

Hydro project tech makes waves on a global stage

By **Brittney Manning**

Technology created and used by Sunshine Hydro on projects in the Gladstone region has been recognised by the International Hydro Association (IHA).

Sunshine's Hydro's proprietary technology AESOP, Advanced Energy Story Optimising Program, helps to firm green energy by using historical, live and forecast data to intelligently meet energy demands.

The company is one of three showcased at the IHA Innovate Hydropower Webinar Series yesterday.

Sunshine Hydro chief executive Rick McElhinney said AESOP was developed over a seven-year period by company founder Chris Baker to make green energy firm and financially viable.

"Generating that firm green energy is not so easy, but it uses artificial intelligence and puts together millions of decisions every five-minute period to make the right decisions," Mr McElhinney said.

He said AESOP uses algorithms focused on long-term sustainability.

"SuperHybrid draws probably the order of twice the wind and solar that a normal pumped hydro program would draw.

"It's multiplying the amount of energy that we tap into, and managing that effectively so we can supply this firm green energy on a contractual basis."

Sunshine Hydro is looking to bring an-



Sunshine Hydro CEO and investor Rick McElhinney.

other three projects to fruition within 60 kilometres of Miriam Vale, under a joint venture with Energy Estate, within the Central Queensland Renewable Energy Zone (CQREZ).

CQREZ represents more than 23,000 megawatts (MW) of project capacity across solar, wind, bioenergy, and storage technologies.

If developed, these projects would represent more than \$39 billion in investment and thousands of construction jobs.

Sunshine Hydro also has projects in Victoria and New South Wales.

In early May 2022, Sunshine Hydro launched its \$2 billion 'Flavian' hydropower project near Miriam Vale.

Visit sunshinehydro.com to learn more about Sunshine Hydro projects.