



To	Company Announcements Office	1300 300 201
Company	Australian Stock Exchange Limited	Date 19 September 2006
From	Bill Hundy	Pages 3
Subject	<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	

This Transmittal is confidential. If you have received this document in error, please contact Origin Energy immediately.

**For your information, please find attached a media release entitled "Queensland Government welcomes Spring Gully power station assessment".**

Regards

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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/Media Release

19 September 2006

### Queensland Government welcomes Spring Gully power station assessment

Origin Energy Power Limited ('Origin') has received advice from the Queensland Government's Co-ordinator General that the Spring Gully Power Station be approved to proceed.

The announcement was confirmed today by Queensland Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Anna Bligh, who welcomed the Co-ordinator General's recommendation on the proposed development of a nominal 1,000MW coal seam gas fired power station to be collocated at Origin's Spring Gully Coal Seam Gas Plant, 80 km north of Roma.

The Co-ordinator General's recommendation is a precursor to receiving a final approval for the power station in the form of a development approval from Bungil Shire.

The recommendation comes as the culmination of more than two years of project development and consultation. Origin has been present in the central Queensland region for more than 30 years, most recently as a result of the development and operation of its coal seam gas development at Spring Gully where over \$314 million has been committed.

"Securing Government support is an essential step in the project's evolution. Once development approval is received for the project, the next milestones will be securing costs for a plant design that meets the requirements set out in the development approval, followed by a decision by the Board of Origin Energy whether or not to proceed to construction of the power station," said Origin's Managing Director, Grant King.

The Origin Board will consider the future of the Project in the March quarter of 2007.

Should the power station proceed and be fully developed it would represent Origin's single largest investment in Queensland and would bring Origin's total investment in Queensland to over \$1,800 million since the company listed in 2000.

"We're very pleased with this recommendation from the Co-ordinator General, confirming that we have met the environmental and consultative requirements necessary for the project to proceed. We believe the project has the potential to result in significant benefit for the local region, Queensland and the national electricity market," Mr King said.

"We would particularly like to thank the landowners, local shire council and government authorities who have assisted us over the past two years to develop a power station concept that satisfies these requirements. We look forward to continuing to work with those stakeholders as the project progresses," Mr King said.

Once development approval is obtained and Origin decides to proceed, construction would take a further two and a half years - in time to meet the currently forecast demand for extra electricity generation capacity. The project is expected to be constructed in two 500MW stages.

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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 2.1 million Australian homes and businesses and employs over 3,200 people.*

*Origin in Queensland at a glance:*

- *Has invested over \$800 million in oil and gas production, exploration and power generation since 2000*
- *Employs 620 Queenslanders in its oil and gas and LPG businesses*
- *National head office for the Exploration, oil and gas production and LPG business*
- *Owns and operates the Spring Gully Gas Plant in Central Queensland where by September 2007 it will have invested over \$314m*
- *Is the leading producer of coal seam gas in Queensland supplying over 30% of Queensland's natural gas needs and has an active exploration program drilling to secure additional reserves.*
- *Owns and operates the Roma and Mt Stuart Power Stations*
- *Manages over 2,600km of gas distribution pipelines*
- *Retails natural gas to over 89,000 customers*
- *Supplies 113,000 customers with LPG across Queensland*
- *Seeking approval for a 1,000MW power station at Spring Gully, near Roma*