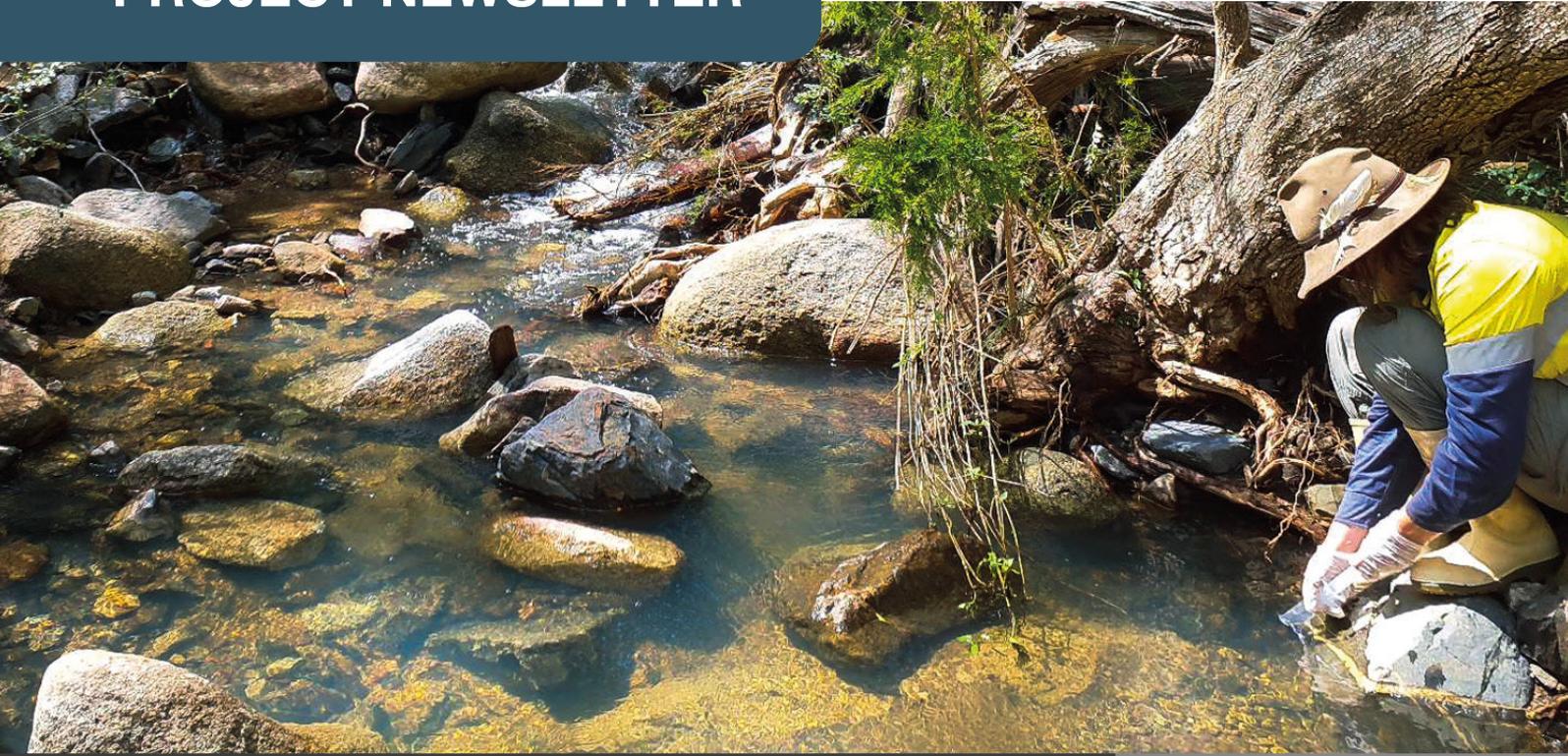


# PROJECT NEWSLETTER



March 2023

## 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 (EIS) for the Project and are continuing with design work.

In January, the team hosted a series of small information sessions – which we called 'Power Lunches' – at our Kempsey Community Information Hub. In February, we held industry briefing sessions in Kempsey and Armidale, where we highlighted future opportunities for local and regional businesses. The team were also proud to support the 2023 Walcha and Armidale shows and will be out-and-about in April at the Kempsey Show.

In March, we held a community consultation meeting at Dunghutti Elders Council, and we thank both the Dunghutti and Thunggutti community for hosting us and sharing their insight. The team celebrated International Women's Day by hosting a community event in Kempsey where Her Excellency Ms Dorcas Kobela Makgato, High Commissioner for Botswana to Australia was guest speaker.

Our team are continuing to work to submit the Project's EIS for approval. We anticipate that submission is imminent and will update the community well in advance when we hear further word from the Department of Planning and Environment.

# Bellbrook rural fire brigade truck restoration project

The Oven Mountain Project is thrilled to support this fabulous project by donating funds to purchase parts that will help the Brigade restore the old Bedford truck to its former glory.

Formed in the late 1950's, Bellbrook Bushfire Brigade has been a constant presence in the small community of Bellbrook – answering the call when fires threatened the village, or even beyond.

Over the years, the Brigade has had several trucks, including two ex-forestry commissioned RL model Bedfords. Bellbrook Rural Fire Service is proud to be home of the first all Indigenous fire crew in NSW, and often responded to emergencies with an all-female crew.

These crews responded in the old RL Bedford that the brigade is now proud to have back on home turf after a chance discovery. The full restoration will take several years and hopes to highlight Bellbrook's community spirit and pay tribute to the Thunggutti men and women who formed part of the first all indigenous fire crew in Australia – and some of whom continue to serve our community.

Brigade Captain Adam Hall has said his team and the community are very excited about this wonderful acquisition and the support to get the old truck back in shape.

"Bellbrook RFS extends our gratitude to the Oven Mountain Project team", he said. "Their support will go a long way in helping us restore the vehicle to its former glory and will build on the rich history, great community spirit, and skill in Bellbrook".



## Supporting regional communities

This year the Oven Mountain Project is proud to sponsor the Armidale & New England, Walcha, and Kempsey regional shows.

Agricultural show days are a great time of the year; they offer communities a chance to demonstrate regional skills and celebrate community spirit. Plus, there are some great showbags and treats to grab!

It's our second year sponsoring the Armidale and Kempsey shows, and our first-time talking all things pumped hydro in Walcha. We look forward to many more opportunities in the years to come!





## Calling all local and regional suppliers

The Oven Mountain Project is a major initiative that will serve as a catalyst for positive social and economic changes in regional NSW.

In February, the Project team and ICN (Industry Capability Network) NSW invited local and regional suppliers to industry briefing sessions in Armidale and Kempsey.

“Developing major projects requires coordination and collaboration”, said Anthony Melov (Director, OMPS). “It involves understanding and drawing upon the skill and experience found in local and regional communities”.

The event provided local and regional companies with a great opportunity to learn more about the Project, understand the scope of anticipated works, and identify potential business opportunities. Key Oven Mountain and ICN NSW representatives were on hand to provide up-to-date information and answer questions.

“The Oven Mountain Project, which has been declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure, will provide a diverse range of opportunities for local businesses”, added Anthony.

“We have identified over 80 works packages ranging from transport and logistics, administration and communications, to major civil, underground construction, and utilities works”.

To register your interest in the Project, visit the ICN Gateway portal at [gateway.icn.org.au](http://gateway.icn.org.au) and search ‘Oven Mountain’.



## 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.

# Celebrating International Women's Day

The Oven Mountain Project was proud to support International Women's Day 2023 and host a morning tea in Kempsey this month.

Her Excellency Dorcas Makgato, High Commissioner of Botswana to Australia was the wonderful keynote speaker at the event, leaving all who attended feeling inspired by her stories and her belief that women need resources to build a future for themselves, their families, and communities.

Other speakers on the day included Lyn Gleeson, president of Kempsey's Lilli Pilli Ladies, who spoke about their fabulous fundraising work in support of

local oncology and palliative care services. On the day, Oven Mountain Directors presented the Lilli Pilli Ladies with a donation towards their fundraising work.

Kempsey Shire Council Mayor, Leo Hauville, was pleased to talk about Council's efforts to increase training and employment opportunities for local Indigenous men and women.

It was a morning enjoyed by all who attended, and the freshly made sandwiches and cakes made by the Anglican Church volunteers were particularly appreciated.

Oven Mountain supports International Women's Day 2023 as we work towards advancing women's participation in clean energy and closing the gender gap in the energy sector.



600+ jobs during construction



Community partnerships



100+ year operational life

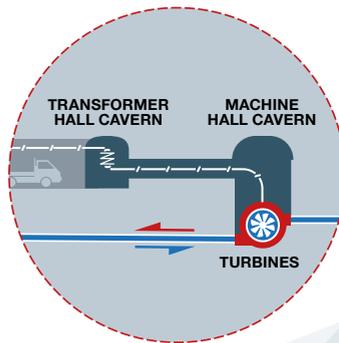


Located in the New England REZ

# How it Works

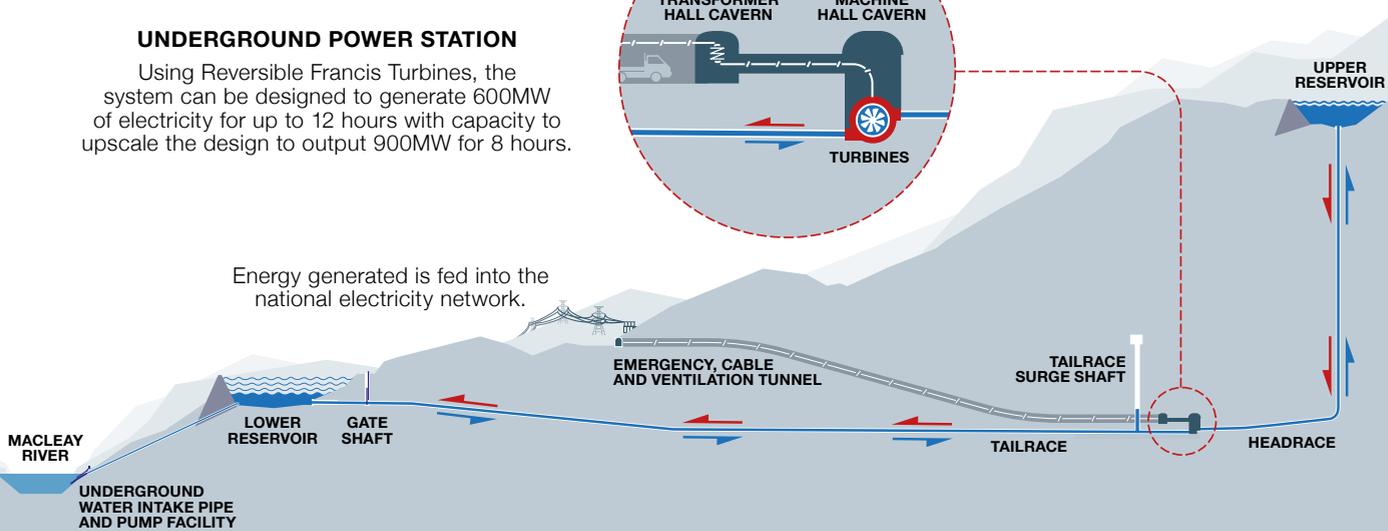
## UNDERGROUND POWER STATION

Using Reversible Francis Turbines, the system can be designed to generate 600MW of electricity for up to 12 hours with capacity to upscale the design to output 900MW for 8 hours.



Water is released from the Upper Reservoir, falling over 600 metres through the high-pressure headrace tunnel to the underground power station, and then through the tailrace to the Lower Reservoir.

Energy generated is fed into the national electricity network.



## PUMPING MODE

Water is released from the Lower Reservoir into the tailrace tunnel and is pumped uphill to the Upper Reservoir.

## GENERATING MODE

Electricity is generated as gravity fed water passes through reversible hydroelectric turbines located in an underground power station.

Pumped hydro energy storage is a mature technology that has been widely used across the world.

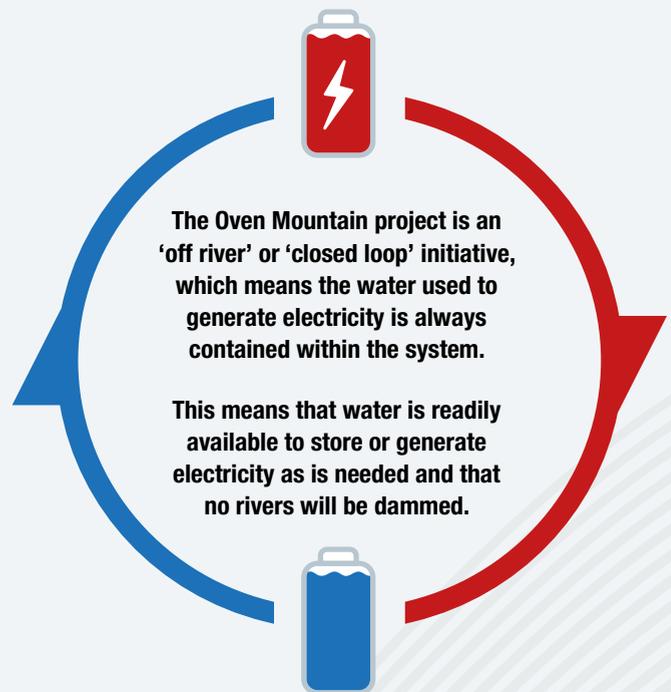
The Oven Mountain Project can be thought of as a giant battery. Water will be pumped up-hill when electricity prices are low. Water will then be released down-hill to the lower reservoir when prices are high.

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' initiative. A key advantage of a closed loop system is that no rivers are dammed or diverted.

This ensures that sensitive ecosystems are protected and there is no net impact on local water use.



**The Oven Mountain project is an 'off river' or 'closed loop' initiative, which means the water used to generate electricity is always contained within the system.**

**This means that water is readily available to store or generate electricity as is needed and that no rivers will be dammed.**

## Meet the Oven Mountain Project team



Troy Pickwick –  
Oven Mountain Project  
First Nations Manager

## Working with First Nation Communities

### Spotlight on Troy Pickwick

Developing genuine and meaningful relationships with First Nation people, communities and businesses is a key part of the Oven Mountain Project. We recently sat with Troy Pickwick – First Nations Manager – to discuss his experience and the importance of open and ongoing consultation.

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

**TP:** I'm a Goreng Gorang and Mununjali descendant from Queensland. I've lived, worked, and studied with Noongars, Wongis (WA), Kooris (NSW), Ngunnawal, Ngambri people (ACT), Nungas (SA), and Murris (Qld) nations across Australia. I've worked with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in areas such as the arts, forestry, agriculture, film, policing, recruitment, and construction. One of the most sensitive projects, which required significant consultation with First Nations representatives, was the repatriation of Indigenous remains back to Country for the National Museum Australia. I've also worked at several Australian universities teaching and mentoring undergraduate and post-graduate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

I heard about the Oven Mountain Project through the community and was impressed with the vision of sustainable and renewable energy and the long-term commitment and dedication of the Project team to provide a viable future for the region. I strongly believe that this project will benefit many local communities, now and into the future.

**OM:** Genuine and meaningful engagement is central to the delivery of all major projects. Can you talk on the importance of engaging with Aboriginal people, communities, and businesses?

**TP:** Following my academic studies - a Bachelor of Arts (Communication) and a Master of Arts (Indigenous Social Policy) from the University of Technology Sydney – I worked with First Nations people and communities in many different industries.

I've always strongly advocated for the importance of including First Nations people and communities in the development and implementation of projects on their traditional lands. Over the years, the Oven Mountain Project team have been working hard to increase communication with local communities. I plan to get out-and-about and make sure that First Nations communities can get a better understanding of the Project and importantly, can access opportunities and resources now and into the future.

**OM:** What are your interests outside of work? What do you do when you are not out-in-the-field working on a major infrastructure project?

**TP:** I've dabbled in writing film scripts, plays and poetry for many years, which has seen me travel to Bulgaria, USA, Canada, and China. I swim regularly in the ocean with my partner and enjoy seeing my family of three adult daughters, and their families, grow into their respective lives.

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