

September 2011

# snowyhydro

## NEWS

## WATER FEATURE

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*What are the facts?*

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ISSUE 14



# Important update - Snowy River Flushing Flows & Lake Jindabyne Levels

**Andrew Nolan**

Manager, Water & Environment

I am confident that the community is increasingly aware that Snowy Hydro does not determine the volumes or dates for environmental water releases down the Snowy River. This is determined by the NSW Office of Water from the advice provided by the Snowy Scientific Committee.



At Snowy Hydro we have a responsibility to make these releases as scheduled from Lake Jindabyne and this Spring, Snowy Hydro has been tasked to release a major flushing flow.

This major flushing flow release is currently scheduled to commence from Thursday 6th October 2011 and run for 19 days. The NSW Office of Water will advise 14 days ahead of the confirmed release date.

Recently, people have been asking as to why Lake Jindabyne is so high at this time of year, when historically it would be decreasing in preparation for spring peak inflows. Despite what you may hear down at the pub or at the shops, the answer is very simple; in order to release the volume of water needed to scour the Snowy River bed and channel, the lake level is being increased so we can "let it go" as and when needed. Snowy Hydro is legally obligated to make the full release and we cannot allow a situation to develop where half way through the releases the water simply isn't there to meet these requirements. Hence why the lake level will continue to increase prior to the major flushing flow release, or in other words, until we are certain we have all the water needed to let go down the river as directed.



Lake Jindabyne, 2011

The release from Lake Jindabyne down the Snowy River will peak at 12,000 megalitres per day and will be discharged through the large radial gates as well as the release valves. This will result in Jindabyne lake levels dropping sharply by approximately three vertical metres over a week, again depending on inflows.

The NSW Office of Water recently advised downstream landholders and other stakeholders that preliminary modelling predicts that the Snowy River will likely rise downstream of Jindabyne Dam between approximately 1.8 to 3.6 metres in height during this time. Additionally, we have been assisting the NSW Office of Water in preparing a detailed communications plan in order to raise awareness of the planned releases and to ensure public safety. In fact, the NSW Office of Water is responsible for managing downstream river management issues as well as advising landholders and other stakeholders of this release.

If you are a landholder on the Snowy River and as yet have not received your written advice from the NSW Office of Water, I would strongly recommend you call 1800 353 104 and get onto their contact list for the latest detailed updates.

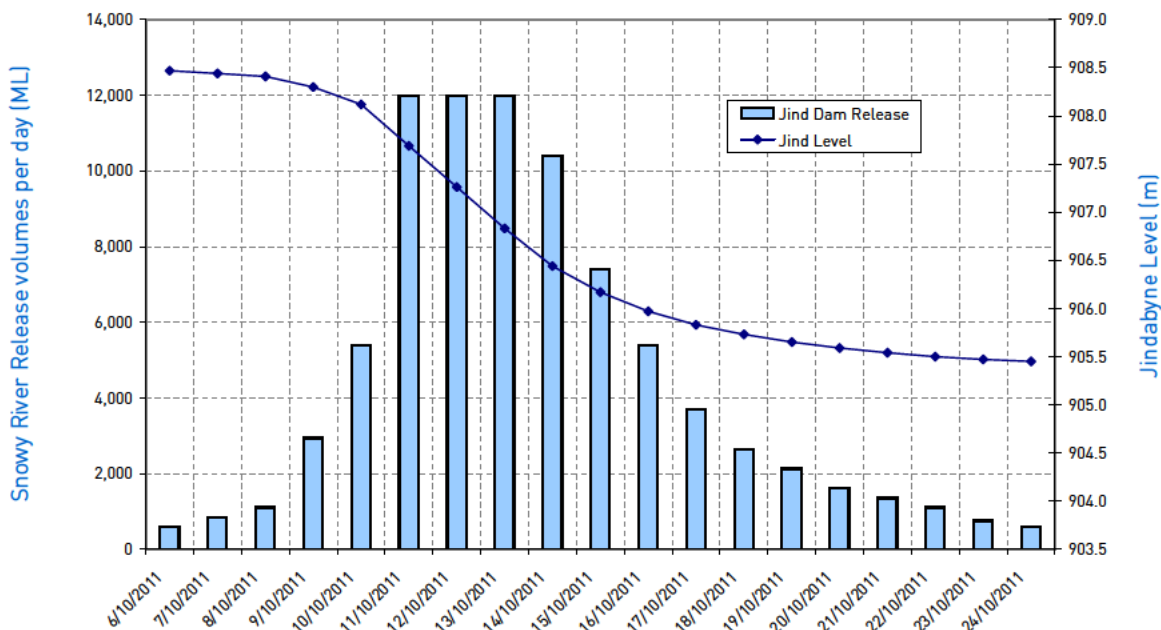
If you want more information about this flushing flow you can email the NSW office of Water at

✉ [information@water.nsw.gov.au](mailto:information@water.nsw.gov.au)

or go to the NSW Office of Water website and follow the link to the Snowy River at

🏠 [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

### Forecasted Lake Level – Jindabyne



Note: The above dates are subject to change and will be confirmed 14 days out by the NSW Office of Water.

# NSW Supreme Court rules against Snowy River Alliance

**David Harris**  
Executive Officer Water



In late June the NSW Supreme Court dismissed a complaint brought by the Snowy River Alliance against the NSW Office of Water and Snowy Hydro questioning the conduct of the Five Year Review of the Snowy Water Licence.

Despite years of assertions to the contrary by the Alliance against Snowy Hydro, the 2009 Snowy Water Licence Review confirmed, among other things, that Snowy Hydro "has complied with its environmental flow release obligations since Corporatisation".

The failed Snowy River Alliance challenge was publically funded through the Environmental Defender's Office.

Justice Hislop of the NSW Supreme Court found that the Five Year Review was properly conducted and rejected the Snowy River Alliance's claim that variations to the Snowy Water Licence were therefore invalid.

There is a comprehensive set of regulatory arrangements in place delivering environmental flows both to the Snowy River and other rivers in the Snowy Mountains. While a large range of local stakeholders, including Snowy Hydro and the NSW Office of Water, have been working co-operatively to maximise the benefits from those environmental flows, the Snowy River Alliance has been on the sidelines simply complaining.

At Snowy Hydro we will continue to meet the requirements under our licence and continue to inform the community about the facts and stringent obligations imposed on Snowy Hydro with regards to water. Keep an eye out for annual Water Operations Report due out late September. Copies are available from our Visitors Centres, by calling 1800 623 776 or from our website at [www.snowyhydro.com.au](http://www.snowyhydro.com.au)

# Who is the Snowy River Technical Advisory Group?

**Andrew Nolan**  
Manager Water & Environment

Snowy Hydro Limited operates the Snowy Scheme under the Snowy Water Licence which is issued by the New South Wales Government.



Under the Snowy Water Licence, Snowy Hydro is required to meet many legally binding obligations including environmental releases for the Snowy River.

To best provide the NSW Government with ongoing advice regarding management of the Snowy River, a Snowy River Technical Advisory Group has been established by the NSW Office of Water. This group has representation from the NSW, Victorian, and Commonwealth Governments, Snowy Scientific Committee and Snowy Hydro Limited.

The primary role of this Snowy River Technical Working group is to coordinate technical activities between the specialists in aquatic sciences and water management, particularly in regard to the Snowy, Mowamba and other Montane rivers.

The five year review of the Snowy Water Licence found that there was insufficient science on which to base a decision on the inclusion of Mowamba in the Snowy River recovery program. As a priority, the Snowy River Technical Advisory Group is focussing on this study and coordinating investigations due to be completed over the next 12 months. This scientific evidence will form the basis for a decision around the Mowamba River's role in the recovery program for the Snowy River.

Another focus point will be assessing the various studies undertaken during and after the major flushing flow scheduled for this spring as these significant releases from Lake Jindabyne down the Snowy River will provide a great deal of insight into the long term needs of the river and future release patterns.





Lake Jindabyne

# Temporary Viewing Area to be established at Jindabyne Dam

**Terry Charlton**  
CEO & Managing Director

Snowy Hydro will be establishing a temporary viewing area for the public at Jindabyne Dam.



During October this year more than 88,000 megalitres will be released from Lake Jindabyne into the Snowy River to create a very substantial “flushing” flow aimed at improving the health of the river.

There is interest in the local community to view these major environmental releases from Lake Jindabyne into the Snowy River this October.

However, the Company has a greater interest to ensure the safety of those wishing to view these releases. No risks in relation to public safety can or will be taken, and with this in mind, a temporary viewing area will be established by Snowy Hydro downstream of the dam wall that will be accessible via the Council landfill road.

The temporary viewing area will open from 8am to 6pm daily from Thursday 6th October to Monday 24th October 2011 with further details and location map to be advertised in the local newspapers.

Snowy Hydro would also like to advise that temporary safety fencing will also be installed along Kosciuszko Road on the dam wall.

In the New Year we will discuss with Snowy River Shire Council, Tourism Snowy Mountains and the Jindabyne Chamber of Commerce as to the merits of a permanent viewing area at the site.



Above: The temporary viewing area will be accessible via the Snowy River Shire Council landfill road.



Blowering Reservoir, 2011

# Minister's review confirms Snowy Hydro mitigated floods

**David Harris**  
Executive Officer, Water



The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP, Minister for Primary Resources, recently released a report that confirms 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.

We know that some in the community along the Tumut River were 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.

I am very pleased 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 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 the report concluded that Snowy Hydro did everything it was required to do, and more.

The report also 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". The report also says repeatedly that "The releases complied with the licence obligations".

***The report has found  
that Snowy Hydro  
did not exacerbate  
flooding down the  
Tumut River.***

I 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.



Eight Mile Creek

# Snowy Hydro wins the 2011 Australian Business Award for Community Contribution

**Terry Charlton**  
CEO & Managing Director

For the second year running Snowy Hydro has been recognised among Australia's most progressive organisations, winning the Australian Business Award for Community Contribution for 2011.



The Australian Business Award for Community Contribution recognises organisations which implement policies or execute projects that positively impact on the community and generate outcomes that have a long term benefit.

Now in its sixth year, the Australian Business Awards program recognises organisations that demonstrate the core values of business excellence, product excellence, corporate responsibility, sustainability and commercial success in their respective industries.

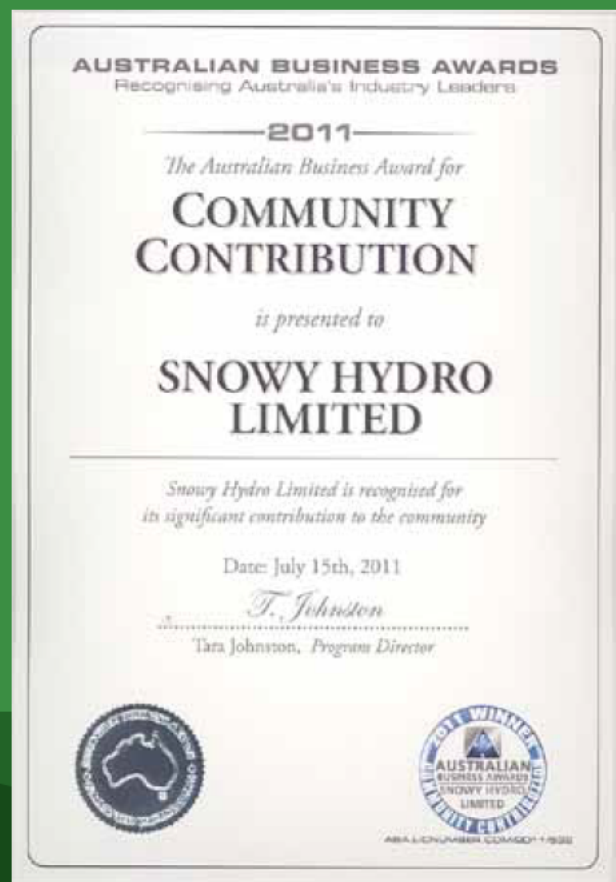
A total of 103 recipients were honoured from the 928 organisations that participated in the 2011 Awards, of which 112 applications were in the Community Contribution category.

This award rightly highlights and recognises our commitment to the communities of the Snowy Mountains. Through initiatives such as the Snowy Hydro Rescue Helicopter, Young Driver Training Programs, Environmental Programs, Snowy Ride Kids Cancer support and partnerships with local schools, we are now recognised as a leader in Community partnerships.

Tara Johnston, Program Director of the Australian Business Awards, said "Australian businesses continue to adapt business processes, invest in product development and develop dynamic e-business initiatives that increase productivity and quality standards for all."

"The Australian Business Awards provide a welcome opportunity for organisations committed to business and product excellence to receive recognition throughout their respective industries for driving positive business outcomes."

Business award entries are evaluated in accordance with the award criteria across seven main areas, including leadership and strategy, impact on industry, adaptability and sustainability, human resource management, customer relationship management, process management and evidence of success.





# Join me for the 2011 Former Snowy Scheme Workers Annual Briefing

**Terry Charlton**  
CEO & Managing Director

I personally extend an invitation to former Snowy Scheme workers to join my senior team and I for an annual briefing.



The Former Snowy Scheme Workers annual briefing is being held on November 3rd 2011 at the Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre in Cooma and will include a Snowy Hydro update and a presentation about our Scheme Modernisation project.

This annual event is an ideal opportunity for those who helped build the Scheme to be updated as to the maintenance, upgrading and care Snowy Hydro undertakes across the Scheme, as well as keeping you up to date with Snowy Hydro Limited's continuing evolution to meet the ongoing changes and challenges in the National Electricity Market.

There will be plenty of time for questions and discussions not to mention the chance to catch up with former colleagues.

If you would like to join my team and I for this presentation and luncheon please RSVP to Snowy Hydro Community Liaison Officer Tracy Crowe on 6453 2210 or via email on [tracy.crowe@snowyhydro.com.au](mailto:tracy.crowe@snowyhydro.com.au) or by fax on 6453 2012.

## ***Former Snowy Scheme Workers Annual Briefing:***

**When:** Thursday 3 November 2011

**Where:** Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre  
Yulin Ave, Cooma

## ***Briefing Schedule:***

12:30pm Luncheon

1:30pm Snowy Hydro Update

2:00pm Scheme Modernisation Update

2:30pm Questions & open discussion

3:00pm Afternoon tea

3:30pm Briefing concludes



# Apply now for Snowy Hydro Traineeships & Apprenticeships

**Clare Lawley**  
Human Resources Officer



Snowy Hydro is now accepting applications for our 2012 Traineeship and Apprenticeship programs. We are looking for Year 12 school leavers with a strong academic performance record, well rounded individuals with excellent communication and interpersonal

skills, and a demonstrated ability to work effectively in a team environment. Successful candidates must be highly motivated and keen to learn.

## Traineeships 2012

We are offering 12 month traineeships to Year 12 school leavers, who will undertake a Certificate III and IV in Business Administration. Trainees will have the opportunity to work in departments areas such as :

- Engineering
- Information Technology (IT)
- Safety
- Human Resources
- Logistics

Our Snowy Hydro Traineeship program offers a professional opportunity for local school leavers to build confidence in a corporate environment, develop their interpersonal and communication skills, and gain valuable experience.

The Snowy Hydro Traineeship program is a stepping stone to a successful career, and platform for students to realise their potential and passion.

## Apprenticeships 2012

We also have an opportunity for Year 12 school leavers to commence a four year mechanical or electrical apprenticeship from January 2012. This four year program is run in conjunction with Wagga Wagga TAFE, and apprentices rotate through the Snowy Scheme operating and maintenance centres in Talbingo, Khancoban and Jindabyne.


Snowy Hydro Apprenticeships provide an excellent opportunity for local students to build a successful career whilst maintaining a regional lifestyle. It is an opportunity to learn and develop within the business, whilst working alongside technical experts in a complex and highly technical environment.

To apply please visit our website or for more information call me on 02 6453 2217.

## *The application process:*

Applications open:	September
Applications close:	Early October
First Round Interviews:	Mid October
Final Interviews:	November (after HSC)

To apply for a Snowy Hydro Traineeship or Apprenticeship please visit our website at:

 [www.snowyhydro.com.au/careers](http://www.snowyhydro.com.au/careers)



Right: Owen Finegan



# Owen Finegan is the new CEO of Snowy Hydro SouthCare

**David Hogan**  
Manager Public Relations & Community Affairs



Owen Finegan has been appointed the new Chief Executive Officer of the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Helicopter Trust Fund.

He has had an illustrious career as a professional athlete, representing Australian Wallabies and the ACT Brumbies with distinction over a 10

year period. He returned to the ACT Brumbies in 2008 after spending time overseas, and was immediately offered the dual role of Head Coach for the Brumbies Academy and Brumby Runners.

On his appointment, Owen Finegan recently said "The Snowy Hydro SouthCare Rescue Helicopter is a revered institution within the ACT and surrounding region. After representing Canberra and Southern NSW as a member of the Brumbies I am thrilled at the opportunity to once again represent the region through the fantastic work that is done by the Snowy Hydro Rescue Helicopter."

Owen has a great interest in charitable and not-for-profit organisations, assisting with a number of local organisations. He has a wealth of business experience, and comes with outstanding credentials in Business and Project Management.

Chairman of the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Helicopter Trust Fund David Marshall said: "Owen will bring to the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Helicopter Trust Fund his considerable experience in dealing with major sponsors, his high profile as an international athlete, his excellent public speaking

skills and, above all, his passion for the work of the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Rescue Helicopter."

The Snowy Hydro SouthCare Helicopter Trust Fund was established 13 years ago to provide financial support to the operation of the rescue helicopter service that has completed over 4,200 missions and assisted thousands of people in Southern New South Wales and the ACT.

**Over \$10,000 raised for Snowy Hydro SouthCare & Cooma Hospital**

The recent Bachelor & Bachelorette charity auction held in Cooma by Snow Much More was a fantastic success and raised in excess of \$10,000 for the Snowy Hydro SouthCare rescue helicopter service and Cooma Hospital.

Guest speakers for the evening included Member for Monaro, John Barilaro, Mayor of Cooma, Dean Lynch, Vicki Williams from the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Board and Manager of Cooma Hospital's Emergency Department, Sandra Hedges.

Over 50 people attended the event and contributed generously to live and silent auctions to raise the funds. Snowy Hydro would like to thank Ange and Paul Hart, and all those who donated to the event, for their efforts in raising





# Murray 1 Visitors Centre refurbishment & Open Day

**Heath Redstone**  
Visitor Centres Coordinator

The Murray 1 Visitor Centre recently underwent a major interior refurbishment and celebrated its re opening with an Open Day on the 28th July.



The event was well attended with local representatives including the Tumbarumba Shire Mayor and Councillors, Towong Shire Mayor and Councillors, Tourism operators and local businesses.

The Murray 1 Visitor Centre plays a vital role for Snowy Hydro and the local tourism industry. The centre also has strong community and business relationships with organisations including Tourism Snowy Mountains, Kosciuszko Alpine Way Touring Route, local Visitor Information Centres and Sydney to Melbourne Touring. With over 10,000 visitors each year the facility allows us to showcase the Snowy Mountains Scheme and how Snowy Hydro operates in the National Electricity Market today.

With the introduction of a theatre to this facility a targeted schools campaign will be undertaken with an aim to significantly increase the student visitation to the centre and the region.

I encourage you to visit and experience the newly updated centre where you will be warmly welcomed by the team at Murray 1 Visitors Centre.

The Murray 1 Visitor Centre and Power Station is located on the Alpine Way, 10kms east of Khancoban. Power Station inspections are available at 11am and 2pm.

**Open 7 days:** October - April, 9am to 4pm Mon to Fri  
10am - 4pm Sat, Sun & public holidays

**Open 5 days:** May - September, 9am to 4pm Mon to Fri

**Closed:** Christmas Day, Anzac Day & winter w/ends



Above: Families enjoying the new displays at Murray 1 Visitors Centre.



# Snowy computers go to PNG Schools

**Tracy Crowe**  
Education & Community Liaison Coordinator



As many in the community know and value, Snowy Hydro supports local schools in many ways including donating surplus Computer and IT equipment.

But did you know that once local schools needs are met, Snowy Hydro has also supported a Cooma Rotary club initiative by donating surplus computers to schools on Papua New Guinea (PNG)?

Kemabolo is a remote village in PNG and Cooma Rotary Club has been developing a relationship with Kemabolo for some time. A shipping container with bicycles, sewing machines and 30 Snowy Hydro computers were sent to the village of Kemabolo recently.

A team of volunteers and members of Cooma Rotary Club visited the village to unpack and distribute the goods. Snowy Hydro is a proud to support well supported community partnerships such as this and congratulate the Cooma Rotary Club with this worthy project.



Above: Kemabolo children say "Thank you".

# Jindabyne Community Stage

**Kieran Cusack**  
Area Manager, Kosciuszko

Snowy Hydro is pleased to support the Jindabyne Community Stage project.



Snowy Hydro has been involved from the start of the project providing surveying support and ensuring that the location of the stage would not be impacted by variations in lake levels.

Building work recently commenced on the Lake Jindabyne Community Stage with excavator digging trenches and generally leveling the site, followed shortly after with form work in readiness for a concrete pour.

Peter Williams, Coordinator of the project said, "The committee would like to express their appreciation to Snowy Hydro for their support from the inception of the plan for this exciting foreshore development. Ongoing thanks to Council, our volunteers for pushing ahead, and the generous support from business and individuals, without which the Stage could not have eventuated."

# What's on in the region...

In future editions of Snowy Hydro NEWS we will be including a calendar of local events to help outline upcoming community initiatives and events.

If you have an initiative or event that you would like included, email us a short outline of what is happening and the date to [communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au](mailto:communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au)

## September

DATE	
18 September	Cooma Rotary High Country Markets, Centennial Park, Cooma
24 September	Upper Murray Challenge, Khancoban & Tumbarumba Shire
28 September	<b>Snowy Ride Jindabyne Information Evening, Banjo Patterson Inn, Jindabyne</b>
29 September	<b>Snowy Ride Cooma Information Evening, Cooma Car Club, Cooma</b>

## October

DATE	
1-3 October	Adaminaby CWA Annual Spring Quilt Show, School of Arts Hall, Adaminaby
15 October	Official Opening of the Snowy Scheme Museum, Adaminaby
16 October	Snow Much More Fun Run Fundraiser, Cooma
29 October	Talbingo's Jounama Classic fishing event, Talbingo
29 October	Yamaha/Freshwater Fishing Snowy Mountains Trout Festival begins

## November

DATE	
3 November	Former Scheme Workers Annual Briefing, Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre, Cooma
4-5 November	Cooma Car Club's Motorfest, Cooma Showground, Cooma
5 November	Snowy Ride 2011, Thredbo
19 November	Adaminaby Races, Adaminaby
19-26 November	Khancoban Trout Fest, Khancoban

### The Snowy Ride and the next three years...

In September two information evenings, one in Jindabyne and one in Cooma, are being held to let the community know how the Snowy Ride event has developed over the past 10 years and what will happen over the next three years with the continued development of the Steven Walter Foundation. These Information evenings will include a light supper and refreshments. Bookings are essential! To book your place and find out more go to [www.southeastprinting.com.au/snowy-ride/](http://www.southeastprinting.com.au/snowy-ride/) or call Brian Coyte 0428 484 999.



**Remember - if you would like your community event advertised for free in "What's on in the region" email the details to: [communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au](mailto:communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au)**