

Snowy Hydro Limited
Snowy Scheme Water Storages Update

6 November 2006

Q) Why are the Snowy Scheme water storages so low?

A) Unfortunately, the entire country is experiencing a major drought. It is this prolonged drought sequence that is impacting all Snowy Scheme water storages which are at their lowest November level since the Snowy Scheme was completed in 1973.

In addition, water inflows from rain and snowmelt have continued to be only around 25% of long-term average. In fact, water inflows for this year are only around 67% of that of the worst year recorded in the last 100 years.

Overall, below average water inflows have occurred since 1997 with the exception of 2000 when water inflows were only 200 gegalitres (GL) above average. However, the minimum annual adjusted water releases from the Snowy Scheme, as determined by the NSW Department of Natural Resources and in accordance with the Snowy Water Licence, has continued.

Because of the extremely low water inflows and steady demand, water levels in Snowy Scheme storages have been steadily decreasing since 1997 and are currently around 18% of active capacity.

Q) What are the expected water levels into the future?

A) It is difficult to predict the extent or length of the current drought sequence that is affecting the entire country and Snowy Scheme water storage levels. The snowpack this Winter was near the worst recorded since records commenced in 1954. As predicted, water inflows from the Winter/Spring snowmelt have been well below average and water levels at all Snowy Scheme storages continue to drop. If the current drought conditions continue it is expected that by the end of November 2006 there will be no below target water in Snowy Scheme storages.

Water storage levels are not expected to rise unless there is a marked improvement in rainfall over Spring and Summer.

Q) What is Snowy Hydro doing to facilitate access to the Lake Eucumbene?

A) Snowy Hydro is assisting Snowy River Shire Council in maintaining a boat ramp in the Old Adaminaby area that can be used to access the Lake. As heavy frosts can create very slippery conditions at some of the traditional boat launch sites, Snowy Hydro advises Lake Users to take care when launching boats.

Up to date information on water levels can be found on the Snowy Hydro web page at www.snowyhydro.com.au