

# PROJECT NEWSLETTER



December 2023

## A message from Alinta Energy

The end of year is as much about looking ahead into the horizon, as it is reflecting on the road travelled so far.

This year, the Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project marked several major milestones. This included the exhibition of the project's Environmental Impact Statement, as well as our acquisition of the project from OMPS Pty Ltd. These milestones could not have been achieved without the contributions of the community.

Alinta Energy is a significant Australian energy generator, retailer, wholesaler, investor, and developer. We are the preferred electricity and gas provider for more than 1.1 million homes and businesses Australia-wide.

The Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project is an integral project in our \$10 billion renewables and storage development pipeline, which includes onshore and offshore wind and pumped hydro projects.

We manage a generation portfolio of approximately 3,000 MW across Australia and New Zealand – including gas, wind, solar, coal and battery storage.

We are at the forefront of Australia's transition to renewables and some of our recent developments include Western Australia's biggest producer of renewable energy for energy for 2022 (the Yandin Wind Farm), and we're currently constructing a 100 MW battery in Wagerup in WA.

Alinta Energy takes pride in contributing positively to the communities where we work and live. We wish everyone a safe and restful holiday season and look forward to a new year filled with genuine conversations, collaboration, and opportunities.



# Marking an important planning milestone

The exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the Department of Planning and Environment marked a major milestone for the Oven Mountain project.

The EIS represents several years of site and field investigations, community engagement, and skills, training, and education discussions. The exhibition also marks an important milestone in the NSW Planning and Environment process, where interested community members can have their say.

The Oven Mountain project will:

- Play a critical role in delivering much needed long duration storage capacity, as well as dispatchable energy, to meet changing needs across New South Wales and Australia.
- Help secure a more sustainable future by directly supporting the development of up to 1,600 MWs of additional renewable energy projects in the New England Renewable Energy Zone.
- Provide significant opportunities to capture much needed regional investment, job creation, and community benefits in the Mid-North Coast and New England regions.

- Result in many market and environmental benefits, including a reduction of approximately 400,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e in generation emissions.

We would like to thank the many stakeholders and community members that have offered their time, effort, and personal insights. Your contributions have informed our design process and will help ensure that we deliver the best outcome for the region.

To view the project's EIS, please visit the NSW Government's Major Projects Portal at [www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects](http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects) (search 'Oven Mountain').

## Braving the chill for a great cause

April in Armidale is a wonderworld of colours! The chilly morning start didn't deter riders kicking-off on a 3-day bike ride from Armidale.

With a massive turnout of 345 riders and 110 supporters who pumped up their tyres and headed out on a ride that covers around 250 kms and crosses some spectacular scenery.

Celebrating its 10th ride, the April 2023 Tour de Rocks Charity Bike Ride raises much-needed funds for cancer prevention, awareness, and research.

The Oven Mountain Project were proud to sponsor this year's event. And while we didn't don lycra (this year!), we were up early to farewell the riders and cheer them on for what was the first of many kms!







## Celebrating team spirit and culture

Each year, the Koori Knockout draws talented rugby league teams and sporting enthusiasts from across the country.

The Knockout, which includes up to 150 teams, showcases not only athleticism, team spirit, and competition, but family, community, and pride in abundance. The multi-day event is one of the largest gatherings of First Nations people in the country.

This year, the Oven Mountain project sponsored the Dunghutti Connexions. It was a very hot day in Tuggerah NSW and our team were on hand to wish the players the best of luck.

A big congratulations to the team for their skill and effort! We understand that behind every sprint, tackle or try lies many days and months of hard work and commitment.

## A slam dunk for community pride

The Oven Mountain project was proud to recently sponsor the Kempsey Basketball Association.

Few things rival the importance of long duration storage and renewable energy. To some in our team, basketball might be the exception.

"We thank you so much for your support", said Meghan from the Association. "We are about to order all new local uniforms that will really make our Club feel like one and that we all belong!"

Our sponsorship of the Kempsey Basketball Association reaffirms our commitment to championing grass-roots community groups. The funding will go towards the purchase of new uniforms and to support the growth of the sport, which was hit hard by Covid.



*"Community sport is a really important way of bringing people together", said Leeton from the Oven Mountain project. "It's a good way for parents and kids to come together and have fun."*

*"We have a lot of talented people in our town, and we hope that this funding can help build passion and pride for the sport and community."*



# Fostering capacity in the region

Delivering major projects requires collaboration, coordination, and know-how. It requires understanding regional skills and capacity and building productive relationships that foster genuine and meaningful opportunities.

Pending approval, the Oven Mountain project will generate over 600 direct and indirect jobs within the regional economy and contribute approximately \$248 million in annual regional direct and indirect output during the four-year construction period.

In February, the Oven Mountain Project held industry briefing sessions in Kempsey and Armidale. The aim of the sessions was to build greater awareness of the project, liaise with local and regional businesses, and introduce over 80 proposed packages of work.

The industry briefing sessions were delivered in partnership with the Industry Capability Network (ICN NSW). The sessions were popular with over 100 people attending the Kempsey event and over 50 people attending the Armidale event.

In May, the project was proud to be a Bronze Sponsor of the 2023 Northwest Regional Careers Expo. With over 2,000 students in attendance, the Tamworth Regional Entertainment Conference Centre was filled with exhibitors from a wide range of industries and regions.

In September, the Macleay Valley Business Chamber hosted the Oven Mountain team and ICN NSW at the Bucket Brewery in Kempsey. The event offered a great opportunity to continue building strong relationships with local businesses and highlight future opportunities.

The New Year is shaping to be a big one. We look forward to continuing to work closely with local and regional businesses, as well as education and service providers, as we look to develop the Oven Mountain project.





# Delivering a clean energy future

In July, the Oven Mountain team took time away from site to attend the Australian Clean Energy Summit 2023 at the International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney).

Energy continues to be at the forefront of government, industry, and kitchen table discussions across Australia. Communities and businesses alike are keenly aware of the importance of a modernised energy system that provides reliable, affordable, and clean electricity.

The NAB Gala Dinner and Clean Energy Council Awards ceremony showcased not only the good work being done in the field, but the growth in the industry. Our team remains committed to working with our communities and industry peers to deliver a clean energy future.



## A small village play with a big heart

Locals in the small up-river village of Bellbrook were recently treated to a delightful evening of entertainment delivered by the Bellbrook Amateur Theatre Society. On show was Heart Wood, a play written by Paul Hodgeson, directed by the ever-enthusiastic Chunk Wade.

The Oven Mountain project was pleased to support this wonderful event with the donation helping purchase essential behind-the-scenes sound equipment and contributing towards making the play a success.

Bellbrook local, Lorrie, who was in the audience, said "I loved it. I was surprised, everything was fabulous".

With a population of just over 330 locals, Bellbrook may very well be the 'off Broadway' capital of the world. Apart from great acting, the special night showed an abundance of home-grown talent, and a lot of hard work.

*"It was a lot of fun" said leading lady Roz, who plays the role of Jill. "I think the content touched a lot of people. There was some great energy coming from the audience at every performance. At one point I was laughing so much I couldn't say my lines".*



## Meet the Oven Mountain Project team



## Staying connected is as easy as H-U-B!

A big part of delivering major projects is ensuring that everyone has ready access to up-to-date information. We recently took some time to sit down and talk with Annie who manages the Oven Mountain Community Information Hub in Kempsey.

**OM: The Oven Mountain Community Information Hub has been in Kempsey for well over a year now. How's it going?**

**Annie:** It's been great. The Hub is a convenient place where people can not only learn about the proposed Oven Mountain project, but also better understand renewable energy, and talk to project team members. Generally, visitors to the Hub say how impressed they are with the informative displays.

**OM: What sort of information do you have at the Hub?**

**Annie:** Anything and everything the community needs or wants to know about the project.

We try our best to simplify what can be very complex information. The displays on the wall show where the project will be located and how the technology works. This includes maps of the region, the technology used to pump water up and down the mountain, and the importance of renewable energy.

**OM: What are some of the main questions you get asked by visitors?**

**Annie:** People love maps! Visitors will often look at the maps and reflect on their own experiences of upriver areas like the Carrai, Kookaburra, Daisy Plains, and George's Junction. The area has an industrious history and a lot of importance for First Nations communities.

We hope that this important project can help build on those stories and bring genuine and meaningful opportunities to the region.

**OM: What would you like to tell the community about the HUB?**

**Annie:** I would encourage everyone to drop on by! We are located at **2/28 Clyde St, Kempsey**, opposite the public parking lot and next to the Medical Centre. We are open **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 10am to 3pm**.

"We will be closed for the holidays from the 22nd of December and reopen on the 9th of January 2024. We wish everyone a happy and safe holiday".

To find out more about the  
**Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Project**,  
or to sign up for our mailing list visit:  
**[www.ompshydro.com](http://www.ompshydro.com)**

You can also contact the team at:  
**[info@ompshydro.com](mailto:info@ompshydro.com)** or on  
**1800 518 194**.



**OVEN MOUNTAIN**  
PUMPED HYDRO STORAGE