

m e d i a   r e l e a s e

**Date:** 23 April 2007

**Subject:** **Snowy Hydro able to meet electricity and water commitments**

Today Snowy Hydro described as “simply wrong” recent media reports that the drought will force the company to shut down the Snowy Mountains Scheme in a matter of days or weeks.

Terry Charlton, Managing Director, Snowy Hydro Limited said: “It is unrealistic for anyone to think that the Snowy Scheme could somehow have been immune from the effects of the current severe drought. However, the design of the Snowy Scheme allows us great flexibility in managing our water such as the recycling of water through Tumut 3 Power Station without losing the water in the Scheme and the use of our gas fired generation in Victoria to further enable conservation of water.”

Snowy Hydro has consistently advised all stakeholders, in particular members of the local communities located within the Snowy Mountains Scheme area, the impact that the current major drought sequence is having on water storages of the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Today Snowy Hydro reiterated that it is confident that even if the current drought continues it will be able to at least meet its electricity and water commitments this winter and into next summer.

Mr Charlton said: “Unfounded speculation that Snowy Hydro will need to shut down its generators if Snowy Scheme storages reach 9% of capacity is totally incorrect. In fact, we are operating our generating plant quite comfortably at around that water storage level now and can continue generating at even lower levels.”

Snowy Hydro has undertaken a number of prudent water conservation and management strategies over the last few years to ensure that the water that remains in the Snowy Scheme is used to obtain the best result for all stakeholders. These strategies include:

- the use of over 600 MWs of gas fired generation plant in Victoria;
- the recycling of water through our largest power station Tumut 3; and
- our winter cloud seeding program to increase water inflows from increased snowfalls.

Terry Charlton added: “It is very difficult for anyone to accurately predict future weather patterns. However, if the current drought conditions continue and we have another bad winter, as bad as last year when snowpack provided little spring runoff, we believe that we can at least meet our water and electricity commitments this coming winter and into next summer.”

For further information on Snowy Scheme storages visit the Snowy Hydro water resources page on our website at [www.snowyhydro.com.au](http://www.snowyhydro.com.au)

---

**For more information, please call:**

Paul Johnson  
Snowy Hydro Limited  
(02) 9278 1888