

15/10/2023

Attention: The Honourable Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.
C/- Anthony Ko, Project Contact Planner, DPE
Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124
Anthony.Ko@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Re: Submission of Objection 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)

I am a resident of the Macleay Valley. I object to the Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Storage Proposal and urge you to not approve the project.

The site of the proposed plant is unsuitable for many reasons. For example:

1. The Oven Mountain site is located in the upper reaches of the Macleay River in remote, ancient (and spectacular) gorge country, adjacent to a World Heritage listed wilderness area. Wild areas like this should be protected from industrial development (the hydro plant itself, power lines, easements, access roads, bridges and other infrastructure). I would encourage anyone involved in deciding the fate of this area to visit it first (if you haven't already been there) so you can experience first-hand its environmental and aesthetic values.
2. The Oven Mountain site is not easily accessible and would require significant upgrades to existing roads and construction of additional bridges and roads in steep and difficult terrain. This would be financially and environmentally costly, irreversible, and with significant carbon dioxide emissions.
3. The risk of contamination to the river (our water supply) from geological disturbance or other misadventure during construction and operation of the plant, is unacceptable.
4. Kempsey, Willawarrin, and Bellbrook are not equipped to service the needs of a large, temporary workforce, and our streets and roads can't accommodate the heavy vehicles and other traffic that the project would require. Such an imposition on our communities and facilities would be unacceptable.

I believe there are more appropriate sites for renewable energy infrastructure that can be developed or repurposed without such significant environmental and social impact.

I am aware of the submission by Save Our Macleay River (SOMR) and I endorse their submission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission of objection. I look forward to a good outcome for our community and the environment, and to the championing of more appropriate renewable energy projects.

Yours Sincerely



Julie Sutton