

## **Snowy Hydro Limited**

### **Snowy Scheme Water Storages Update**

**9 December 2009**

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

A) The month of November has seen Snowy Scheme storages receive below average inflows. As a result, water storage levels in Lake Jindabyne and Lake Eucumbene have now stabilised following the spring runoff and average spring inflows. Overall, since May, inflows have been below average and even though lake levels are higher than the same time last year, Snowy Scheme storages are still at low levels.

With the historical dry season approaching, it is expected that water levels in Snowy Scheme storages will drop over summer and into autumn as the normal seasonal cycle of electricity market and water licence commitments increase. In particular, Lake Jindabyne may start to drop between now and the end of the year due to possible electricity market and water requirements.

#### **Q) What are the likely water scenarios for Khancoban Pondage and Swampy Plains River during summer?**

A) 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 extremely difficult, particularly under these current drought conditions.

Control of water releases from Khancoban Pondage into Swampy Plains River and the management of Khancoban Pondage levels is an example of the careful balance that Snowy Hydro strives to achieve.

At this stage, based on current inflows and expected electricity generation patterns, it is anticipated that levels in Khancoban Pondage will be at a suitable level for recreational users and flows into the Swampy Plains River can be sustained during the upcoming summer holiday period of December to early/mid January.

However, if inflows conditions become worse during this holiday period it may become necessary for Snowy Hydro to both reduce flows into the Swampy Plains River as well as reducing Khancoban Pondage to lower levels.

While water releases from Khancoban Pondage into Swampy Plains River are currently around 5 to 20 cubic metres per second, there still may be times when it is necessary to significantly increase flows (up to 100 cubic metres per second or above) to allow for increased generation from the Snowy Scheme or local storm events.

This may occur when the Snowy Scheme is required to provide additional electricity to the National Electricity Market under hot weather or when the electricity network is under stress.

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.

**Q) What is the Snowy Hydro Water Operations Report?**

A) The Snowy Hydro Water Operations Report has been written for the benefit of all stakeholders and the community associated with the Snowy Scheme. It describes in high level summary form how the Snowy Scheme operates, the water operations during the water year and how Snowy Hydro met its obligations under the Snowy Water Licence during that year.

The 2008/09 Water Report is currently available from our website at:  
[www.snowyhydro.com.au](http://www.snowyhydro.com.au)

**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](http://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.