple of weeks."

For further information, please contact

Tony Wood
General Manager, Public and Government Affairs
Telephone (03) 9652 5506
Mobile 0419 642 098