

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

Date: 31 January 2006

Subject: Mowamba Aqueduct Recommissioned

The Mowamba Aqueduct has been recommissioned concluding the temporary arrangement of water borrowing to the Snowy River via the Mowamba Weir. The recommissioning enables the 3 kms of the Snowy River closest to the dam to now receive the volume of environmental flows that was intended and described in the outcome of the environmental studies conducted during the Snowy Water Inquiry.

The recommissioning of the aqueduct was undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Snowy Water Licence. Those provisions are as agreed between the Commonwealth, New South Wales and Victorian Governments on corporatisation of the Snowy Mountains Scheme in June 2002.

It now means that environmental flows to the Snowy River will be fully provided from Jindabyne Dam, as agreed to by the New South Wales, Victorian and Commonwealth Governments and as Snowy Hydro Limited has been directed. Those flows are now occurring.

Snowy Hydro Limited Managing Director, Mr Terry Charlton, said: "The recommissioning of the aqueduct means that the Snowy River immediately downstream of Jindabyne Dam is receiving a higher volume of environmental flows. This is the outcome we all wanted."

"Further downstream at Dalgety and beyond, the environmental flow in the Snowy River is the same as the Snowy River was receiving before the recommissioning - and of course we will continue to additionally maintain a riparian flow down the Mowamba River below the Weir."

"Snowy Hydro has undertaken this work as part of our obligations under the Snowy Water Licence."

"Transferring an amount of water from the Mowamba River into Lake Jindabyne and then into the Snowy River is integral and critical to the water release arrangements that required the company to spend over \$90 million upgrading and modifying the Jindabyne Dam, including works that enable us to release only oxygenated water from the top surface of the dam. This is the conclusion of a very desirable environmental outcome." Mr Charlton added.