

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

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Subject: Update on the Jounama Small Hydro Project

Update on the Jounama Small Hydro Project

Work has recently commenced on the Snowy Hydro Limited Jounama Small Hydro Project. The small hydro is being built to utilise the energy of current water releases from Jounama into Blowering Reservoir, and once complete will be capable of providing enough electricity to power over 6300 homes.

The first task involves the underwater removal of two stoplogs at the entrance to the river diversion conduit intake structure, which were sealed in to position when Jounama dam was commissioned in 1968.

After much effort, the right stoplog has been successfully removed. "The steel stoplog wasn't able to be pulled out in one seven metre piece, so it had to be cut by a specialised diving team into four smaller pieces which has slowed progress," said Snowy Hydro Project Manager, Peter Hill.

"The diving team will now move over to the left stoplog and begin the same removal process, although some heavier concrete breaking equipment is anticipated to speed up the work."

In the next few weeks the preliminary civil work on the Blowering reservoir side will commence including maintenance of the existing access track, setting up the site facilities and equipment lay down areas, and preparing for the coffer dam construction. The designs for the main plant (turbine and generator) are well underway and expected to be completed by the end of June.

Completion of the small hydro is expected in October 2007 with the expected cost of \$20 million.