

Snowy Hydro Limited

Snowy Scheme Water Storages Update

5 October 2007

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

A) The months of August and September has seen Snowy Scheme water inflows improving from previous months due to the usual seasonal inflow increases from snowmelt. However, these inflows are still only around 80% of 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, has risen.

In addition, following a strong start to the season, snowfalls within the Snowy Mountains peaked just below median levels around the start of August. Some snow still remains at higher elevation and it is expected that runoff from the snowmelt will only continue for the next month or so.

While the improvements in inflows, mainly due to snowmelt, 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, Snowy Hydro believes that it can meet its water and electricity commitments.

If continual above average inflows do not eventuate 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.