

m e d i a   r e l e a s e

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> August 2006  
**Subject:** Jindabyne Dam Update

Snowy Hydro Limited and Snowy River Shire Council are working closely together to mitigate whatever impact there might be as a result of the sediment spill that occurred on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2006.

The work involved removal of an earth plug from a holding pond, which resulted in the escape of a quantity of suspended silt.

Snowy Hydro Limited believes there are no toxic materials involved and that the quantity and nature of the silt is such that significant environmental damage is unlikely to occur. The company is working with the EPA, and has been since the incident occurred, to investigate the matter and to assess remedial actions.

Snowy River Shire Council was informed of the incident when it occurred in order that remedial action could be taken with regard to the water supply for Dalgety.

It is expected that the silt plume will dissipate as it travels down the river and action has been taken to prevent a recurrence.

Snowy Hydro Limited and Snowy River Shire Council are concerned that during last week there has been considerable scaremongering around this incident which has caused unnecessary anxiety.

The Company, the Council and the EPA were involved at the earliest possible time last week.

Snowy Hydro Limited had taken all reasonable precautions and has been proactive in initiating remedial and preventative action. There were not tonnes of sediment released down the river and there was never massive disturbance. There was no toxic water released from the sediment ponds.

As at midday Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2006, a helicopter inspection of 50kms downstream of the dam indicated that the silt plume could no longer be observed and sampling is showing the river is close to returning to normal conditions.

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**For more information, please call:**

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