

MEDIA COMMENT

10 October 2019

ACCR withdraws lobbying resolution at Origin Energy

Today ACCR has withdrawn an ordinary shareholder resolution it filed with Origin Energy [in August](#), relating to anti-climate lobbying by Origin's industry associations. It was one of four ordinary resolutions put to the company by ACCR.

On 26 September, Origin made [supplementary disclosures to the ASX](#), triggered by the resolutions, in which the company revealed that it had undertaken a review of its industry associations.

ACCR's Executive Director Brynn O'Brien said:

"While Origin has addressed some of our concerns in its supplementary disclosures, the company can and must do more to ensure consistency between its own climate change policy and those of its industry associations."

"Notably, Origin stated in its supplementary disclosure that it "do[es] not support the BCA's commentary on using carry-over credits for Australia to meet its current Nationally Determined Commitment target". This position puts Origin at odds with the Business Council of Australia's Energy and Climate Change Committee, as well as BHP. It casts doubt on the "consensus" decision-making process that is supposed to exist at that organisation."

"Origin also conceded that there is a "weak alignment and a lack of details around QRC's position on energy and climate change". Origin should further distance itself from the Queensland Resources Council's support for new coal-fired power stations and new thermal coal basins —suspension or exit would be appropriate.

"Of course, if Origin does not demonstrate evidence that can address the misalignment between it and its major industry associations over the next 12 months, it will face further shareholder pressure. We encourage Origin to take a proactive approach to adverse lobbying between now and then. For Origin and other companies, this issue is not going away.

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