TBM Flo is go! Watch our latest Snowy 2.0 video

Snowy Hydro and the local Snowy Mountains community have come together to celebrate the commissioning of Snowy 2.0 tunnel boring machine (TBM) Florence. It was a great day at Tantangara! We're powering ahead with Snowy 2.0, our major pumped hydro expansion of the mighty Snowy Scheme which will underpin Australia's transition to renewables. In our latest project update video we showcase all the highlights from the commissioning event and also look at the significant upgrades to Lobs Hole Ravine Road and progress with TBM Kirsten. You can watch Snowy Hydro Managing Director and CEO Paul Broad's speech here.

Check out the photos from Tantangara below!

Clockwise from top left: Snowy Hydro Managing Director and CEO Paul Broad with local student Riley Douch, who won the Snowy 2.0 TBM Naming Competition by nominating Florence Violet McKenzie (Australia's first female electrical engineer) for our third Snowy 2.0 tunnel boring machine; about 200 people, including many Snowy Mountains community members, attended the commissioning event; local school students were keen to sign the TBM; community members enjoyed their visit to Tantangara adit for the historic TBM Florence event.

Banishing mobile phone black spots

Reliable mobile connectivity extends beyond the convenience factor for tourists and locals travelling between regional towns. Drivers need to know that in the event of an emergency they will be able to connect quickly to help. Snowy Hydro recently partnered with the NSW Government to boost mobile coverage at a series of black spots along the Snowy Mountains Highway.

The $1.3 million joint funding has delivered new small cell antennas at three priority sites between Talbingo and Adaminaby, with installations at two more sites soon to go live.

The 2019-20 bushfires highlighted the importance of quality phone coverage for

for road users during the construction of Snowy 2.0.

Snowy Hydro is proud to be contributing to this important local initiative. Managing Director and CEO Paul Broad said the partnership with the NSW Government to improve mobile coverage for the region was a great outcome for community safety. “As a company, our number one priority is safety, so we are extremely pleased to see this initiative provide a real benefit to road users while we build Snowy 2.0.”

Energy - transforming transmission

The transition to renewable energy is well underway and the evidence is all around us. New wind and solar farms are being developed all over the country. Rooftop solar panels are more affordable and popular than ever. And of course Snowy Hydro is building Snowy 2.0, to store excess renewable energy and release it when demand for electricity is high.

These are the most visible signs of the renewables revolution. But there is a less well-known part of the energy system that is playing a critical role in Australia’s transition to net zero. The transmission system - the poles and wires that transmit electricity at high voltage - is undergoing a transformation of its own.

Until recently the energy system was dominated by a small number of large coal-fired generators. Those generators were usually built next to coal mines, and transmission lines were planned around the location of those generators.

Australia is blessed to have excellent renewable energy resources, but they are geographically diverse and often located far from existing transmission lines. NSW is currently planning five Renewable Energy Zones in the Central-West Orana, New England, South-West, HunterCentral Coast and Illawarra regions to accelerate the growth of renewables, and more are planned in other states.

As renewables replace coal as the country’s main source of electricity, there is a need to

just that.

It is important that the ISP is supported and implemented, filling in the missing links in the transmission network and benefiting all parts of the energy system. In the coming years the ISP, which will support streamlining the assessment processes, will guide system planners to upgrade existing and build new transmission lines.

This will allow surplus energy from one region to be exported to another (including to storage facilities like Snowy 2.0), making clean, renewable energy stronger and more resilient.

Strengthening the transmission network will be a vital part of Australia's low carbon economy.

We welcome your feedback - call 1800 623 776

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