

Strong support for Snowy asset bid

SNOWY River Shire Council (SRSC) and the peak tourism organisation for the Snowy Mountains, Tourism Snowy Mountains (TSM) aired concerns at the State Government's decision to exclude Snowy Hydro from purchasing electricity assets.

Both SRSC and TSM made statements about the issue and urged the government to reconsider its decision to exclude Snowy Hydro's bid for the State's asset sell-off. Their concern lays in the future viability of Snowy Hydro and the region if the company is not able to grow.

TSM chair Gary Grant said anything that may derail this has a flow on effect in the snowy mountains community including job losses and a reduction or no support for tourism growth.

"Snowy Hydro are actively involved in many tourism initiatives

and support a huge range of events across the snowy mountains," Gary Grant chair Tourism Snowy Mountains said.

SRSC Mayor John Cahill said the government decision was most unfair to Snowy Hydro as it would be of extreme benefit for Snowy Hydro to be included in this process.

"It is my understanding that Snowy Hydro is not a government entity, it is self funding, it does not have government nominees on the board of directors and does not provide guarantees for financial support to the company," Cr Cahill said.

"It would create much needed competition in the electricity market and to ensure the future growth of this company by being allowed to purchase retailers, to purchase much needed assets and to ensure the sustainability of the company."