



Media Release

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Origin focused on agricultural productivity

Origin, on behalf of Australia Pacific LNG, is focused on maintaining and improving the productive use of agricultural land, through the establishment of an ongoing irrigation and land management program on a recently acquired 1100 hectare property called *Monreagh* south-west of Chinchilla.

As part of the program, treated coal seam gas (CSG) water from the neighbouring Talinga Water Treatment Facility will be used to irrigate a range of broad acre crops as well as support grazing activities.

Origin Land and Environment Manager, Rebecca Pickering said the organisation was committed to maintaining and improving the productivity of agricultural land purchased to support CSG activities in the region.

“We are committed to finding the best use for treated CSG water, and the irrigation of agricultural crops is one sustainable method we are investigating,” Ms Pickering said.

“We are also striving to maintain the productivity of our land, purchased as part of our broader property portfolio to locate sites for current and future major infrastructure facilities, through ongoing farming and cropping activities.

“*Monreagh* will continue to be managed as a highly productive property. With the use of treated water, the farm will be able to produce crops even in times of drought, ensuring an ongoing supply of grain and fodder supplies to local consumers, as well as provide local employment opportunities.”

The property will also be developed to include around 12 producing CSG wells, providing a working example of how an intensive irrigation property can be integrated and productively co-exist with the CSG industry.

The property will continue to be worked as operational farm during this development period with around 400 hectares of wheat and oats planted this winter.

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About the *Monreagh* property

A preliminary design has been completed that includes the construction up to 500 hectares of centre pivot and drip irrigation infrastructure to support wheat, sorghum, mungbeans, chickpeas and lucerne crops.

Some improved pasture will be irrigated and cut for hay or grazed along with the non cropped pasture areas, following a recent local expression of interest process.



A 3000ML water storage will be designed and constructed for treated water in accordance with water industry guidelines.

The property *will not* house any evaporation ponds containing produced CSG water. This is in line with project commitments and regulatory conditions.

A live-in manager has been appointed to run the property, with employees and contractors to be recruited locally from surrounding communities to undertake the majority of the farming work.

Produce harvested from the property will be marketed locally and will contribute to the local economy.

Background

Origin is committed to working with Government and the community to look at all potential beneficial options for treated CSG water. Other options currently being investigated include injection into suitable underground aquifers, industrial uses; and the release of interim or occasional surpluses of treated water into local river systems.

A further example of irrigation is at Spring Gully where treated water is currently used to irrigate Pongamia trees which may provide the basis for several new and sustainable industries for Queensland in the future. The potential uses of the Pongamia tree include the creation of biofuel, protein meal for stock feed and electricity generation from its waste streams, and as a plant fertiliser.

About Origin

Origin is Australia's leading integrated energy company focused on gas and oil exploration and production, power generation and energy retailing. Listed in the ASX top 20 the company has approximately 4,400 employees and is a leading producer of gas in eastern Australia. Origin is Australia's largest energy retailer servicing 4.6 million electricity, natural gas and LPG customer accounts and has one of the country's largest and most flexible generation portfolios with more than 5,800 MW of capacity, through either owned generation or contracted rights. Origin's strategic positioning and portfolio of assets provide flexibility, stability and significant opportunities for growth across the energy industry. Through Australia Pacific LNG, its incorporated joint venture with ConocoPhillips, Origin is developing one of Australia's largest CSG to LNG projects based on Australia's largest CSG reserves base.

In New Zealand, Origin is the major shareholder in Contact Energy, the country's leading integrated energy company, operating geothermal, thermal and hydro generation facilities and servicing electricity, gas and LPG customers across both the North and South islands. Origin also operates several oil and gas projects in New Zealand and is one of the largest holders of petroleum exploration acreage in the country.

Origin has a strong focus on ensuring the sustainability of its operations, is the largest green energy retailer in Australia and has significant investments in renewable energy technologies.

For more information go to www.originenergy.com.au