

# Project Newsletter

August 2022



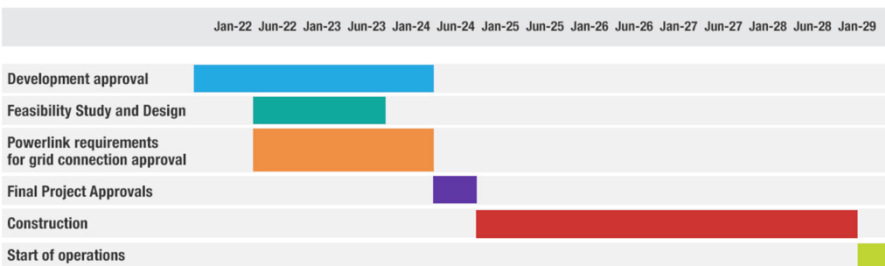
## Welcome to MRPH News!

We are dedicated to ensuring our stakeholders and other interested parties are kept up to date with project planning and assessment activities. This, our second newsletter, provides a summary of recent and upcoming activities, and of opportunities for you to have your say. For 'live' information, visit our new project website at: [www.mtrawdonhydro.com.au](http://www.mtrawdonhydro.com.au).

## What is the MRPH project?

The Mount Rawdon Pumped Hydro (MRPH) project proposes to repurpose the existing Mount Rawdon Gold Mine to create a pumped hydro electricity generation and storage facility. Its' purpose is to provide Queensland with low cost, large scale renewable energy storage, and to support a more reliable energy system, reducing the risk of blackouts and electricity price volatility. The project is scheduled to commence construction in 2024 and operations by 2029, pending environmental and development approvals.

The indicative project timeline is presented below:



The Mount Rawdon Gold Mine is located 75 km south-west of Bundaberg, Queensland. The project also includes a transmission line, and the proposed transmission line investigation area runs from the mine site north-east and roughly parallel to the Good Night Scrub National Park to connect to the existing 275 KV transmission line near Morganville (see page 4).

The project is being developed by a Joint Venture involving Evolution Mining, the owners and operators of the Mount Rawdon Gold Mine, and an investor group managed by ICA Partners.

The project will be subject to an environmental impact assessment by the Queensland Government and is likely to be declared a 'coordinated project'. This means that the Coordinator-General will comprehensively assess the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project.

The community will have an opportunity to comment on the project during this impact assessment process and community feedback is encouraged via the contact details below.

### Contact Us

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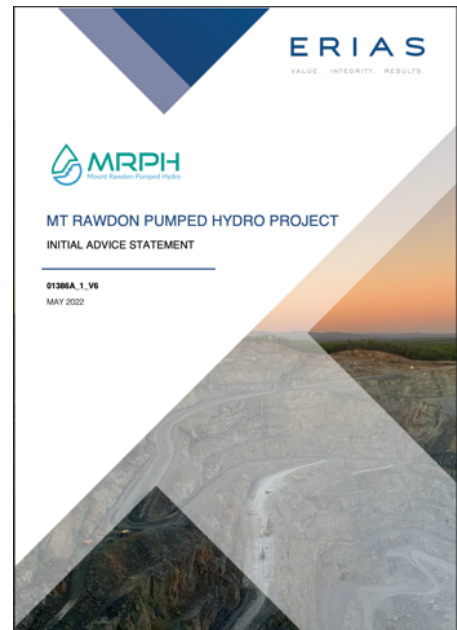


## Environmental assessment documents submitted

The project is currently at the feasibility phase, which involves undertaking studies and engagement to determine the most appropriate site layout to minimise project impacts.

In June we submitted an Initial Advice Statement (IAS) seeking 'coordinated project' status under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*, which requires approval by the Coordinator-General. The submission of the IAS is the first step in a comprehensive and rigorous assessment of environmental, social and economic project impacts involving whole-of-government coordination. The Coordinator-General's decision on coordinated status is expected in October, 2022, and will be published online at <https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/coordinator-general/assessments-and-approvals/coordinated-projects/current-projects>.

We have also referred the project under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water will assess the project to determine whether it affects any matters of national environmental significance (MNES). If the project is assessed under the EPBC Act, this assessment will be combined within the state-based Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).



## Transmission line planning update

A transmission line is required to transport electricity to the storage site when there is excess wind or solar power being generated, and back into the electricity grid when there is not enough electricity being generated by other sources.

We are working closely with Powerlink, the operator of Queensland's transmission network to finalise the transmission line route.

The project team have commenced engagement with landholders and other stakeholders to refine the initial investigation area to inform eventual route selection.

The team have contacted most of the landholders in the investigation area but have not been able to reach everyone. If you think your property could be in the investigation area and you haven't heard from us, please reach out at: [info@mtrawdonhydro.com.au](mailto:info@mtrawdonhydro.com.au) or +61 419 875 498. A map of the investigation area can be found on page 4.

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## Studies and investigations planned and underway

The project team have been busy with wet season flora and fauna field surveys of the proposed upper storage area, access roads and temporary facility locations. Dry season surveys will commence later in the year (September/October). The purpose of these investigations is to look for threatened ecological communities and species and to document vegetation condition, to inform siting of infrastructure to avoid sensitive areas, and to provide a 'baseline' from which to predict potential impacts and identify appropriate management measures.

Other investigations planned or underway include geotechnical studies on the upper reservoir, ground and surface water studies, noise and air emissions studies, an assessment of visual impact associated with the proposed transmission line and cultural heritage surveys.

The results of investigations will be made available for public review and comment through the EIS public consultation process, which is estimated to occur in 2023.



Photo: Eco Smart Ecology

# TRANSMISSION LINE STUDY AREA

