snowy hydro Limited
renewable energy

media release

Date: 4th December 2006
Subject: SNOWY HYDRO PROJECT AWARDED PRESTIGEOUS RESEARCH GRANT

Snowy Hydro Limited, in collaboration with the University of Queensland and Laurentian University in Ontario, Canada has been awarded a prestigious research grant by the Australian Research Council (ARC).

The $263,000 ARC grant has been awarded to assist in the funding of an innovative climate change research project. The aim of the project is to reconstruct the drought history for the catchments of the Snowy Mountains Scheme and Murray Darling Basin areas in order to better understand and predict future drought sequences.

Professor David Siddle, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) of the University of Queensland said: "The ARC research grant is a very competitive scheme and the awarding of this grant duly recognises the importance of this research project being undertaken with Snowy Hydro Limited".

The $263,000 ARC funding now takes the total value of this research project to over $820,000. Snowy Hydro Limited has committed over $375,000 in cash and in-kind contributions with the remaining $183,000 being provided through the University of Queensland and Laurentian University.

Part of the in-kind contributions from Snowy Hydro Limited include support in areas such as access to data and records, expert staff and sample collection, much of which will come from the Snowy Precipitation Enhancement Research Project (SPERP) or "cloudseeding" team.

The University of Queensland investigators have been working closely with the Snowy Hydro cloud seeding team since 2004, and will use critical data collected from the SPERP to support the new research project. In addition, they will access important data from Snowy Hydro's water records going back more than 50 years.

Manager Water for Snowy Hydro Limited, Mr Andrew Nolan said: "This research project will investigate past drought history in our region. The outcomes of the research will provide us with improved tools to better predict future drought sequences so that Snowy Hydro can continually improve the way we manage water."

The Snowy Hydro / University of Queensland climate change research project will commence this month and to take 4 years to complete.

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