

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

Date: 1 August 2006

Subject: Jindabyne Dam Project Update

JINDABYNE DAM PROJECT UPDATE

The Jindabyne Dam project achieved another significant milestone over the past week being the removal of the "earth plug" or small coffer dam between the Jindabyne Dam plunge pool and the Snowy River.

The earth plug is 20m in width and 25m in length and has been in place across the river to prevent water from the Snowy River backfilling into the works site. The removal of the earth plug is the final works in reconnecting the permanent water path from the Jindabyne Dam to the Snowy River for environmental releases and flushing flows.

Removal of the earth plug commenced on Friday 28th July 2006 and will be concluded Wednesday 2nd August 2006. During the final stages in removing the earth plug, it has necessitated some excavation activity within the river channel and this caused some minor levels of turbidity within the river over the past 24 hours.

Snowy Hydro Construction Manager Mr Brian Mayhew said, "There have been two siltation booms erected downstream since work commenced on removing the earth plug to prevent any possible movement of large amounts of siltation flowing downstream and while these booms are very effective, some discoloured water will move through with the river current"

As a result of the ongoing environmental flows into the Snowy River, some turbid water has now moved downstream. This water has been tested for quality and turbidity and results are well within guidelines and limits set by the EPA and Local Council.

Brett Jones, Executive Officer Engineering and Projects said " the Jindabyne Dam project has been ongoing for the past 2 years and in that time Snowy Hydro's has achieved an excellent environmental record. The removal of the earth plug in the river bed was naturally going to have some minor visual impact on the water in the river but this will only occur for a few days."

Mr Jones added" once the earth plug has been removed tomorrow, Snowy Hydro will then be able to significantly increase water releases immediately from the new dam structure which will dissipate the turbid water plume within two to three days. We have been in contact with the Snowy River Shire Council to monitor water quality at the Dalgety water intake and given that this visual turbidity will only occur for a few days, we do not expect any impact on Dalgety water supplies."

In other project news, the new road deck will be sealed this week and traffic diverted back to the normal route on Thursday or Friday this week. Snowy Hydro will continue its announcements on local radio to keep residents and visitors informed of the traffic changes.

For more information, please call:

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