

11 January 2007

Community Service Announcement

Update on Water Releases to Swampy Plains River from Khancoban Pondage

Achieving the balance that the Snowy Scheme has traditionally achieved between the sometimes competing water demands for farms, townships, electricity, the environment and recreational users is now acutely problematic. Snowy Hydro continues to find ways to meet these demands as best it can.

Control of water releases from Khancoban Pondage into Swampy Plains River is an example of the careful balance that under the current drought situation must be achieved.

Recent and forecast hot weather conditions in south east Australia have necessitated the need for increased electricity generation from the Snowy Scheme. In order to meet this need, over the next week it is anticipated that water releases from Khancoban Pondage into the Swampy Plains River will be increased up to approximately 5 cubic metres per second (cumec) from the current release of 1 cumec.

As water is released for this additional generation from our head ponds, it is expected that lake levels on Khancoban Pondage will not be greatly affected by this increase in water releases into the Swampy Plains River.

It is unsure how long these new release conditions will continue since the storages of the Snowy Mountains Scheme are currently at around only 17% of active capacity. However, this small increase will undoubtedly provide some relief to river users between Khancoban and Jingellic.

It is important to note that Khancoban Pondage and releases into the Swampy Plains River are important operational components of the Snowy Mountains Scheme and as such water levels at this pondage and water releases can vary at any time in accordance with the operational requirements placed on the entire Snowy Mountains Scheme.

Residents downstream of Khancoban Dam are advised to take whatever precautions are necessary. Up to date information on water release flows into the Swampy Plains River can be obtained on the recorded Khancoban Pondage water release information line on (02) 6453 2098.

In addition, up to date information on Snowy Scheme water levels can be found on the Snowy Hydro web site at www.snowyhydro.com.au