

m e d i a r e l e a s e

Date: 18th June 2010

Subject: SNOWY HYDRO CLOUD SEEDING TRIAL DELIVERS 14% MORE SNOW- INDEPENDENT REVIEW PROVES THAT CLOUD SEEDING WORKS

The outcomes of a major scientific research project, recently tabled with the NSW Government, has shown that cloud seeding can increase snowfalls by 14%.

The report on the Snowy Precipitation Enhancement Research Project describes in detail, the findings of a 6 year cloud seeding trial being conducted by Snowy Hydro over the Snowy Mountains region of New South Wales.

Snowy Hydro Cloud Seeding Project Director, Mr John Denholm, said: "We were particularly pleased by the findings of the independent scientific evaluation that concluded that under the right conditions, snow falls were shown to increase by 14%."

Mr Denholm added: "Two independent reviews of the results found the research to be sound, noting a *"...careful, rigorous and wide ranging evaluation of an experiment that was well designed"* and *"particularly well executed"*, and that *"..the evaluation can be accepted with confidence."*

The Managing Director of Snowy Hydro, Mr Terry Charlton, said: "If the arguments relating to the threat of climate change and drier winter weather across the Snowy Mountains are accepted, then the Snowy Hydro Cloud Seeding Project provides real hope to all those stakeholders who rely on the snow. This of course includes generation of additional renewable energy, as well as downstream farming communities in the Murray and Murrumbidgee catchments and of course the NSW ski industry, not to mention those plants and animals that depend on adequate winter snow cover for their survival."

Mr David Hogan, Snowy Hydro Manager for Community Affairs, said: "This outcome is a positive for all stakeholders and the result cannot be ignored. We are not talking about one or two percent difference; we are talking about 14% more snow than would have otherwise occurred. This is a significant and very positive outcome that has wide ranging benefits."

Importantly, the study has found no evidence of any significant environmental impacts, including no negative effects on precipitation downwind of the cloud seeding area.

Mr David Harris, Snowy Hydro Executive Officer for Water, said: "The Snowy Hydro Cloud Seeding project is run very much like a medical trial with some fronts seeded and others not but the same measurements taken. This randomization of seeding has meant that 40% of the cold fronts were not seeded over the past 6 years. Given the strong community support to date for the project and the science and results now proven, I see no reason why our project should continue as a trial and now it should be run as a full operation to bring even further benefit, arguably one and half times, to all stakeholders."

A summary of the report outcomes is now available for download from the Snowy Hydro website www.snowyhydro.com.au and further information will be included in the next edition of the Snowy Hydro Community Newsletter.

For more information, please call:

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