

m e d i a r e l e a s e

Date: 6th December 2006

Subject: **Snowy Hydro Cloud Seeding Project awarded \$4 million Federal grant**

The Federal Government announced today, that Snowy Hydro Limited has been awarded a \$4 million grant to support the Snowy Precipitation Enhancement Research "Cloud Seeding" Project. The grant has been made under the AusIndustry Renewable Energy Development Initiative (REDI) Scheme, and will be paid over a period of three years.

The REDI Scheme forms a part of the Australian Government's strategy to maintain a strong and internationally competitive economy with lower greenhouse gas emissions. Grant applications are assessed on a highly competitive basis against a number of merit criteria including National Benefit, Potential for Greenhouse Gas Abatement, Technical Strength and Management Capability.

The Snowy Hydro Cloud Seeding project commenced in the winter of 2004, and is scheduled to conclude after the winter of 2009. The principal objective of the research project is to determine the effectiveness of cloud seeding for augmenting natural snowfalls and increasing inflows to storages of the Snowy Mountains Scheme. The resulting benefit to the nation include production of additional renewable hydro-electricity, displacement of carbon dioxide from other thermal generation sources, as well as benefits to the local environment and the ski industry, and water releases for use by irrigators, downstream communities and the environment.

The award of the grant is an acknowledgement by government of the potential value of cloud seeding as an effective water resource management tool. It is also a clear recognition of the strength and expertise of Snowy Hydro's cloud seeding research team, and of the excellent scientific investigation undertaken to date.

Snowy Hydro Limited Cloud Seeding Project Director, Mr John Denholm said: "The Snowy Hydro Cloud Seeding project is unique because of the innovative technology we have developed to deliver the seeding agents, and also because of the separate chemical and statistical methods that we are using to determine effectiveness of the program. This funding is a boost to the project, and will ensure that the research will continue at the present high standard through to its conclusion."