

m e d i a   r e l e a s e

**Date:** 18 August 2006

**Subject:** Environmental Flow Data

On 16 August 2006 the ABC ran a story claiming that Snowy Hydro Limited will not release data to help scientists monitor flows in the Snowy River. In the story the ABC quoted Associate Professor Brian Finlayson from the University of Melbourne.

Snowy Hydro did not know why these comments had been made to the ABC. During that day Snowy Hydro conducted an internal investigation which concluded that Snowy Hydro had not received any written request for data from Associate Professor Finlayson, nor did any employee within the Head Office Water Group have any recollection of receiving a verbal request from Associate Professor Finlayson for that data.

On the basis of Snowy Hydro's internal investigation, Snowy Hydro issued a media statement late on 16 August which responded to the ABC story and as part of that response denied that Associate Professor Finlayson had approached the company for data on flows in the Snowy River.

Associate Professor Finlayson informed Snowy Hydro this morning that in November 2003 he made a verbal request for specific flow data but that he was told that it would not be provided because it was commercial-in-confidence. Snowy Hydro has no record or recollection of that verbal request but has no reason to doubt Associate Professor Finlayson's statement. Snowy Hydro regrets any offence which Associate Professor Finlayson may have taken.

Nevertheless Snowy Hydro re-affirms that there has never been any suggestion from our licensor, the NSW Department of Natural Resources, that they had insufficient information to enable them to assess Snowy Hydro's compliance with its Snowy Water Licence obligations.

Snowy Hydro is currently working to provide, on the company's website, data on the Snowy River environmental releases made by the company in accordance with the Snowy Water Licence. It is hoped that this service will be in place within a few months. In addition, Snowy Hydro is working with its water regulator, the Department of Natural Resources, to split the Snowy Scheme Annual Water Operating Plan into two sections so that the bulk of the information contained in each of those plans can also be made public by the Department.