snowy hydro Limited
renewable energy

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

Date: 30 June 2011

Subject: No Grounds for Complaint - NSW Supreme Court Rules against the Snowy River Alliance

NO GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT –
NSW SUPREME COURT RULES AGAINST THE SNOWY RIVER ALLIANCE

Today the NSW Supreme Court dismissed a complaint brought by the Snowy River Alliance against the NSW Office of Water and Snowy Hydro questioning the conduct of the Five Year Review of the *Snowy Water Licence.*

Despite years of assertions to the contrary by the Alliance against Snowy Hydro, the 2009 Snowy Water Licence Review confirmed, among other things, that Snowy Hydro "has complied with its environmental flow release obligations since Corporatisation".

The failed Snowy River Alliance challenge was publically funded through the Environmental Defender's Office.

Today, Justice Hislop of the NSW Supreme Court found that the Five Year Review was properly conducted and rejected the Snowy River Alliance's claim that variations to the Snowy Water Licence were therefore invalid.

Mr David Harris, Executive Officer Water for Snowy Hydro said "For years the Alliance have been, arguably, politically motivated as opposed to environmentally motivated. The simple fact of the matter is that there is a comprehensive set of regulatory arrangements in place delivering environmental flows both to the Snowy River and other rivers in the Snowy Mountains. While a large range of local stakeholders, including Snowy Hydro and the NSW Office of Water, have been working co-operatively to maximise the benefits from those environmental flows, the Snowy River Alliance has been on the sidelines simply complaining."

Snowy Hydro CEO Terry Charlton said "The Snowy River Alliance has been a serial complainant. The NSW Government did not support the Snowy River Alliance's complaints in 2009 and today, the NSW Supreme Court has not supported them either. Hopefully now the local community and stakeholders will see this group and their motivations for what they are. The Alliance was entitled to have their day in Court but this issue is now dismissed so let's all move on."

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