

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

Date: 6 March 2012

Subject: **Lake Jindabyne to spill this week.**

Based on current inflows and weather forecasts, Lake Jindabyne will reach full capacity and spill into the Snowy River as early as this Wednesday afternoon (7th March 2012)

Once full storage level is reached, the radial gates on Jindabyne Dam will open gradually, releasing water into the Snowy River and adjusting the dam water level.

Snowy Hydro has urged the NSW Water Commissioner, Mr David Harriss to consider the bringing forward of this years environmental flushing flows program in order to decrease Lake Jindabyne levels.

Snowy Hydro has been working closely with various agencies since last week including the Bureau of Meteorology, SES, Snowy River Shire Council, NSW Maritime and other stakeholders, including those with businesses around the foreshore of Lake Jindabyne.

It is expected that Lake Jindabyne may go on and off spill over coming weeks and that the lake level will remain at current levels until after winter unless environmental flows are brought forward.

Snowy Hydro advises that there is no public access to the Jindabyne Dam site at this time in the interests of safety.

Snowy Hydro Managing Director Mr Terry Charlton has said, "We are continuing to anticipate conditions and utilise all forecasting and inflow information available. We wish to achieve the best possible outcome but at all times acting in consideration of those downstream of Jindabyne Dam and in accordance with our licence conditions".

Snowy Hydro will continue to provide regular updates of Scheme inflows and Jindabyne Dam spill estimates to the Bureau of Meteorology for their flood forecasting purposes in order for the NSW SES to advise and coordinate flood alerts to residents and communities downstream of Jindabyne Dam.