

David & Caroline Adams  
PO Box 441  
South West Rocks NSW 2431  
Email:  
carolineadams640@gmail.com

16<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Attention: The Honourable Paul Scully MP**, Minister for Planning  
**C/- Anthony Ko, Project Contact Planner, DPE**  
Department of Planning and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Via email: [Anthony.Ko@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Anthony.Ko@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Minister,

**Re: Submission of Objection by David & Caroline Adams to the Proposed Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Storage Proposal: Application Number SSI-12422997, EPBC ID Number 2020/8850, Assessment Type; Critical State Significant Infrastructure. Exhibited as: (EXH-62250958)**

We own a 50 hectare property on the Macleay River estuary at Jerseyville and are very concerned about the water quality in the Macleay River from activities in the catchment. We are keen conservationists and are also concerned about the broader environment, habitat and biodiversity. We are keen users of renewable energy with an off-grid solar and battery system to power our property.

We thank you and appreciate your making available and exhibiting the DA, EIS and accompanying documents, as well as the opportunity to provide a Submission to the proposed Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Storage Development Application.

We have 3 primary concerns:

1. The proposed project does not seem to be the most efficient way to generate electricity for the Armidale area. It would use 20-25% more power than it generates. Surely by the time it may be built – at enormous environmental cost – it would be more viable to have large-scale batteries near Armidale. Or other renewable energy alternatives in 'brownfields' sites like the Hunter Valley where the transmission infrastructure already exists. We would urge the NSW government to proactively investigate more cost-effective alternatives.
2. We are very concerned about the scale and impact of the vast engineering works on the natural environment in this isolated gorge country: roads, tunnels, reservoirs, bridge, and transmission lines cutting great swathes through mostly mature healthy native forest.
3. We are concerned these engineering works could disturb and expose the naturally occurring atimony, arsenic and heavy metals in the area, and thus contaminate the Macleay River. Of course, any such potential contamination is an environmental concern in its own right. But it also could have huge consequences for the oyster industry, recreational fishing and tourism along the Macleay, including our area of Jerseyville and South West Rocks.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this Submission of Objection and we urge you to give our concerns serious consideration.

Yours sincerely  
David & Caroline Adams