

Date: 18 August 2011

Subject: Minister's Review finds that Snowy Hydro mitigated floods

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Snowy Hydro has welcomed the release of a comprehensive report into the flooding along the Murrumbidgee and Tumut Rivers in late 2010.

The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP, Minister for Primary Resources, report confirms what Snowy Hydro has advised since December 2010 – that Snowy Hydro did not exacerbate the flooding and in fact acted together with State Water to mitigate the impacts of the floods along the Tumut River.

Mr David Harris, Snowy Hydro Executive Officer for Water said, "Snowy Hydro knows that some in the community along the Tumut River were particularly concerned about the flooding that occurred in late 2010. In light of these local concerns the Minister rightly commissioned a thorough review of the management of the Murrumbidgee and Tumut Rivers, the Burrinjuck and Blowering Dams and the Snowy Scheme during this period."

Mr Harris also said, "I am very pleased, but not at all surprised, that the Report has found that Snowy Hydro did not exacerbate flooding down the Tumut River, in fact that Snowy Hydro's actions mitigated Tumut River flooding and we complied with the constraints imposed on us by the Snowy Water Licence. The facts are the facts - we gave these facts to the Government and to the public and really there could have been no other conclusion".

The wide ranging review looked at every relevant aspect of Snowy Hydro's operations during the second half of 2010 and concluded that Snowy Hydro did everything it was required to do, and more. The report confirms that "Snowy Hydro reduced the releases from Jounama pondage below natural inflows on December 8th. This delayed the inflows into Blowering Dam, thus giving State Water an additional buffer to delay releases" (page 31). The report also says repeatedly that "The releases complied with the licence obligations" (page 3).

Mr Harris concluded by saying "We trust that this thorough review, released by the Minister, will now satisfy the local community and broader stakeholders. We will keep the community informed of our operations and Licence obligations and we will continue to work closely with stakeholders and the community to improve understanding about the operations of the Snowy Scheme."