

snowyhydro

NEWS

Main Range

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What's happening with Water and Lake Levels?

Jason Venables
Hydrographer,
Cooma



Hi, I'm Jason Venables and I've been a hydrographer for the Snowy for 17 years. A hydrographer is someone who installs and maintains equipment to monitor water levels, as well as rain and snow fall. My role in Snowy Hydro is primarily to co-ordinate a small team of hydrographers to collect and record this data.

Probably the most common questions around the Snowies are about lake levels. But to fully understand why lake levels go up and down, it's important to fully understand the bigger picture about water and Snowy Hydro.

Since 2002, Snowy Hydro Limited has operated the Scheme under a Water Licence issued by the government.

This water licence sets out Snowy Hydro's rights and obligations regarding the collection, storage and release of water from the Scheme. The water licence is legally enforceable and there are severe penalties for not complying. The regulation of the Scheme's water operations is totally independent from Snowy Hydro – the business.

Importantly, under this government issued Licence, Snowy Hydro doesn't own the water in the Scheme; we are only able to store and then release the water.

Snowy Hydro must do as the water licence stipulates, which we do, and within this legally binding framework we try to earn sufficient income from the National Electricity Market to pay for the costs of maintaining the Scheme, running the business and growing the Company. It's a fine balance but I see first hand the huge amount of work we put into just monitoring, measuring and recording river flows and water releases from dams and power stations.

As well as showing how we are complying with the conditions of the Water Licence, this data that we gather is used to help determine how much electricity we can generate and how many electricity insurance contracts we can offer.

Just like a financial year, there is what's known as a "water year". The water year runs from the 1st May through to 30th April and for each water year Snowy Hydro must develop an Annual Water Operating Plan. This plan is reviewed and approved by the NSW, Victorian and Commonwealth Governments along with the Murray Darling Basin Commission. Each annual plan specifies the amounts of water to be

Business News

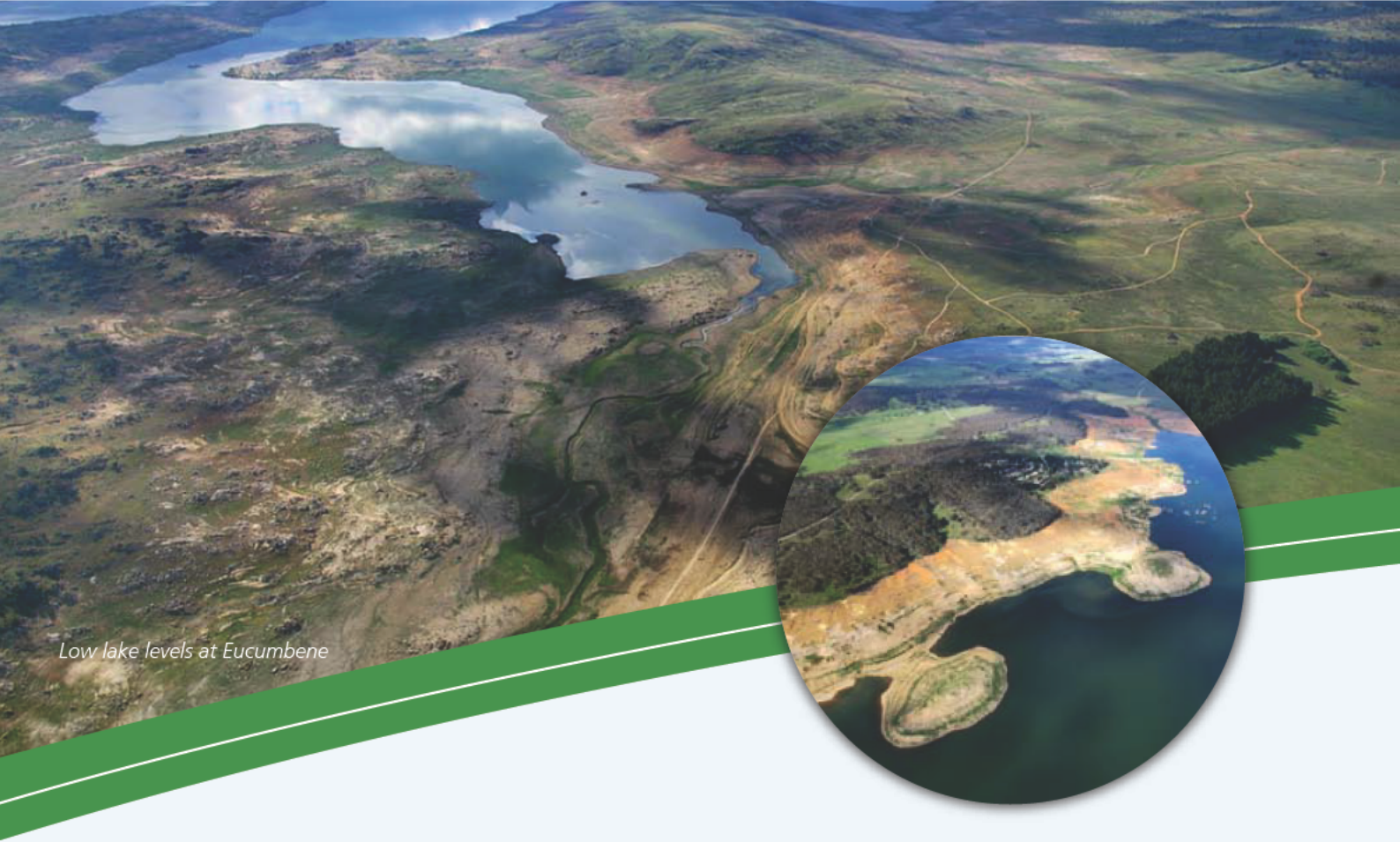
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Low lake levels at Eucumbene





Low lake levels at Eucumbene

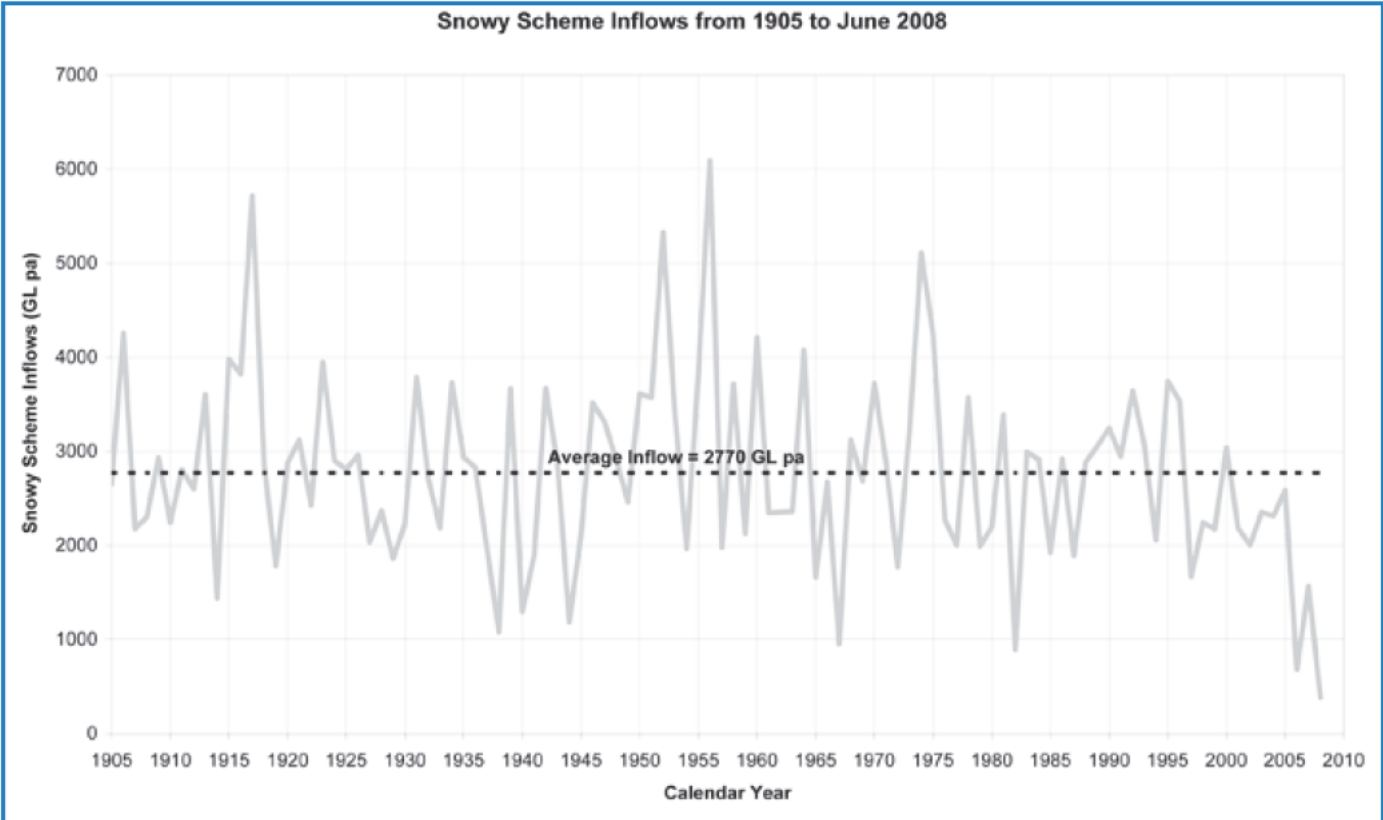
released for both the environment and for generation for each year. Our minimum annual release requirement from generation is usually around 2100 gigalitres (GL). Our long term average inflows are around 2700GL annually.

This requirement to keep releasing the same amount of water each

year means that in drought conditions with low inflows like we've experienced for many years now, we've had to release more water from our dams than what we've received from the rivers, and that's why the lakes have dropped. We're not getting any excess water to put in the bank, so to speak, which means our lakes don't end

the water year in a better position than the previous year.

In fact, in really extreme drought years, the amount of water to be released from the Scheme is reduced under special conditions in the water licence. This has happened since the 2006-07 water year, which was the lowest year on



Main Range



Right: Dr Mike Kelly meets with employees

record for inflows into the Scheme. Only 685GL flowed into the Scheme storages that year. In these years, we must release all of the water that flows into the Scheme up to the calculated minimum release amount. Or more simply put – what comes in must go out until inflows are well above 2000GL. Until this happens there is likely to be no significant improvement in lake levels.

We've now had over 10 bad years in a row and that's unprecedented with our records...

To explain this situation another way, if we got say 2700GL of inflows, and had to release an average of around 2100GL we would have 600GL additional water held over in the lakes which would mean a noticeable improvement in lake levels. After all, the Scheme was designed and built to collect water in good years so it can still be released in bad years. It's just that we've now had over 10 bad years in a row and that's unprecedented with our records which go back over 100 years.

The chart on the page opposite demonstrates what's been happening with inflows into the Scheme and its pretty self explanatory as to why the lakes are as low as they are today. We are simply not getting the water flowing into the lakes from the mountains.

We often hear comments about whether the occasional large storm

that hits the area or whether the snow melt from a big winter season will fill the dams. Sorry to say it, but this just isn't the case, far from it in fact.

Because the lakes are so large we need several wet years; Lake Jindabyne is larger than Sydney Harbour and Lake Eucumbene is nine times the size of Sydney Harbour. These are huge storages and one good snow year would be great but it's not going to be enough to fill the lakes.

We all want the same thing, more water. The water needed to fill the lakes back to 70% or 80% will take several years and that's if average to above average rain and snowfall returns. But as we know, we're in a drought and rain and snow is not falling like it used to.

We're tackling this problem with our cloud seeding project which is seeing some very positive results. The recent approval to expand and extend the project is a great boost for the mountains. Cloud seeding will go some way to improving the water situation but what we need is consistently wet years to get lakes back to higher levels.

Lake levels will continue to fall over the next month, as they do this time each year, until the spring snow melt inflows kick in.

Let's hope this winter and spring and the next few years after are better than the last few so more water flows into the lakes.

Dr Mike Kelly visits Snowy Hydro

David Hogan
Manager Regional
Marketing, Cooma



The Hon Dr Mike Kelly, Federal Member for Eden Monaro, visited Snowy Hydro's Cooma Office on the 7th May to meet with employees and learn more about the Company.

Dr Kelly was interested to learn more about the region's largest employer and sought to gain a better understanding of the operations of the Snowy Scheme. This included how the Snowy Hydro company operates in the National Electricity Market.

The significant improvement in engineering practices and maintenance by Snowy Hydro on the Scheme since corporatisation was very apparent to the new Federal member. There were also presentations about our gas fired generation operations in Victoria, Red Energy retail operations in Victoria and South Australia.

Dr Kelly met with employees in a group discussion about the growth challenges our company now faces over the long term due to lack of access to capital to expand the business, and the very real need for Snowy Hydro to grow to meet the challenges of a highly competitive and increasingly privatised market place.

An invitation was extended to Dr Kelly to visit regional locations and an opportunity to visit one of our gas plants and Red Energy in Victoria.



Cloud Seeding Generators



Right: Collecting snow samples for the Cloud Seeding program

NSW Government approves expansion of Cloud Seeding Program

Loredana Warren
Senior Cloud Seeding
Operations Controller
Sydney



Snowy Hydro welcomes the announcement by the NSW Government approving an expansion of the cloud seeding program in the NSW Snowy Mountains, which is showing great potential to benefit electricity consumers, farmers, skiers and the environment.

The decision extends the program to 2014 and expands the current target area by approximately 1,000 square kilometres.

Minister Macdonald, NSW Minister for Energy and Primary Industries, said "the research project conducted by Snowy Hydro Limited, which began in 2004, aims to determine the effectiveness of cloud seeding for increasing natural snowfalls and inflows to storages of the Snowy Mountains Scheme."

"This is a true scientific research project which will have significant benefits for NSW and the Murray Darling Basin," he said.

Terry Charlton, Managing Director said: "Snowy Hydro commends the

NSW Government on this forward looking decision. The decision has been based on solid physical evidence showing that the current cloud seeding operation is delivering real benefits at a time when climate change is severely impacting on the Snowy Mountains Region and irrigators on the western rivers." Mr Charlton added "Cloud Seeding is just one part of Snowy Hydro's response to climate change."

"The company's response also includes an emphasis on recycling water, up to 6000 Olympic sized swimming pools each night at Tumut 3 Power Station and development of gas fired generation plant. These initiatives were commenced some six years ago in anticipation of the drought that is now being experienced."

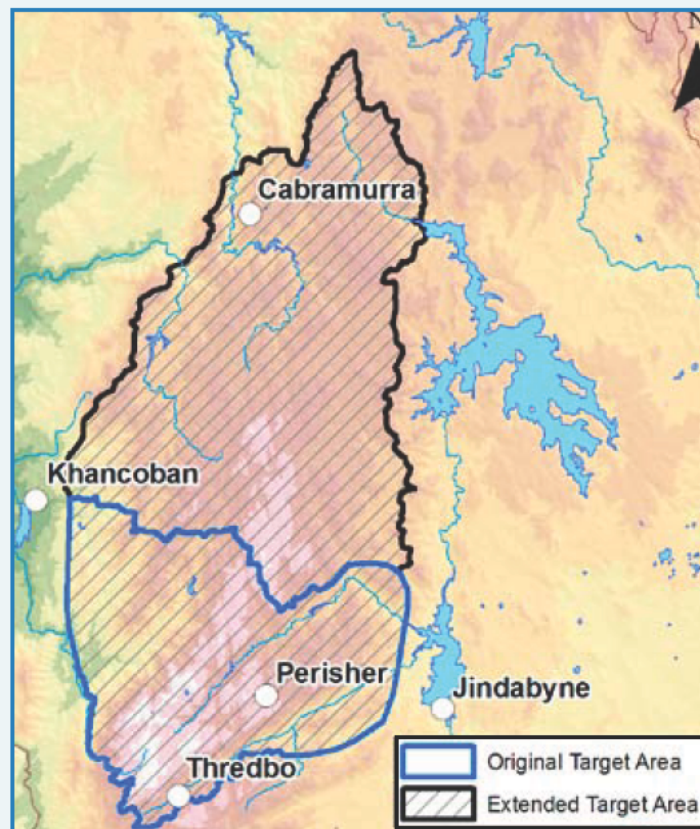
Minister Macdonald added that "the method used in the current trial involves dispensing very small amounts of silver iodide and an inert tracing agent into

winter storm clouds."

"This causes changes to occur within the cloud, resulting in additional snowfall which would otherwise not have fallen."

Work on the infrastructure for expanded program is well advanced, and operations over the expanded target area will begin this winter.

CLOUD SEEDING TARGET AREA MAP



Tumut 3 Power Station



Khancoban Dam



Institutional Changes since Corporatisation

David Harris
General Counsel,
Sydney



In June 2002, the corporatisation project for the former Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority was concluded.

So what did this mean for the institutional and governance arrangements of the former Authority? See the table below

There were many Institutional and Governance changes that occurred when Snowy was Corporatised.

BEFORE	AFTER
Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority was created by the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act 1949	At corporatisation, the former Authority was abolished and all of its assets (excluding high voltage transmission assets), the employees and the liabilities were taken over by Snowy Hydro Limited - a public company limited by shares in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001
The Commissioner and the Snowy Mountains Council had responsibility for the management of the Authority. Appointees were appointed by the Minister, in the case of the Commissioner, and members of the Council were appointed by each of the Authority, the Commonwealth, and the States of New South Wales and Victoria	A board of directors appointed by the shareholders of Snowy Hydro Limited are responsible for the management of Snowy Hydro Limited. One third of the Company's directors must retire each year and may stand for re-appointment to the Board. Shareholders vote on such appointments at the Company's Annual General Meeting.
Financial and governance arrangements were prescribed by legislation – primarily the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act 1949 and because the Authority was established by Commonwealth legislation, the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997	Governance arrangements are now drawn from the Corporations Act 2001 and the Company's Constitution.
Borrowings used to construct the Snowy Mountains Scheme and to fund its on-going capital works program were explicitly guaranteed by the Commonwealth Government. The cost of servicing the debt was met through a funding arrangement known as the Net Cost of Operation which effectively guaranteed that the Authority's costs were paid by the electricity authorities in NSW, Victoria and the ACT.	All of the debt (over \$800 million) taken over by Snowy Hydro Limited was refinanced by the Company in the financial market without the benefit of an explicit government guarantee. The cost of servicing the Company's debt plus its other operating costs and generating a return to its shareholders must be met through the Company's trading operations in the National Electricity Market.
Annual water release obligations were set out in the Annual Operating Plan.	Annual water release obligations are set out in the Annual Water Operating Plan prepared in accordance with the Snowy Water Licence.



Guthega Power Station



Company Vision



*Terry Charlton
CEO & Managing
Director*

As I visit community groups around the Region, I am frequently asked what my vision is for the Snowy Scheme and the company – Snowy Hydro Limited.

My first response is the easier one but it is a legal one. It is to implement the shareholders expectations...to grow the business in order to add shareholder value while mitigating commercial risk, while ensuring a safe workplace and while meeting our statutory obligations. Such obligations include reliably releasing water as directed by our Water Licence.

But I believe there is a greater vision and it is in addition to the legal obligation of any Corporations Act company such as is Snowy Hydro Limited.

The greater vision to which I refer is one that has Snowy Hydro Limited successfully navigating the changes that are now occurring across the electricity industry. It has the company responding to the drought that continues to impact

all manner and aspects of our lives and it has Snowy Hydro Limited anticipating and benefiting from the uncertain future that comes with Government's and communities' responses to climate change, whatever they may be.

My vision embraces issues like;

- ensuring ongoing development of the Snowy Scheme, as best we can within the limits imposed on us because we are in a National Park.
- providing our people with interesting and challenging career and personal growth opportunities, particularly new opportunities in engineering and communications technology.
- a workplace culture that emphasises safe and secure long term employment, care for the environment and market based remuneration with incentives; and
- continuous improvement in all that we do.

What I want to see is the Snowy Scheme assets as the core of Snowy Hydro Limited with Snowy Hydro Limited, the Company, large enough and successful enough to secure its own future in its own right. I want the Company to be recognised as one of the leading, innovative and respected four or five vertically integrated energy companies and

of course, an Australian owned company. To achieve all these objectives, however, requires a commercially successful Snowy Hydro Limited.

The Snowy Hydro business of the future has to be successful in the very competitive and fast moving industry that is today's energy world. We have to be high performance oriented. We have to enthusiastically embrace the opportunities that come with industry change and we have to take measured and controlled risks as we travel the new and sometimes unfamiliar roads ahead. We have to be as good as our competitors in all we do.

We may not like privatisation and we may even be ideologically opposed to it in regard to the electricity industry but it has largely already happened across the industry and is not going to be reversed. We may also not like the large energy companies becoming larger and more efficient and we may not like multinational companies owning some Australian businesses but this too has already happened. We may not like the realities of drought, and we might be confronted by the many competing but valid community and economic demands that now limit what can be done quickly for the environment, particularly for our rivers. But there



Laverton North Power Station, Victoria

are numerous realities that have to be recognised and accepted. Governments have recognised that they don't run businesses well and that businesses, such as Snowy Hydro Limited, are best transferred to private sector ownership through either "trade sales" or transformed to publicly listed companies. "Social service" activities such as schools, police, hospitals, basic roads and community infrastructure are, arguably, the province of Governments and rightly so.

To do what is needed for social infrastructure, and if large extra taxes are to be avoided, funds need to be raised by selling those Government "businesses" and operations that are best managed by the private sector. This is what we have seen across the world in the last two decades with unarguable beneficial results. Regrettably, privatisation often comes too late and then the newly privatised businesses and assets are so run down that they can't

perform and they need large capital injection. This necessitates unpopular price increases for the services and products provided. We have seen this in the past in some parts of the world and in Australia. Privatisation then gets a "bad wrap" but it is the earlier lack of capital investment under government ownership that has really caused the problem.

I am very positive that we can achieve our full potential. I am, however, very unhappy about the delayed time frame. The world in which we operate is changing around us and changing fast.

We ask for your understanding and support...

We need extra capital in order to keep up. Our shareholders have indicated they won't inject extra capital and we can't expect them to forego dividends forever. The only option is privatisation and I accept this is a shareholder matter.

There is an undeniable truth that given the constraints we confront, we have no better way forward if the vision for the Snowy Scheme, the Snowy Hydro Company and our people is to be fulfilled.

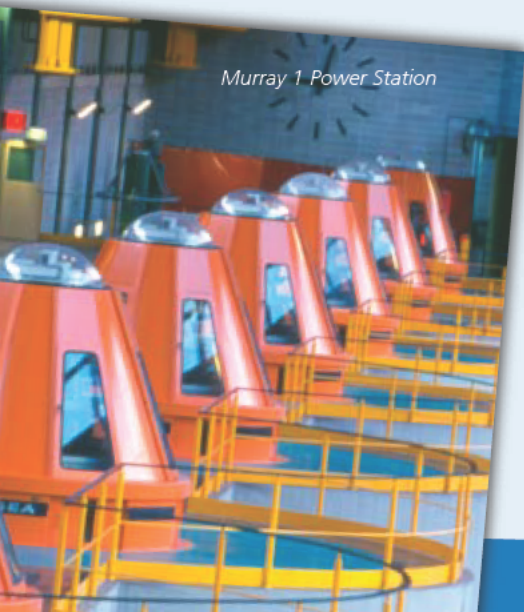
Solutions that promise return to single Government ownership are no solution at all, unless new capital injection is provided, up front along with further capital when the business case justifies it.

Greater borrowings are not prudently possible. Reverting the business to a "water authority" would not sustain existing local employment, nor career growth, nor enable the electricity business to continue to subsidise the water operations and hydrological asset maintenance requirements. Our options are limited indeed... if the vision is to be fulfilled!

I am also often asked about what the local communities can now do to assist Snowy Hydro in securing a long term successful future?

Our response is that we ask for your understanding and support. We want to know that there is a positive community environment and some affirmation that we are doing a good job for all stakeholders. We are in a difficult business at a difficult time. We are doing well against the competitive odds and we are offering a very good working environment. We are supporting our communities. Gone are the days of job insecurity and industrial accidents.

Should options for Snowy Hydro Limited's future be discussed, and if an option of some form of privatisation of the company, separated from the "icon" dam and tunnel assets, be suggested, if it is not by then too late, we ask that it be positively considered by our communities. Such consideration will include an awareness of the changed and changing realities of our industry and the benefits privatisation of the Company can provide to Snowy Hydro and all its stakeholders.



Murray 1 Power Station



The generator at Laverton North gas fired power station, Victoria.



How a gas turbine works

*Paul Hill
Area Manager
Southern Gas Turbines,
Melbourne*



Over the past three years Snowy Hydro has made significant investment into gas fired power generation to assist in meeting the demands of the National Electricity Market. Snowy Hydro owns and operates the 320 megawatt (MW) Laverton North gas fired power station and the 300 MW Valley Power gas fired power stations, both located in Victoria.

Gas is one of the most reliable sources of power generation

because of its fast start capability, which is comparable to hydro, hence why Snowy Hydro has moved into and will continue to develop our gas fired assets. Gas fired generation is much cleaner than coal and recently this was supported by the Federal Minister for Energy, Martin Ferguson, who said that gas is ideal to meet increasing power demands.

All this being said, how does a gas turbine actually work? Gas fired power stations use gas turbines to generate electricity. Our hydro turbines use the pressure of falling water to spin the turbine. In a gas turbine, a pressurized gas spins the turbine. In all modern gas turbine engines, the engine

produces its own pressurised gas, and it does this by burning a fuel such as propane, natural gas, kerosene, diesel or jet fuel. The heat that comes from burning the fuel expands air, and the high-speed rush of this hot air spins the turbine.

A gas turbine consists of three parts typically connected together on a single shaft:

- Compressor - Compresses the incoming air to high pressure.
- Combustion area - Burns the fuel and produces high-pressure, high-velocity gas.
- Turbine - Extracts the energy from the high-pressure, high-velocity gas flowing from the combustion chamber

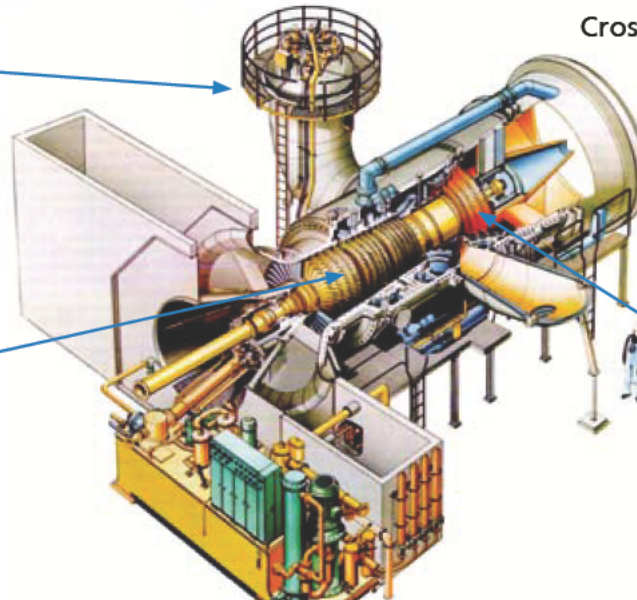
Combustion Area

Burns the fuel and produces high-pressure, high-velocity gas

Compressor

Compresses the incoming air to high pressure

Cross section of a gas turbine



Turbine

Extracts the energy from the high-pressure, high-velocity gas flowing from the combustion chamber



Jindabyne Dam Site

Air is drawn in by the compressor. The compressor is basically a cone-shaped cylinder with small fan blades attached in rows. As the air is forced through the compression stage its pressure rises significantly.

This high-pressure air then enters the combustion area, where a ring of fuel injectors injects a steady stream of fuel. If you think about how easy it is to blow a candle out, then you can see the design problem in the combustion area -- entering this area is high-pressure air moving at hundreds of miles per hour.

You want to keep a flame burning continuously in that environment. The piece that solves this problem is called a "flame holder," or sometimes a "can." The can is a hollow, perforated piece of heavy metal. The fuel injectors are located on the right with compressed air entering through the perforations and finally, exhaust gases exit at the outlet of the combustion area to the inlet of the turbine stage. Temperatures in the combustion area are typically around 1075 degrees Celsius.

The final part is the turbine stage. It drives the gas turbine shaft which drives the compressor and the connected generator if it directly coupled. There is enough energy generated in the turbine stage to drive both the gas turbine shaft and the connected generator.

Some gas turbines generator configurations may have a separate turbine stage and output shaft that is a completely stand-alone, freewheeling unit. They spin freely without any direct mechanical connection to the rest of the engine. The amazing part is that there is enough energy in the hot gases blowing through the blades of that final output turbine to generate power to operate a generator.

Temperatures in the combustion area are typically around 1075 degrees Celsius...

A gas turbine engine really is that simple.

This is a general overview of how our gas fired power stations work. There are a number of more complex factors including bearings, oiling systems, internal support structures of the engine, stator vanes and so on. All of these areas become major engineering problems because of the tremendous temperatures, pressures and spin rates inside the engine.

But the basic principles described here govern all gas turbine engines and help you to understand the basic layout and operation of the engine.

Thanks to HowStuffWorks.com

Coffer Dam Removal

*Darryl Pead
Area Manager,
Kosciuszko, Jindabyne*



Snowy Hydro wishes to advise the local community that the removal of the temporary Coffer Dam at the Jindabyne Dam site has been deferred until after winter 2008.

Works are now expected to commence late 2008/early 2009 depending on inflows over winter and spring and resulting lake levels.

The removal works have been delayed to allow for the finalisation of approvals and to minimise any potential traffic delays over this coming winter.

The community will be informed of the project start date and traffic management plans later this year with up to date information available on the Snowy Hydro website at www.snowyhydro.com.au





TumbaFest Celebrations

Right: Snowy Hydro executive, Sharon Howes, talks to locals at the Cooma Show.

Festival and Events Wrap Up 2008

*Lesley Barlee
Information Centre
Officer, Khancoban*



The Festival of the Falling Leaf in Tumut is held every April and consistently draws several thousand people each year. This year was no exception with great weather, entertainment and attractions bringing visitors from as far away as Melbourne and Sydney. Snowy Hydro was a Gold Leaf sponsor of the event which was opened by our Area Manager Lower Tumut, Maarten Van Der Stap

The other events that have been held throughout the Snowy Mountains included Tumbaramba's 'TumbaFest' held over the last weekend in February with thousands of people across the weekend enjoying the music, wine and entertainment on offer. Snowy Hydro is a major sponsor of Tumbafest, and this year sponsored the stage for the event which housed big names such as renowned county performer, Felicity Urquhart.

The Snowy Hydro SouthCare rescue helicopter also flew in to allow the community to see the region's essential life saving service first hand and close up.

In late February Snowy Hydro SouthCare opened the doors to the helicopter base in Canberra for the public to come and see the rescue helicopter.

The Base Open Day was a free event and provided activities and fun for the whole family. People were able to see the helicopter, enjoy live music, eat delicious food and learn more about the life saving service.

Finally, Cooma Show was held in March with organisers hailing the event a success with a 25% increase in attendance and an increase in entries. The success is also being credited to the new one-day show format, the good weather and new entertainment.

Many of the Snowy Hydro executive team manned the stand at the Cooma Show. Sharon Howes, Brett Jones, Ian Cooke and Ken Lister all attended which provided our community with the opportunity to ask questions and have informal discussions.

Snowy Hydro is pleased to be able to support regional festivals and as they are not only a great tourist attraction but are very important cultural events in the local communities in which we live.

Snowy Hydro hosts educational visits

*Tracy Crowe
Community Liaison
and Education
Programs Coordinator,
Cooma*




Snowy Hydro has recently hosted educational visits to the company and the Scheme. In early March a group of young engineers from the Canberra Division of Young Engineers Australia (YEA) toured the Scheme.

The visit included a presentation in Cooma before site visits at Jindabyne Dam, Cabramurra, the Tumut 3 Power Station modernisation works and the construction site for the Jounama Small Hydro Project.

Their tour followed an earlier visit by the state representatives of the YEA last year, and from the visit these young engineers now have a much greater understanding of the National Electricity Market that Snowy Hydro operates within.

Snowy Hydro has also hosted a group of first year Medical Students from the Australian National University. Dr Robert Wiles from the Sharp Street Surgery heads the Cooma Medical School annexed to



Young Engineers at the Intake Tower
at Jindabyne Dam

the Australian National University and each year he arranges for a number of students (in this instance 27) to visit the Monaro for a rural experience. The program includes varied activities to assist in the students understanding of what practicing medicine in 'the bush' really means.

Members of the Medical School expressed their appreciation for Snowy Hydro's support...

A highlight of the visit involved the group travelling to Cabramurra to engage in a number of activities related to 'medicine and the tyranny of distance'. Two areas of the Scheme's operation were involved – Tumut Pond Dam and Tumut 2 Underground Power Station.

At the dam the group were taken inside the structure to gain a first hand understanding of the difficulties that a medical emergency may present. The students then travelled underground into Tumut 2 Power Station and were amazed to see this facility and understand the difficulties should a medical emergency ever arise in a remote location.

Dr Wiles and other members of the Medical School expressed their appreciation for Snowy Hydro's support and the opportunity to involve students in life outside cities.

Snowy Hydro hosts Aboriginal Family Weekend at Cabramurra

*Mick Griffiths
Manager
Environment, Cooma*



Over the weekend of 15th and 16th March, Snowy Hydro hosted a Aboriginal Family Gathering at Cabramurra. This event is an initiative of the Department of Environment and Climate Change-Parks and Wildlife Group. Snowy Hydro was pleased to work with the National Parks team from Tumut and the local Aboriginal community in making this event the success it was.

The weekend event was facilitated by Mary Mudford, National Parks Aboriginal Clerical/Liaison Officer in Tumut and attendees included representatives from:

- the Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council,
- the Snowy Mountains Aboriginal Elders Corporation,
- Tumut's Coo-ee Cottage Community Working Party,
- the broader Aboriginal community from the Tumut area; and
- Snowy Hydro Executive Sharon Howes, Trevor Prior and staff from Cabramurra and Snowy Hydro's environment team.

Uncle Vince (Vincent Bulger) fascinated the gathering with his yarns which were enjoyed by all and Snowy Hydro's Trevor Prior gave a presentation about the operation of the Scheme and his important role within the Company as Safety Programs Co-ordinator. The weekend family gathering at Cabramurra provided an ideal opportunity for everyone to improve their knowledge and understanding.

This event is an example of how DECC's Parks and Wildlife Group and Snowy Hydro work closely and cooperatively together with the local Aboriginal community who are important stakeholders in the Snowy Mountains region.

Discussions between Snowy Hydro staff and the Aboriginal Community were positive and helped build greater awareness, respect and understanding of Aboriginal culture.

Snowy Hydro would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of this event, specifically the members of the Aboriginal Community who attended and so freely gave of their time and thoughts, Staff from the National Parks in Tumut, particularly Mary Mudford and Steve Horsley and the Snowy Hydro employees for their participation in making the event a great success.



Community Partnerships

Local School visits Khancoban Dam Testing

*Greg Healy
Team Leader Civil,
Khancoban*



During late February and early March the water level in Khancoban Pondage was lowered to allow Snowy Hydro Limited to complete essential maintenance and tests at Murray 2 Power Station and at Khancoban Dam.

At the dam both the spillway gates and the small regulating gate underwent five-yearly testing and maintenance.

We were honoured by a visit from the students and staff of Khancoban Primary School

This involved placing the stoplogs upstream of each gate and then fully opening the gate to make sure that they will perform as needed in a flood or emergency situation.

The opportunity was taken to do maintenance and inspections during the test period.

We were honoured by a visit from the students and staff of Khancoban Primary School on the 4th of March and work was stopped while Danny Lattanzio conducted a guided tour of the works for the visitors.

Snowy Hydro would like to thank residents and visitors for their understanding concerning changes to road and traffic conditions during this project.

Stars dance for Snowy Hydro SouthCare

*Ken Lister
Executive Officer,
Production, Cooma*



Local Canberra celebrities, along with their partners from Danzon Social Dancing, performed the Tango, Cha Cha, Swing, Foxtrot, Samba, Waltz, Salsa, Rumba, Viennese and Paso Doble on Saturday 3rd March at the National Convention Centre in Canberra to raise funds for the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Helicopter Service.

Following a brief speech by Snowy Hydro's CEO and Managing Director, Terry Charlton, celebrities including Leanne Close, Tom Snow, Lisa Ridgley, Mario Sanfrancesco, Jessica Good, John Hargreaves, Ondina and Steve Whan performed to the delight of the 500 guests who were present.

A highlight of the evening was a special tribute to the crew of the helicopter service which involved a video of the helicopter being shown while the band played Mariah Carey's "Hero". As each member of the crew, in full flying uniform, stepped onto the dance floor they received generous applause from the crowd which culminated in a standing ovation at the completion of the song.

A very energetic and highly entertaining performance was provided by five times world salsa champions Luda Kroiter and Oliver Pineda following which some of



Above: Member for Monaro, Steve Whan and his dance partner, Amy Sharples, perform for the judges.

the best Salsa couples in Canberra competed in the inaugural Celebrity Ballroom Salsa Competition.

Stylist to the Stars Ondina, who was partnered by Marko Pekkarinen, was crowned the 2008 Celebrity Ballroom Champion following a countback with local WIN newsreader Jessica Good.

The celebrity performers were judged by a panel of judges including Ben Benedictos, Becky Flemming and the always hard to please Gary Humphries who likened one celebrity's rhythm to that of a heart monitor and described another as though he was pushing a shopping trolley around the supermarket.

The event was sponsored by Canberra Milk and along with fundraising on the evening, \$27,000 was raised with all proceeds going towards keeping the helicopter in the air and saving lives.

snowyhydro

To give us your feedback email communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au or for more information go to www.snowyhydro.com.au