



OVEN MOUNTAIN PUMPED HYDRO STORAGE



PROJECT NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022

Our Project

The Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project is an 'off river' pumped hydro energy development located adjacent to the Macleay River between Armidale and Kempsey.

Situated within the New England Renewable Energy Zone, the project will provide clean energy generation and storage capabilities, ensuring a reliable, resilient, and renewable future energy supply for NSW.

The Oven Mountain project will include the construction of upper and lower reservoirs; an underground hydroelectric power station; spillways; power waterway, and access tunnels.

The project will also include the construction of a new electricity transmission network from the generation site to the Lower Creek area. Additional and independent upgrades to the broader existing electricity transmission network will be required to accommodate the project.

Additionally, the project will include upgrades to existing local and regional roads, allowing for safe construction and operation access.

The Oven Mountain project acknowledges the Thunggutti people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We also extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across this nation.

Planning and Design Work Underway

Our team is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the project and continuing with design work.

Site and field investigations have continued on the lower and upper reservoir areas, including flora and fauna investigations, water monitoring, traffic studies, and geotechnical work.

Our design has progressed to a 15% milestone. Over the coming months, we will continue to refine elements such as reservoir, machinery, and communication structures and will look to actively engage with the community.

Recently, we also developed preliminary road access and transmission line options for the project, which we shared with the community (see image below).





Supporting the Local Community

The Oven Mountain project were proud to be a Champion Sponsor at the 2022 Armidale & New England Show. We took advantage of the blue-sky days to chat all things pumped hydro.

In January and March, we held community information sessions in Armidale, Bellbrook, and Kempsey. These drop-in sessions were a good way for the community to meet the team and learn more about the project.

We recently also hosted a community lunch at the Thungutti Local Aboriginal Land Council and held a movie night at Bellbrook School of Arts in collaboration with Bellbrook Hotel and Bellbrook Pics & Flicks.

In the coming weeks, you can catch us at the 2022 Kempsey Show, which we are also proudly sponsoring. We will soon also have a shopfront in Clyde Street, Kempsey, where you can drop by to find out more.

Stay connected on Facebook @OvenMountain.



A Step Change to a Renewable Future

The Oven Mountain project were pleased to be supporting sponsors of the 2022 Australian Energy & Battery Storage Conference hosted by Informa Connect.

This years special keynote address was delivered by the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull AC who spoke passionately on the future of renewable energy and the importance of pumped hydro storage in firming up renewable energy supply.

Pumped hydro storage has an integral role to play in firming the energy market as it moves away from coal generation, towards varied renewable energy, such as solar and wind.

At Oven Mountain, we are proud to be working to deliver clean energy generation and storage capabilities, ensuring a reliable, resilient, and renewable future energy supply for NSW.

To learn more, visit www.ompshydro.com or call us on 1800 518 194.

Spotlight on Cultural Heritage

Next month, the Oven Mountain project will commence cultural heritage investigations across the project area.

This work is being led by Dr Alan Williams (National Technical Leader, Aboriginal Heritage – EMM Consulting), in collaboration with the Thungutti community and cultural knowledge holders.

“The involvement of the local Aboriginal community and key knowledge holders is critical to the success of any project”, said Dr Williams. “We are on their Country and therefore all our activities need their input, knowledge, and approval. My philosophy is therefore always to ensure close and transparent engagement with local Aboriginal stakeholders from the start to the end of any project.

“In the case of Oven Mountain, the Thungutti traditional owners have a long history with the region and am pleased to say have a strong established relationship with both OMPS and EMM. We are now working closely with them, as well as other Thungutti traditional owners from further afield to understand the cultural heritage values of the project”.

The Oven Mountain team recently held a community lunch at the Thungutti Local Aboriginal Land Council. It was a good opportunity to talk about the project and prepare for upcoming work.

We thank Clr Arthur Bain (pictured right) and the Thungutti community for hosting us and look forward to the important work ahead.



We recently welcomed Lenny Wright to the Oven Mountain team. Lenny is the Chairman of the Thungutti Local Aboriginal Land Council and brings both a wealth of experience and a passion for his community.



The New England Renewable Energy Zone

In December 2021, the NSW Government formally declared a Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) in the New England region around Armidale. This REZ will deliver new network capacity to host up to 8 GW of new generation.

REZs can be considered as modern-day power stations. They combine renewable energy generation such as wind and solar, storage such as pumped hydro energy storage, and high-voltage poles and wires to deliver energy to the homes, businesses and industries that need it.

The NSW Government expects that REZs will deliver multiple benefits to NSW, including more reliable energy from significant amounts of new energy supply; energy bill savings from reduced wholesale electricity costs; emissions reduction from a cleaner energy sector; and community partnership.

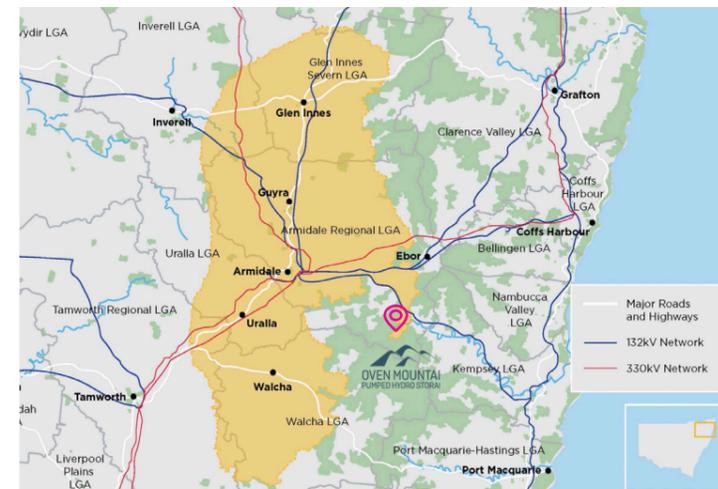


The Oven Mountain project is situated on the eastern side of the New England REZ - within the Armidale Regional LGA, near to the Kempsey LGA. It is anticipated that the project will play a critical role in ensuring the stability of the future network, complementing other local renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind.

“New England has some of the best natural energy resources in the country, some of the State’s best potential sites for pumped-hydro development and strong investor interest.

Given the proximity of pumped hydro opportunities to the new England Renewable Energy Zone, these potential projects could complement the development of generation in the REZ, providing dispatchable storage capacity to back up variable renewable generation”

- The NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap





The 2022 Armidale & New England Show

How Pumped Hydro Works

The Oven Mountain project can be thought of as a giant battery. Water will be pumped up-hill when electricity prices are low. Water will then be released down-hill to the lower reservoir when prices are high.

Energy will be generated by passing the stored water through underground hydroelectric turbines. This energy can then be transported into the grid to meet increasing demand and help lower energy prices.

The reservoirs will be able to store water for up to 12 hours of dispatchable reliable energy to be produced.

The Oven Mountain project is a closed loop - or off river - project. This means that no rivers will be dammed or diverted, and ensures that sensitive ecosystems are protected.

Stay Connected

The Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project is being delivered by OMPS Pty Ltd in partnership with Alinta Energy.

The Oven Mountain project team have over 60 years of combined electricity generation development experience spanning hydro-electric, wind, solar and battery storage technologies.

Alinta Energy is committed to getting the balance right - so that everyday Australians can enjoy reliable and affordable energy that also considers the future. Alinta Energy brings a spirit of collaboration and a wealth of experience to the development of the project.

To find out more, visit www.ompshydro.com. You can also contact the team at info@ompshydro.com or on 1800 518 194.

