

m e d i a   r e l e a s e

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> August 2006

**Subject:** Jindabyne Dam Project

On Tuesday work was completed on the removal of the “earth plug” that had been separating the Jindabyne Dam plunge pool from the Snowy River.

The removal of the earth plug was the final stage of the construction work required to enable environmental flows and flushing flows from Jindabyne Dam to the Snowy River which are essential to restore the Snowy River’s health. Based on our investigations, the excavation work carried out on the site was in accordance with our works approval from the Snowy River Shire Council and the licence conditions imposed by the EPA.

Before the excavation works commenced, Snowy Hydro erected two siltation booms immediately downstream of the work site to prevent any possible movement of large amounts of siltation downstream. Despite this measure, during the final stages in removing the earth plug, some minor levels of muddy water flowed down the river with the river current.

Since Monday, Snowy Hydro has been in regular contact with both the EPA and the Snowy River Shire Council. Along with them, we have been constantly monitoring turbidity levels and potential environmental impacts very carefully. So far there has been no evidence of any environmental harm to the river’s aquatic life. No toxic content was released into the river at any time.

Snowy Hydro takes environmental care very seriously and we have been in contact with the Snowy River Shire Council in particular to monitor water quality at the Dalgety water intake. As an additional precaution we have organised for the installation of silt booms to protect the Dalgety water intake should the silt reach that far down the river. This is purely a precautionary measure as it is not expected that the minor levels of silt will affect the operation of the Dalgety water supply.

It is anticipated that this silt plume will dissipate from the river in the next 2 to 3 days. To assist with this process, Snowy Hydro will be undertaking increased water flows from Jindabyne Dam to the Snowy River over this time.