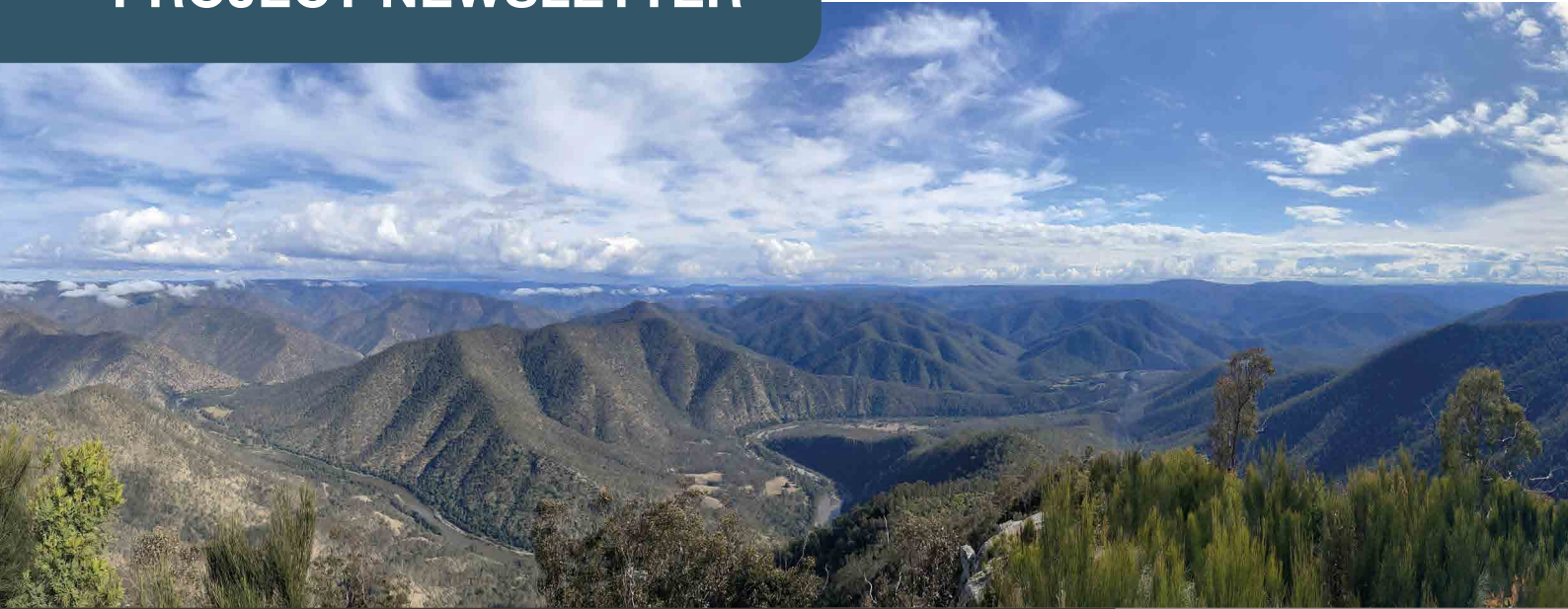


PROJECT NEWSLETTER



August 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 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.

Project update

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 surface water investigations, flora and fauna, and cultural heritage work. The team also held community drop-in sessions in Armidale, Hillgrove, Kempsey, and Willawarrin and opened a Community Information Hub in Kempsey.

The team also recently visited locations across the area completing Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment work. Our project will sit out of sight from Mary's View (see picture above) but will look to form an integral part of the region's industrious history.



Core samples from preliminary geotechnical investigations.

A look at community engagement

Delivering major infrastructure projects isn't easy. It takes experience, collaboration, and perseverance. It involves listening, as well as doing.

Key to the success of any project is understanding the knowledge held by landowners - some of it spanning several generations. This is the type of experience that moves away from the office, page, or monitor; that incorporates years of hardship and prosperity.

Over the years, our team has benefited from the generosity, experience, and assistance offered by the community. Whether it be helping us navigate a changing river; guiding

us along alternate routes through the bush; alerting us to road conditions; or teaching us the cultural history of the land - we appreciate your time and efforts.

All major projects bring opportunity, challenges, and change. Our team believes in the important role the project will play in facilitating our collective steps towards cleaner and more reliable energy. We also understand the history, passion, and connection the community have for the region.

We recently held community information sessions in Armidale, Hillgrove, Kempsey, and Willawarrin, and look forward to offering more opportunities to learn about the project and have your say. As always, we welcome your feedback as we progress with our planning and design work.

What you told us:

Q: "I would like more information on the project, such as where roads and structures will go, and the size and location of the reservoirs"

OM: We encourage everyone to stay connected by visiting our project website www.omshydro.com, following us on Facebook [@OvenMountain](https://www.facebook.com/OvenMountain), joining our mailing list, or dropping into our new Community Information Hub in Kempsey. Our website has all our latest project factsheets, newsletters, and design maps.

Q: "Who is going to maintain our local roads? How will you provide safe and reliable access to the site?"

OM: Safety remains at the core of what we do. We currently use SMS, email, and social media posts to notify local landowners of increased heavy vehicle use. As part of the project, we will look to build an alternate site access road south of the Macleay River, which avoids some of the current access difficulties. During construction, issues such as dust mitigation, increased traffic movements, and road remediation work would be managed in accordance with the Conditions of Approval and relevant construction plans and agreements.

Q: "Can we have access to the results of the field work you are doing, especially around the Macleay River?"

OM: The Environmental Impact Statement will include the findings from all of the site and field investigations completed to date. This includes investigations on water use and management; flora and fauna; geotechnical and hydrogeological work; cultural heritage; and visual assessment findings.

Q: "I worry about the impact the project will have on the area. I know a lot of people that use the area for recreational purposes, such as fishing and the National Trail. Will you be engaging with them?"

OM: We are committed to engaging openly and broadly. To date, we have met with various stakeholders, including local landowners, the National Trail Board, Save Our Macleay River, and local businesses. We welcome all feedback, which helps inform our design work.

Q: "Will the project look to employ local people and use regional companies?"

OM: Over the coming months, we will prepare an Industry Participation Plan, which will draw on local and regional skills and offer opportunities to a new generation via traineeships and community funding initiatives.

Pending approval, the project will create up to 1,000 jobs during its four years construction phase.





Highlighting connections to place

The Oven Mountain project will soon commence cultural values mapping work, as part of ongoing cultural heritage investigations for the project.

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

Dr Williams recently took some time to discuss the scope and significance of the work.

“A decade or two ago, the focus of any cultural heritage investigation was on the archaeology - the presence of stone artefacts, rock shelters, grinding grooves and other such features.

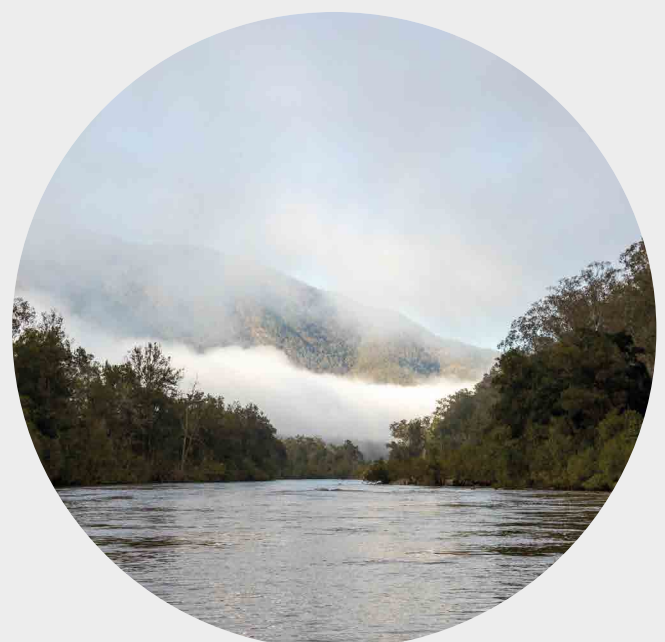
This is still generally the case, but increasingly the local Aboriginal community are interested and concerned with intangible cultural values. These range from traditional song-lines, dreaming sites and stories to contemporary connections with a place. This also extends into general caring for, and management of Country, with an interest in maintaining certain endemic flora and fauna, and the health of rivers (cultural flows).

“And there is also unfortunately the darker history to consider such as massacres and frontier violence, much of which is only known through oral history of the local Aboriginal community. The only way to identify and understand these places and values is to work closely with the local Aboriginal community to try and document these values.

“As part of this work, we will typically take these community members on Country where they can see and show the locations, places and views that are important to them. We take written notes in preference of recordings, along with photographs to ensure we understand the identified values and can subsequently discuss key places when back in the office.

“Once we document this information, we work with the local Aboriginal community to suitably present it to the broader project team and regulators.”

To learn more, reach out to the project team toll-free on **1800 518 194** or via email at **Info@ompshydro.com**.





Engaging with bright minds

Our team were recently at Chandler Public School to talk all things renewable energy and pumped hydro.

Situated some 40kms outside of Armidale (NSW), Chandler Public is a small community school with a big spirit. The staff and students are all about learning, caring, and sharing.

Thank you for welcoming us, asking some great questions, and for showing us your amazing kookaburra mural. Our future is truly in bright hands!

Understanding our project footprint

The Oven Mountain project will involve constructing lower and upper reservoirs, an underground power station to house hydroelectric turbines, access tunnels and roads, and a new transmission line to the existing Armidale-Kempsey 965 Line.

Over the coming months, the project will be developed and refined. Further detail on the project scope, as well as all planning documents, are available from the NSW Major Projects Planning Portal at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects (search Oven Mountain).



PROJECT OVERVIEW

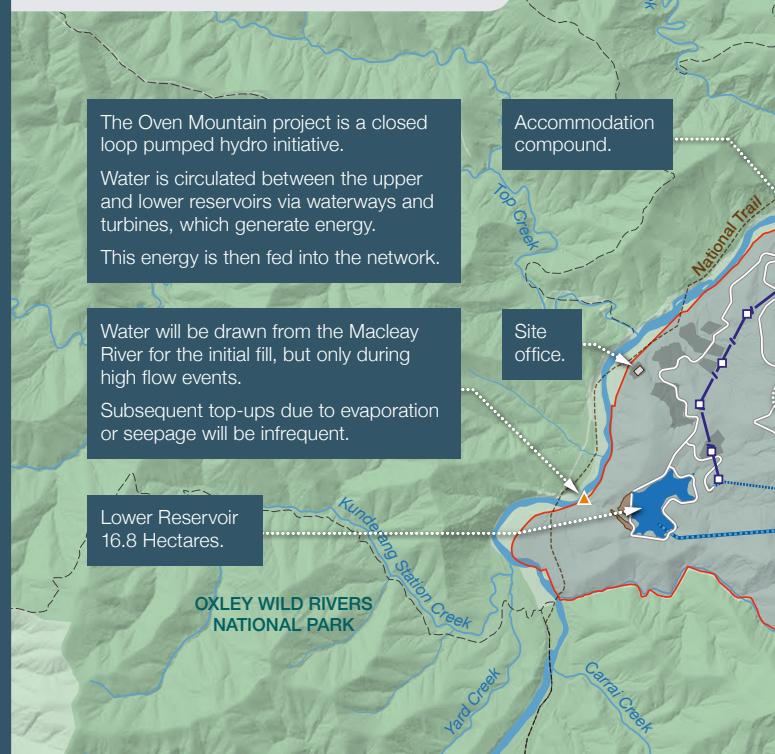
- Project Area
- Pumped hydro generation component
- Access options under investigation
- Transmission investigation area
- Proposed transmission line route
- Proposed transmission tower location
- Indicative access road
- Proposed storage dam
- Dam wall and spillway
- Indicative underground waterway
- Indicative underground access tunnel
- Indicative works surface disturbance area

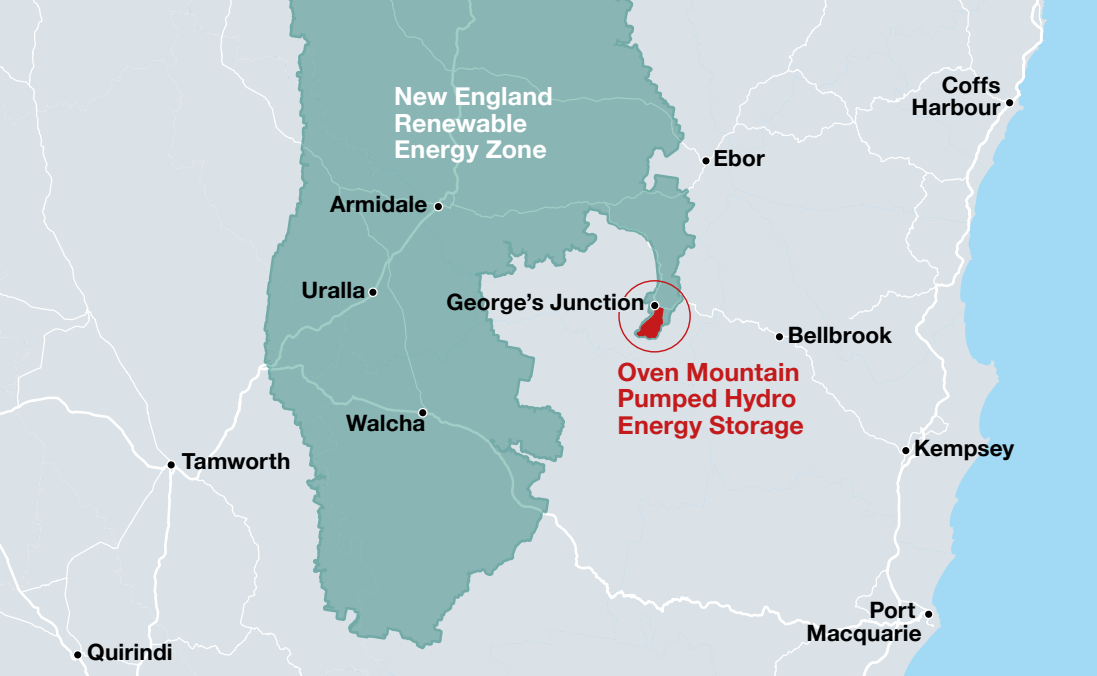
EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

- Existing 132kV transmission line
- Main unsealed road
- Local unsealed road
- 4WD vehicle track
- National Trail
- Watercourse
- National park, reserve & state forest

CUNNAWARRA NATIONAL PARK

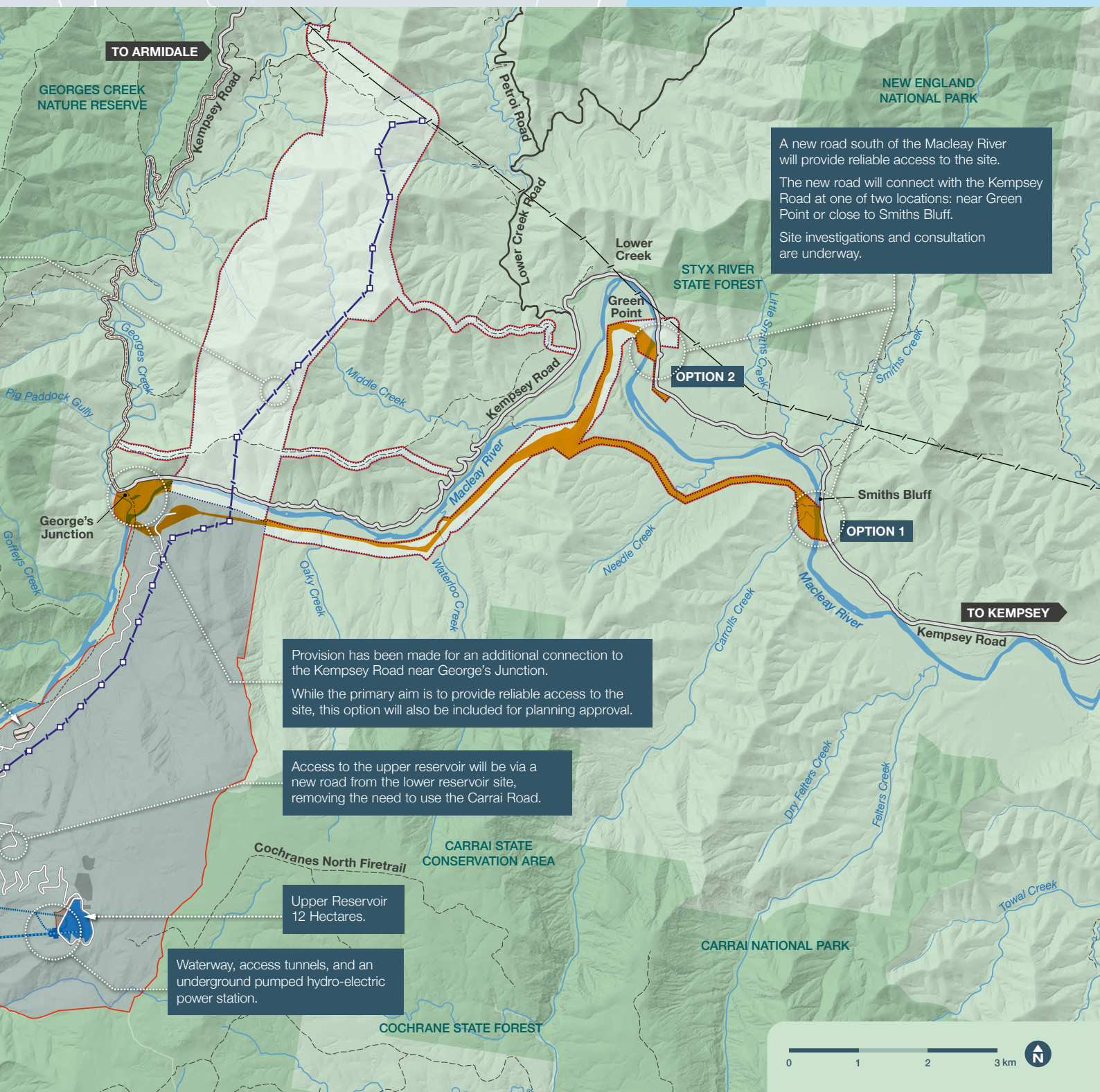
A new electricity transmission network will be constructed from the generation site to the existing Armidale-Kempsey 132 kV line 965.





The Oven Mountain project is in the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

To find out more about the REZ visit:
www.energy.nsw.gov.au/renewables/renewable-energy-zones



Meet the Oven Mountain project team

Spotlight on Cornelis Vlok

OM: Tell us a little bit about your background and how you became involved with the Oven Mountain project?

C: My career has been focussed on the development and delivery of complex, multi-disciplinary resources and infrastructure projects. Over the years, I have held many different roles and gained a thorough understanding of the environmental approval process. These experiences certainly helped me understand the requirements of the Oven Mountain project, and I was keen for the challenge.

I reached out to the Oven Mountain team directly and it was perfect timing! I was able to finish my previous role and commence working on the Oven Mountain project immediately. I started as Senior Project Manager, and it has been hands-on work ever since.

The new role also gave my family and I the opportunity to move to the farm, which was in our 5-year plan.

OM: The Oven Mountain project is a regional initiative with state significance. What does living and working regionally mean to you?

C: For the past 12 years I have been living and working in regional NSW, and I wouldn't change it for the world. Being part of a regional community and understanding the needs of regional communities is integral in delivering major projects. I am passionate about regional NSW and its people, and I thoroughly enjoy engaging and interacting with our local stakeholders.

OM: What are your interests outside of work? What do you do when you are not delivering a major infrastructure project!

C: My family and I have a great passion for farming, and we love spending family time together on the farm. The development and management of our macadamia farms takes up some of my spare time, but I enjoy every minute of it. I recently completed an MBA, which also kept me quite busy. However, now that my studies are done, I will return to one of my other passions - golfing.



Cornelis Vlok, Senior Project Manager

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 about the **Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro** project, or to sign up for our mailing list visit: www.ompshydro.com

You can also contact the team at: info@ompshydro.com or on 1800 518 194.



OVEN MOUNTAIN
PUMPED HYDRO STORAGE