

Snowy Hydro Limited

Snowy Scheme Water Storages Update

9 August 2007

Q) What is the latest update on Snowy Scheme water storages?

A) The month of July has seen Snowy Scheme water inflows slightly improving from previous months, reaching levels of around long term average. These slightly improved inflows coupled with less demand from the National Electricity Market have meant that our main water storage, Lake Eucumbene, experienced its first steady rise in level since October 2005, albeit to only slightly higher than last month's level.

In addition, following a strong start to the season, snowfalls within the Snowy Mountains are now settling back to median levels. However, it is still too early to determine how the rest of the snow season will develop, or what inflows may result to the Snowy Scheme storages in terms of spring run off.

While the improvements in inflows over the past few months have been positive, the Snowy Scheme storages are still at around their lowest levels since construction as a result of the major drought that has impacted the region since 1996. Prolonged above average inflows will be required to return water levels to those seen prior to the start of this drought cycle in 1996.

It is very difficult for anyone to accurately predict future weather patterns and associated water inflows. However, even if the current drought conditions continue and our spring runoff from snowmelt is as bad as last winter, Snowy Hydro believes that it can meet its water and electricity commitments.

If continual above average inflows do not eventuate and spring inflows from snowmelt are below average then Snowy Hydro may be required to access water from below historical MOL. The extent of operation below historical MOL should this occur would be continually under review to ensure current high levels of engineering management and environmental care are maintained.

Q) How can we get information on lake levels and water releases from Snowy Scheme dams?

A) Snowy Hydro has a website based water resources information service so that the public can access information on water resources data relating to the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

This service can be accessed via the homepage on the Snowy Hydro website at www.snowyhydro.com.au. It provides information on lake levels, snow depths and releases into local rivers including the volume of environmental releases into the Snowy River from Jindabyne Dam.