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Scheme



The Snowy Mountains Scheme

What does it do and how does it work?

1. Snow and rain fall over the Snowy Mountains and the water run-off is captured in the lakes and reservoirs of the Scheme

2. The water then passes through power stations generating clean renewable electricity and is then released into government owned storages

3. The electricity then goes into the National Electricity Grid for distribution

4. Large transmission lines transport electricity over long distances

5. Distribution lines transport electricity to consumers like you and me

6. Homes and businesses use electricity for things such as heating, cooling and lighting

7. The water which generated the electricity now flows to the River Murray and Murrumbidgee River for irrigation

Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre



This state-of-the-art visitor facility showcases the amazing history of the Snowy Mountains Scheme; from the early days of construction through to how it is operated by Snowy Hydro today. This is a must for any visitor the Snowy Mountains region!

The Centre houses a comprehensive exhibition hall including an extensive photographic collection, models, hands-on exhibits and interactive displays. You will find information about the Scheme such as engineering, the environment, the National Electricity Market, history, water management and power generation. Take your turn on the "power bikes" and see if you can peddle hard enough to power a TV, make some toast or boil a kettle.

SNOWY HYDRO DISCOVERY CENTRE COOMA

You will also find screens displaying the Scheme working in real time. See which generators are operating, how much electricity they are producing and the prices of electricity in the market.

There are also two theatres in the Centre which show a variety of short films about the Scheme throughout the day.

Enjoy the outdoor picnic area which also displays two turbine runners from the Scheme, including the largest from our Tumut 3 Power Station weighing an incredible 47.7 tonnes!

Come and talk to our staff and find something amongst our selection of souvenirs, maps, DVD's and books to take home as a memento of your visit.

Visit our coffee shop!...

The Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre has a coffee shop serving freshly brewed coffee, tea, cakes and light refreshments to have in or take away. Why not sit and enjoy a hot cup of coffee before taking a look around our displays!

Where	Cooma, Monaro Highway, 2kms north of Cooma CBD
Centre Open	7 days 8am–5pm Monday to Friday, 9am–2pm Saturday, Sunday and public hol's.
Closed	Christmas Day and Anzac Day.
Cost	Entry is free of charge.

Driver Information



The centre is located only a couple of minutes from the centre of Cooma and for those travelling south from Canberra we are a little over one hour away. There is ample car parking, disabled access and coach parking.

Murray 1 Visitor Centre

The Murray 1 Power Station and Visitor Centre is located only 15 minutes from Khancoban on the Alpine Way. The Murray 1 Power Station is the second largest power station in the Snowy Mountains Scheme. There are 10 turbines at Murray 1, each capable of producing enough electricity to supply over 95000 homes.

MURRAY 1 VISITOR CENTRE KHANCOBAN

Offering an exciting and interactive experience, the Murray 1 Visitor Centre has models of generator units and interactive displays to interest all visitors.

BBQ's and picnic areas by the water are open to the public with light refreshments also available in the Café. Take time to enjoy a coffee while keeping an eye out for the platypus swimming in the pondage.

Inspections of the Murray 1 Power Station are an ideal opportunity to view the power station from the viewing gallery. They run for approximately 20 minutes. For safety requirements during inspections see the "Important Information" section of this guide. Coach and school groups are also most welcome.

Only a couple of minutes drive from the centre of Khancoban you will find the release gates for Khancoban Dam, where water from the Scheme is released into the Swampy Plains River and then into the River Murray for irrigation. An impressive location and well worth a look.

Where Alpine Way, 10kms east of Khancoban.

Open **Summer - October to April**

7 days, 9am – 4pm Monday to Friday,
10am – 4pm Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.
Closed Christmas Day and Anzac Day.
Power Station inspections - 11am and 2pm.

Open **Winter - May to September**

5 days, 9am – 4pm Monday to Friday,
Open June Long Weekend 10am – 4pm.

Closed Winter weekends.

Power Station inspections - 11am and 2pm.

Cost Entry, activities and picnic areas are free of charge.

Driver Information



This power station has designated public visitor parking. Please follow visitor signage and parking instructions at the power station.

The Alpine Way is winding in places. While making your way along one of the most spectacular drives in Australia, motorists are advised to take caution and drive to the weather and road conditions accordingly. Allow sufficient time for your journey, especially during winter.



Talbingo Visitor Display

TALBINGO VISITOR DISPLAY TALBINGO

For visitors to Talbingo, why not visit the Snowy Mountains Scheme Talbingo Visitor Display Centre, located at the Talbingo Shopping Centre?

This display provides information on the Tumut 3 Power Station, the works being undertaken, as well as displays and models of the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

For coach or large group tour operators visiting the Snowy Mountains Scheme at Talbingo, a tour guide is available in the Talbingo area.

Our experienced Guide will meet your coach at Talbingo and take you around one of the best locations to see the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

Please contact 1800 623 776 for bookings or more information.

Where Talbingo Shopping Centre, Whitty Street, Talbingo.

Open 7 days
8am - 4pm.

Cost Entry is free of charge.

Driver Information



Talbingo is a picturesque township located only 40 minutes from Tumut on the Snowy Mountains Highway. Surrounded by Kosciuszko National Park and State Forests, Talbingo offers fishing, water skiing and boating.

Self Drive Itineraries

SELF DRIVE ITINERARIES

Need some ideas on how to see the best of the Snowy Mountains Scheme? We have developed some self drive itineraries that provide an insight to some of the regions natural attractions as well as iconic Snowy Mountains Scheme locations and points of interest. These touring routes are easy to undertake and are mostly on fully sealed roads. However during winter the roads may be closed or impassable so please ensure you check the road conditions prior to your journey.

The two-day itineraries start and finish in Cooma but can be adapted to start from any town along the way. These are just a guide – and we encourage you to experience as much of the Snowy Mountains Region as you can!

Self driving through the Snowy Mountains may take you into some remote areas where forward planning is extremely important to ensure your experience is safe, enjoyable and memorable. Please read the following safety tips to assist you –

- Check road and weather conditions prior to setting off. Some roads may be closed.
- Always tell someone where you are going, your return date and your itinerary.
- Ensure your vehicle is in good condition. Check tyres, water and mechanics.
- Always carry chains during the snow season.
- Carry extra water, food and warm clothing.
- In event of a breakdown in a remote location, remain with your vehicle.
- Large, slow moving vehicles may be encountered on roads and highways, take care when overtaking.
- Beware of wandering wildlife, especially at dusk and dawn when visibility may be poor and wildlife are more active.
- Be prepared, pack a first aid kit.
- Always drive at a speed suited to the prevailing conditions.
- Share the driving if you can.



SELF DRIVE ITINERARIES

TWO DAY SCENIC SNOWY-MURRAY

(Follow the orange map route - see map on inside back cover)

DAY 1: Cooma to Khancoban

Start your journey at the Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre in Cooma (details on pages 6 and 7) and spend some time talking to our friendly staff about your journey.

Depart Cooma and travel along the picturesque Snowy Mountains Highway to Jindabyne where you will enjoy views of Lake Jindabyne and travel across the Jindabyne Dam wall. Why not explore the shops before continuing on your journey?

From Jindabyne meander along the spectacular Kosciuszko Alpine Way on your way to Khancoban (approx. 2hr drive). Points of interest along the way include Thredbo Village, Pilot Lookout, Leather Barrell Creek and Tom Groggin Station and picnic area (Man from Snowy River legend) where you can view the River Murray. If you need a comfort stop visit Geehi Flats rest area or Scammels Ridge Lookout before completing the day's travels in the township of Khancoban, where you can stay overnight.

Day 2: Khancoban to Cooma (via Cabramurra)

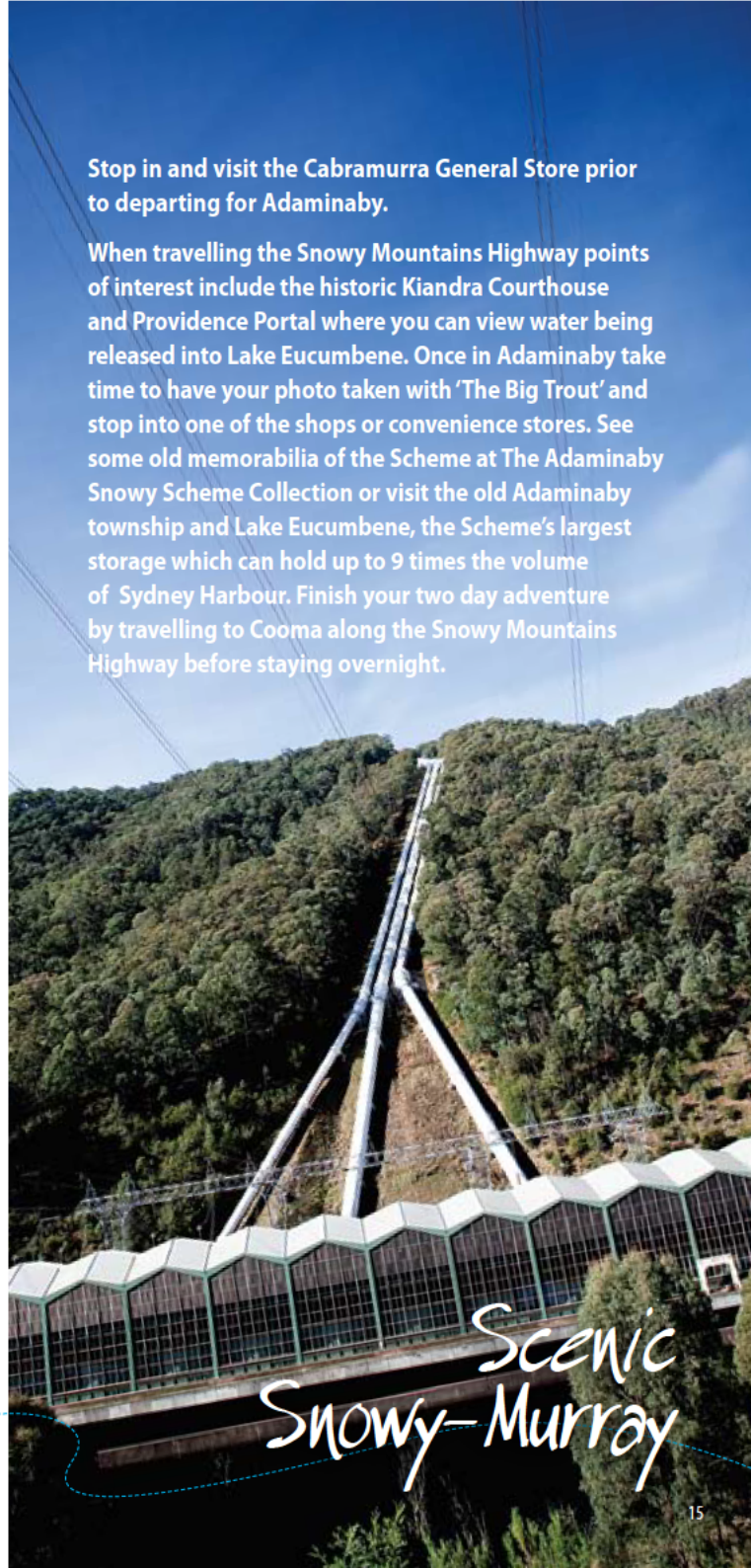
Start the day by enjoying the exciting and interactive experience at Murray 1 Visitor Centre (details pages 8 and 9). Go on our 11am Inspection of the Murray 1 Power Station, enjoy a coffee and light refreshment and pick up a souvenir reminder of your visit before departing.

Travel to Australia's highest town, Cabramurra, on the Khancoban – Cabramurra Road from October to May viewing Tooma and Tumut Pond dams and reservoirs on the way; or via the Elliott Way between June to September travelling via the township of Tooma. Once in Cabramurra, make sure you also take a drive up to the lookout for one of the best views in Kosciuszko National Park and of the township itself.



Stop in and visit the Cabramurra General Store prior to departing for Adaminaby.

When travelling the Snowy Mountains Highway points of interest include the historic Kiandra Courthouse and Providence Portal where you can view water being released into Lake Eucumbene. Once in Adaminaby take time to have your photo taken with 'The Big Trout' and stop into one of the shops or convenience stores. See some old memorabilia of the Scheme at The Adaminaby Snowy Scheme Collection or visit the old Adaminaby township and Lake Eucumbene, the Scheme's largest storage which can hold up to 9 times the volume of Sydney Harbour. Finish your two day adventure by travelling to Cooma along the Snowy Mountains Highway before staying overnight.



TWO DAY SPECTACTULAR SNOWY-TUMUT

(Follow the brown dotted map route - see map on inside back cover)

DAY 1: Cooma to Tumut

Start your journey at the Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre (details on pages 6 and 7), view a short video on the Scheme and enjoy a coffee before starting off. Travel to Adaminaby along the Snowy Mountains Highway, once in Adaminaby enjoy some lunch at one of the cafés and take time to visit "The Big Trout" or the Adaminaby Snowy Scheme Collection.

Travel from Adaminaby to Talbingo, where along the way you can stop in at Providence Portal to view water being released into Lake Eucumbene, view the historic Kiandra Courthouse and stop in at Yarrongobilly Caves.

Spectacular
Snowy-Tumut



Once arriving in Talbingo visit the Snowy Mountains Scheme Talbingo Visitor Display Centre, located at the Talbingo Shopping Centre. Drive to Tumut 3 Power Station and spectacular Talbingo Reservoir, which as well as providing water for Tumut 3 Power Station to generate electricity, is used for public recreation activities including swimming and fishing.

You can stay in Talbingo and enjoy one of the accommodation options in the town, or you can head out of Talbingo towards Tumut and admire the Jounama Pondage and spectacular scenery around Blowering Reservoir. Take a slight detour to see the Blowering Dam Wall before arriving in Tumut and finding somewhere to stay.

DAY 2: Tumut to Cooma

Enjoy the picturesque drive from Tumut via Batlow to the beautiful township of Tumbarumba. Tumbarumba is well known for its cool climate wines and wonderful festivals. Enjoy a coffee or explore the shops before travelling to Cabramurra via the spectacular Elliott Way. On the way drive past the entrance to Tumut 2 underground Power Station and enjoy views from the nearby lookout.

In Cabramurra's main complex and store you will find a beautiful photographic collection highlighting the construction days of the Scheme. Make sure you also take a drive up to the Cabramurra lookout for one of the best views in Kosciuszko National Park and of the township itself.

Depart Cabramurra for Cooma, but before arriving back into town, stop in at Mt Gladstone Lookout (about 5kms from town) and enjoy views of Mt Kosciuszko from the lookout. Finish your journey with a night in Cooma.



SELF DRIVE ITINERARIES

1 DAY KHANCOBAN TO TUMUT - THE SUMMER EXPERIENCE *(October to May only)*

(Follow the purple map route - see map on inside back cover)

Explore the wonders of the Snowy Mountains Scheme during summer with this one day travel experience.

Start the day by enjoying the exciting and interactive experience at Murray 1 Visitor Centre (details on pages 8 and 9). Go on our 11am Inspection of the Murray 1 Power Station, enjoy a coffee and light refreshment and pick up souvenir reminder of your visit before departing.

Travel to Australia's highest town, Cabramurra, on the Khancoban – Cabramurra Road viewing Tooma and Tumut Pond Reservoirs on the way. These are two of the Scheme's important storages which capture the spring water run off from the snow which blankets these mountains during winter.

Once in Cabramurra, enjoy lunch at the store and make sure you also take a drive up to the lookout for one of the best views in Kosciuszko National Park and of the township itself.

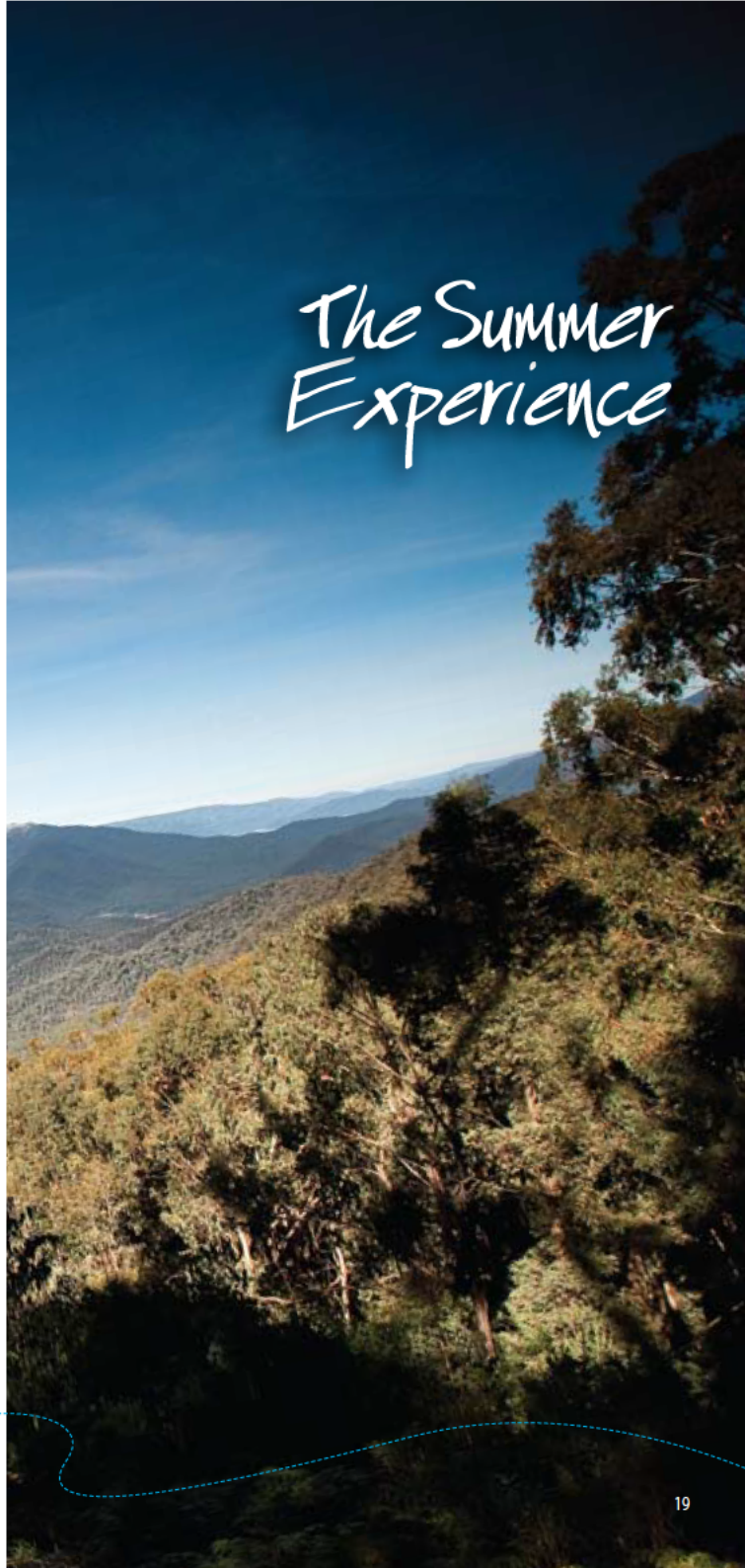
Join up with the Snowy Mountains Highway and drive to Talbingo and look through the Visitor Display Centre, located at the Talbingo Shopping Centre. Drive to the Tumut 3 Power Station and spectacular Talbingo Reservoir, which as well as providing water for Tumut 3 Power Station to generate electricity, is used for public recreation activities including swimming and fishing.

On departing Talbingo admire the Jounama Pondage and Blowering Reservoir as you travel towards Tumut. Finish the day by taking a detour to the Blowering dam wall and seeing where water is released into the Tumut River which eventually runs into the Murrumbidgee River. Finish your journey with a night in Tumut.

Note: *Cabramurra does not have overnight public accommodation.*



The Summer Experience



Views of
the Valley



1 DAY KHANCOBAN TO TUMUT - VIEWS OF THE VALLEY

(Follow the white map route - see map on inside back cover)

Start the day by enjoying the exciting and interactive experience at Murray 1 Visitor Centre (details pages 8 and 9).

Go on our 11am Inspection of the Murray 1 Power Station, enjoy a coffee and light refreshment and pick up a souvenir reminder of your visit before departing.

Drive along the scenic Snowy Valleys Way to Tooma and then on to Tumbarumba. On the way admire the magnificent mountain range views including Mt. Kosciuszko.

Tumbarumba is well known for its cool climate wines and foods, you can learn more by stopping in at the visitors centre, or just take some time to explore the town and have some lunch before continuing on the Snowy Valleys Way via Batlow to Tumut.

Finish your travels in Tumut with a nights accommodation.





Towns of interest around the Snowy Mountains Scheme

Cabramurra At an altitude of 1488m ASL, Cabramurra is Australia's highest township and is home to Snowy Hydro employees and their families. There is a general store located in the main complex housing a Café serving a range of meals and refreshments, a newsagency, fuel sales and souvenirs. The store is open from 7:30am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday and 9:00am to 4:00pm Saturday, Sunday and public holidays. The store can be contacted on 02 64538837.

Cooma Is the Gateway to the Snowy Mountains and is located 115 km south of the national capital, Canberra, via the Monaro Highway. Cooma has developed a growing tourism industry and is a common rest stop for many travellers heading to the NSW snow fields during the winter months.

Jindabyne Overlooks Lake Jindabyne (part of the Snowy Mountains Scheme). It is one of the highest settlements of its size in Australia, at 930 metres above sea level. Light snowfalls sometimes occur during winter. The township was relocated to its present location in the 1960's to make way for the lake and is now an exciting tourist destination in summer and winter.

Khancoban The town is a popular launching place for tourists exploring the Snowy Mountains area and is linked to Jindabyne and Cooma via the Alpine Way, a scenic route that takes travellers past the ski resort of Thredbo. Khancoban was constructed to house workers involved in the Scheme and remains home to Snowy Hydro employees today. Khancoban is a popular fishing and recreational lake as well as the last release point of water from the Scheme into the Hume Dam and River Murray.

Talbingo The town is 410 metres above sea level and is home to the Scheme's largest power station, Tumut 3. Tourism is the lifeblood of the village. Many families stop by every summer for water skiing on Talbingo or Blowering Dam, bushwalking and exploring Kosciuszko National Park.

Tumut Is a town in the Riverina region of NSW, situated on the banks of the Tumut River. Tumut is at the north western foothills of the Snowy Mountains and is referred to as the gateway to the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

Adaminaby The construction of nearby Lake Eucumbene made it necessary to re-locate the original Township of Adaminaby in 1957. The present township is located on the Snowy Mountains Highway and is known as the "Home of The Big Trout". Adaminaby is a good base from which to view different aspects of the Snowy Mountains Scheme, including nearby Lake Eucumbene, Tantangara Dam, Tumut 2 Power Station and Cabramurra, Australia's highest town.

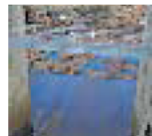
Tumbarumba Located within the Riverina region and more specifically on the South West Slopes at the western edge of the Snowy Mountains. To the south and east, the Snowy Mountain's and mainland Australia's highest peak, Mount Kosciuszko can be seen.



Snowy Hydro moves water around the Scheme on a daily basis. Power demands in eastern Australia fluctuate daily. As a result, water flows in some rivers can change dramatically, especially for the Snowy River above, Jindabyne Dam and the Tumut and Swampy Plains Rivers.

Some of the changing conditions which can occur in downstream rivers and reservoirs during and after electricity generation are:

- Sudden and rapid changes in water flow and volume in streams and rivers.
- Potential bank collapse during and after high flow events.
- Floating debris.
- Water temperature can be very cold.
- Water level in lake or reservoir may change significantly in a short period of time.



No release



25% release



50% release

These photos above of Jounama Dam releasing into Blowering Reservoir show the magnitude of such releases, even at only 50% of the dam release capacity. So always be aware!

When visiting the Snowy Scheme, we ask you to be aware and be safe. Especially in areas near power stations, lake foreshores, release gates and rivers downstream from dams and power stations.



*Safety around
the Scheme*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Covered footwear must be worn in power stations. ie no thongs or open toed shoes are permitted in power stations.
- No backpacks or large bags are to be taken into power stations.
- We reserve the right to inspect any hand luggage carried on an inspection.
- Children must be supervised at all times.
- Visitors fitted with pacemakers are not permitted on a power station inspection.
- Inspection times may change due to operational or maintenance requirements and may be cancelled without notice (a very rare occurrence).
- Power Stations and visitor facilities are under constant video/security surveillance.
- All inspections require visitors to negotiate flights of stairs.
- We apologise that there is limited disability access. Visitors who may require it are advised to phone ahead to check access arrangements, which can and will be made available where possible.
- Follow the advice and instruction from our guides at all times.
- Ensure you have ample fuel for the journey.
- Pack some warm clothes, even in summer.

Important Telephone Numbers

Road reports 132 701
Road reports (winter only) (02) 6456 1553

Tourist Information Centres

Cooma 1800 636 525
Corryong (02) 6076 2277
Jindabyne (02) 6450 5600
Khancoban (02) 6076 9373
Tumbarumba (02) 6948 3333
Tumut (02) 6947 7025

