



## Environmental Impact Statement

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is an important part of NSW's environmental and planning approval process. It is also central in ensuring that a project delivers the best outcome for the community and region.

All State Significant Infrastructure projects require approval under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) from the Minister for Planning before they may proceed to construction.

As part of this process, all projects must complete a rigorous assessment process, which includes preparing an EIS in accordance with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

The purpose of the EIS is to assess the economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project. It helps the community, councils, government agencies and the approval authority to get a better understanding of the project and its impacts so they can make informed submissions or decisions on the merits of the project.

The Oven Mountain project is presently preparing an EIS, which we anticipate submitting to the Department of Planning and Environment by the end of 2022. Our team recognise the importance of open and ongoing engagement and will continue to liaise with all stakeholders as we progress with planning.

### Understanding the SEARs

The SEARs can be seen as a 'terms of reference' for the EIS. The SEARs cover a range of key matters, which must be fully examined by the project in the EIS.

The Oven Mountain project SEARs includes:

- **Biodiversity** - An assessment of the biodiversity impacts of the project on terrestrial, aquatic, and groundwater-dependent ecosystems, including impacts on National Parks and Reserves and World Heritage Areas.
- **Cultural Heritage** - Assess the impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage items (archaeological and cultural); provide evidence of consultation with Aboriginal communities in determining and assessing impacts; and assess the impact to historic heritage (including East Kunderang Homestead).





- **Water** – a detailed site water balance for the project, including the water take from each surface and ground water source, any licensing requirements, and determine whether an adequate and secure water supply is available for the development.
- **Social** – an assessment of the social impacts of the project, including impacts on:
  - the locality.
  - the demand for infrastructure and services in the Armidale Regional and Kempsey Shire local government areas.
  - users of nearby National Parks and Reserves, Conservation Areas, World Heritage Areas, areas of declared wilderness under the NSW Wilderness Act 1987, Macleay River, and Bicentennial National Trail.
- **Consultation** – During the preparation of the EIS, consultation is required with the relevant local, State or Commonwealth Government authorities, service providers, and community groups.

All planning documents are available from the NSW Government's Major Project Planning Portal at: <https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/oven-mountain-pumped-hydro-energy-storage-project>.

## Community Engagement

Community engagement is an important part of the planning approval process and is critical to the success of the Oven Mountain project.

Our team strives to build trust by engaging in open and honest conversations; build credibility by providing clear, regular, and accessible communication to the community; and build visibility by being out and about and ensuring that our team respects the community in which we operate.

We value the diverse range of voices in the community and will continue to work hard to address the issues that matter most to stakeholders.

To find out more about the **Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Energy Storage** 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