

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

Date: 4 November 2010

Subject: NSW Government Report Confirms Snowy Hydro Cloud Seeding Works.

A comprehensive 5 month independent scientific review of the Snowy Hydro cloud seeding trial has confirmed that cloud seeding increases snow falls by 14%. The review of the trial, undertaken by the NSW Natural Resources Commission (NRC) also reported no adverse downwind effects or negative environmental impacts.

In particular, the key findings of the NRC report released this morning included:

- *“Overall, the NRC confirms that the trial is being conducted in compliance with the Act, is of a high scientific standard and the evaluation plan is statistically sound”;*
- *“There is no evidence that cloud seeding operations have had adverse environmental impacts...”;*
- *“The monitoring results have detected no adverse impacts on rainfall in downwind areas...”;* and
- *“...seeding has had a positive effect in increasing snowfall in the overall target area”.*

The Snowy Hydro cloud seeding trial is recognised as a world class research undertaking, with the Natural Resources Commissioner, Dr John Williams recently commenting in the media that *“The quality of the actual engineering and meteorology behind the cloud seeding, which I’ve always said was of the highest order, so this is one of the - probably one of the best experiments that has been done to date. I think it’s looking positive”.*

Snowy Hydro Managing Director, Mr Terry Charlton, said: “Praise from the NRC is not lightly given, however this review holds no surprises for us. The Commission’s findings support the conclusions reached earlier this year that cloud seeding increases snowfalls without negative impacts. There is now no plausible reason to further delay a move to an operational cloud seeding program. Continuing the program as an experimental trial means that more than 50% of the cloud seeding opportunities are missed and this simply does not make sense.”

“Mr Charlton added “We wrote to the Premier and local member, Minister Steve Whan in July this year asking that the government then act urgently so arrangements can be made for cloud seeding operations to commence in full for 2011.

Snowy Hydro Executive Officer Water, Mr David Harris, advised: “We are aware that Minister Whan has been lobbied persistently by stakeholders over past months urging a move to an operational cloud seeding program. These include representations from the local Shire Councils, tourism operators, the Australian Ski Areas Association, Ski field operators, Chambers of Commerce, irrigator groups and many hundreds of private individuals.

The Minister made it clear in local media that he fully supported the project, but that NSW would not make a decision until the NRC review had been completed. That time has arrived.

Provided the government acts promptly, Snowy Hydro at its expense, will commence full operations next winter with the full benefits from such a program being delivered to all stakeholders.

Climate Change makes this initiative of high priority.

For more information, please call:

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