

Snowy Hydro Limited

Snowy Scheme Water Storages Update

1 February 2008

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

A) Water inflows into Snowy Scheme storages were above average for the month of December, however they did drop back to slightly below average over the month of January, mainly due to the onset of some hot dry weather.

While overall, Snowy Scheme storages have increased and expected drops in lake levels over January did not occur, mainly due to favourable inflows in December and lower than expected electricity market demands, our water position for the year still remains well below average.

Snowy Scheme storages are still around their lowest levels since construction as a result of the major drought that continues to impact the region.

The above average inflows over December and suitable electricity market conditions meant that over the Christmas break and the month of January we have been able to maintain Khancoban Pondage at a suitable level for recreational users while sustaining flows into the Swampy Plains River.

However, as we now move into the historical “dry inflow season” for the Scheme and increased electricity market demands, it is expected that water levels in Snowy Scheme storages, including Lake Jindabyne and Lake Eucumbene, will gradually decline over summer and into autumn.

Q) What is happening to flows from Tantangara Reservoir into the Murrumbidgee River and Cooma Town water supplies?

A) Over the past few months, riparian water releases from Tantangara Reservoir and natural inflows into the Murrumbidgee River have sustained a flow consistently above 32 megalitres per day at Mittagang Crossing.

While the current flows have been sufficient to maintain water supplies to Cooma Township, Snowy Hydro is in regular consultation with Cooma Monaro Shire Council monitoring the status of inflows and releases to enable appropriate decision making in regards to Cooma town water supplies should the situation change.

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.