

June 2020

# Eraring Power Station Community Newsletter



Eraring Power Station (EPS) is owned and operated by Origin Energy. The station comprises four 720 MW coal fired units and one 42MW diesel generator. Eraring is Australia's largest power station with a generating capacity of 2992 MW and accounts for approximately 25 per cent of New South Wales' power requirements.

## A message from the Group Manager, EPS

We're all experiencing rapid changes to our lives due to COVID-19. These unprecedented times have had a big impact on our communities and employees. Across Origin, our focus is on protecting the health and safety of our people, our contractors and those in the communities in which we operate. We are also ensuring we have adequate and proportionate controls in place for our business units to continue to function.

As an essential service, Origin has moved swiftly to ensure continuity of electricity supply and has implemented controls in accordance with Federal and NSW Health requirements and guidelines. This includes requiring employees at EPS and across the business to work from home where feasible. On site at EPS, we've implemented a range of measures to mitigate risks including adjustments to shifts and rosters to reduce exposure, restricting visitors and activating additional health screenings.

Coinciding with a drop in market demand for energy, the opportunity was taken to place Unit 1 and Unit 4 offline at separate times during April and May 2020 to undertake necessary inspection checks and maintenance repairs.

Origin has also postponed the Unit 4 maintenance outage which was planned for August 2020. This outage is now scheduled for August 2021.

Throughout this time, we continue to have measures in place to ensure that we monitor our environmental performance as usual.

## Penalty Notice

Origin received a Penalty Notice from the NSW Environment Protection Agency on 17 March 2020 relating to a dust incident from the EPS ash dam on 17 October 2019. We have a range of measures in place to manage dust, and we're currently improving the existing network of dust suppression water cannons and implementing a system that will provide early warning of adverse weather conditions and potential dust risks.

## Environment Update

**Turtles:** Although no turtles have been captured in the canal system since late 2019, we do capture on average 1-2 turtles per year. We check them over and if there are no obvious signs of sickness or injury, turtles are released at Catherine Hill Bay beach. This is a protected location with plenty of rock shelves to hide and weed to eat.

**Rabbit Baiting:** Origin received feedback from the community that rabbits appear to be an issue in the Eraring area. As a result, we are collaborating with Lake Macquarie City Council and Local Land Services to undertake a control program in the area over the next few weeks. Collaborating with other local land managers has been found to increase the effectiveness of control programs, so we hope to get positive results. We will keep you updated.



## Site Projects and Activities

There are several projects and activities currently being undertaken at EPS.

**Southern Embankment Stability Project:** The proposed ash dam southern embankment stability project is in detailed design phase with works expected to commence later in 2020. Origin is undertaking an environmental assessment of the project to ensure we remain compliant with the requirements of our Environment Protection Licence, as well as minimising impacts on the local community from the construction works.

**Ash Dam Expansion Project:** On 23 December 2019 the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) approved the Ash Dam Expansion Project. Details are available on the Department of Planning Infrastructure and Environment (Department) website at: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/26956>. Origin is in the preliminary detailed design phase of the project and we are working to achieve the conditions of approval in consultation with the Department and other stakeholders. This includes the establishment of a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) with Independent Chairperson, Margaret Harvey, appointed by the Department. Origin advertised in local media for nominations from community members to be on the CCC and community representatives have now been appointed by the Department. The CCC held its first meeting (via zoom) on 14 May 2020 with great participation from our community members.

**Ash Recycling:** Origin has a range of emerging ash recycling initiatives at various stages of development. These initiatives are aimed at substantially increasing ash re-use over the next few years, including investment in new technologies and emerging markets.

## Indigenous Traineeship Program

The EPS Indigenous Land Management Traineeship Program is going very well, and we are pleased to announce we have employed three new Indigenous trainees in the Program. Our new trainees will be trained by a graduate of last year's program and will learn the methods used to cultivate plants, including smoking the seeds to germinate. These seeds will be propagated and used as part of our site rehabilitation program.

The land management team have been working to plant native species and clear weeds in the area around the outlet canal. Our trainees will also assist with weed management programs across EPS land over the coming months.



## Bushfires

A bushfire started on 31 December 2019 along Wangi Road, east of the EPS ash dam. The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) attended and worked with our operators to successfully protect our EPS assets. The fire spread to a large area north of the EPS ash dam and burnt an area of almost 1000 hectares. The area is showing the first signs of recovery, but you should be aware of the safety risks of entering areas of recently burnt bushland due to the possibility of falling branches or trees.

We thank the local RFS for working so hard to keep the community safe and for protecting our assets. To help support volunteer teams, Origin made the following donations:

- ✓ **\$20,000** to Dora Creek Rural Fire Service (RFS) who are the first responders to our site;
- ✓ **\$10,000** shared across Cooranbong, Awaba, Peninsula and Martinsville RFS;
- ✓ **\$10,000** to the local Men's Shed who provided much needed support to the RFS; and
- ✓ **\$5,000** to support local wildlife rescue association, Hunter Wildlife.

## Community Investment

Origin is committed to supporting and investing in the communities in which we operate. Recently we've supported the following initiatives and activities:

**Southlake Youth Service:** We regularly support this much needed service who provided a food package program to some of our most vulnerable community members. The current impacts of COVID-19 have seen an increase in community seeking support, so Origin has provided additional funding to the program.

**Toronto State High School:** Through our partnership with the school, we can support students to undertake Science, Technology, Engineers and Math (STEM) learning and our own employees regularly volunteer with students, giving them real life experience.

**Sunshine-Silverwater Landcare:** This Landcare group concentrates its efforts on the 28 hectares of Sunshine Reserve with Johnny's Point and the foreshore reserve connecting the two. Origin appreciates all the work the group undertakes and we're delighted to be a partner.

**Meals on Wheels:** We are happy that we have been able to continue our log running volunteer program and employees have continued to deliver meals to the needy in the community with strict hygiene protocols in place.

## Contact us

To ask about EPS Operations please contact Tania Carlos, Senior Community Relations Business Partner.

📧 [tania.carlos@originenergy.com.au](mailto:tania.carlos@originenergy.com.au) 📞 0400 035 434

If something on or near EPS requires urgent attention, contact site security.

📞 02 4973 0700

Origin Energy Retail Limited ABN 22 078 868 425 • Origin Energy (Vic) Pty Limited ABN 11 086 013 283 • Origin Energy Electricity Limited ABN 33 071 052 287 • Origin Energy LPG Limited ABN 77 000 508 369 • OC Energy Pty Ltd ABN 62 144 655 514 • Sun Retail Pty Limited ABN 97 078 848 549 • 100 Waymouth Street, Adelaide SA 5000 Telephone 13 24 63 • Facsimile 1800 132 463 • Web enquiries [originenergy.com.au/contactus](http://originenergy.com.au/contactus)