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NEWS

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This page: Khancoban spillway
Cover image: Guthega power station

CEO UPDATE

A message from Snowy Hydro CEO Dennis Barnes

With spring and a new season upon us, it's timely to reflect on some of the significant changes that are occurring around our business.

As I mentioned in the June 'Snowy Hydro News', Snowy Hydro has been working to reset the delivery timeline and budget for our pumped-hydro megaproject Snowy 2.0 with our principal contractor Future Generation Joint Venture (FGJV).

I can now confirm the expected full commercial operation date for Snowy 2.0 is December 2028. The revised budget includes a new incentivised target contract between Snowy Hydro and FGJV, to ensure the project is achievable, transparent and delivers a return and ongoing benefits for Australians.

The revised total budget of $12 billion reflects significantly increased costs of key materials, resources, shipping and skilled workforce availability, and the challenge of highly variable geological conditions onsite. In addition, design immaturity at the time of the final investment decision in 2018 has resulted in certain elements requiring more time to complete due to their technically complex nature. Pleasingly, through the reset process we have determined Snowy 2.0 can operate at 2,200MW, a 10% increase.

It is important to remember that Snowy 2.0 remains a nation-building project that underpins the decarbonisation of our economy and Australia's energy security. It is an asset designed to last at least 150 years and will provide a significant return on investment while delivering critical benefits to the Australian public - including our local Snowy Mountains communities - for generations to come.

In addition to Snowy 2.0, we have finalised a comprehensive review of our Hunter Power Project at Kurri Kurri. The project is economically viable on a forward-looking basis with a revised target cost of $950 million and remains on-track to be finished by December 2024.

From a Snowy 2.0 construction progress perspective, it is great to see that tunnel boring machine (TBM) Lady Eileen Hudson is underway on her second journey, excavating the tailrace tunnel, after her relaunch in late July. TBM Kirsten has completed excavation of the emergency, cable and ventilation tunnel. We're also getting on with the major task of drill and blasting the very large underground caverns for the Snowy 2.0 power station.

The Hunter Power Project reached another milestone recently with the delivery of two giant generator stators. It was a complex and well-planned delivery operation,with each stator weighing in at 313 tonnes.

You can read more about the details of the project reviews and progress on our website 'media' page.

Recently Snowy formed an important partnership with Stars Foundation, which has established a new mentoring program at Tumut High School supporting local Indigenous girls and young women. Our three-year sponsorship will assist the foundation in delivering support and personal development focused on health, education and employment outcomes to help the students unlock their future potential.

We are very pleased to be part of initiatives that assist our local communities and in this case, one which aligns directly with Snowy's existing Clontarf Foundation partnership, which provides mentoring and assistance with education and life skills for Indigenous boys and young men in the Tumut area.

In other Snowy news, we were delighted when one of our team, Cooma's Kurt Wassink, took out the 2023 NSW Training Apprentice of the Year for the Riverina region. Now a fully qualified electrician for Snowy, Kurt is eligible for the whole state award later this year and we wish him well.

Among the reasons why our Snowy Scheme power station assets continue to operate so well after decades of service are regular maintenance and ongoing upgrades.

At Guthega Power Station - the oldest of the fleet - the team has been using laser energy to strip paint from the internal surfaces of the spiral casing to closely examine the bare metal for cracking. Using a laser paint removal and maintenance procedure makes it safer for workers, reduces risk of damage and is faster than a manual process.

Finally, with it being a relatively warm and dry winter this year, we're already well into the annual snowmelt. Snowfall and the subsequent spring melt contribute around two thirds of the water stored in Snowy Hydro's dams. Conditions across the Snowy Mountains in 2023 are vastly different to last year, when the region experienced some of the wettest conditions on record. From August to October last year, total Snowy Scheme storage increased by over 1,100 gigalitres (GL), or more than twice the volume of Sydney Harbour!

All the best

Dennis

Laser paint removal at Guthega Power Station

Modern maintenance

When Prime Minister Robert Menzies flicked the switch to start up Guthega Power Station in 1955, it marked the first power from the Snowy Scheme and brought Commissioner Sir William Hudson's vision to life.

As the oldest power station in the fleet, Guthega was clearly built to last, but like all Snowy assets, is kept in top operating condition through regular maintenance and ongoing upgrades.

Recently a number of cracks were identified in the decades-old turbine spiral casing and further investigation was required. In order to clearly assess the potential problem, the internal surfaces of the spiral casing must first be stripped of paint to expose the bare metal.

To reduce risks to the equipment and exposing people to potentially hazardous material, the paint is removed using laser technology. Laser paint removal works by releasing laser energy in short pulses at a set repetition rate to eject the coating without damaging the metal underneath.

The paint is vaporised and the vapour fumes extracted from the work site using a vacuum and special filters. This means no smoke, fumes or residue are released into the confined space and there is almost no heat left in the metal after being lasered.

Once the casing is stripped of paint, a non-destructive examination can be performed to establish the precise location of any cracks and the extent of damage. This examination uses technology called magnetic particle testing, where magnetic particles are used to reveal any flaws in the material.

The magnetic particles are attracted to tiny magnetic leakage fields and because they're coloured with pigment, it's easier to detect the presence of discontinuities, such as cracks, in the surface or subsurface. Ultraviolet light may also be used to enhance assessment and determine the best course of repair.

A similar laser paint removal and maintenance procedure has been used at Murray 1 Power Station.

In addition to workplace safety, precision and reduced risk of damage, another important benefit of laser technology in paint removal is speed. When any of Snowy's assets come offline for maintenance and repairs, time is of the essence.

The sooner repairs are carried out, the sooner the power station can be back in action, helping keep the lights on across Australia.

Mountaineer returns home

The Snowy Scheme Museum at Adaminaby welcomed a special addition to its collection recently with the arrival of an historic Scammell 4WD truck used during construction of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme.

The 1951 Mountaineer model was one of 10 of its type that were used as both tip trucks and snow ploughs on the original Scheme. It was built by British truck manufacturer Scammell Lorries Limited, which later became part of Leyland Motors.

When its days on the Snowy Scheme were over, the Scammell was relocated to the Hunter Valley where it was put to work as a gravel quarry workhorse. For the past 20 years the Scammell has been retired and sitting idle in a paddock near Denman, NSW.

In early 2020, owners Robert and Colleen Cross expressed a desire for the truck to return home to the Snowy Mountains and contacted the Snowy Scheme Museum. Transport from the Hunter Valley was arranged by Leed, one of the main contractors working with Snowy 2.0 principal contractor Future Generation Joint Venture.

The trip from Denman to Adaminaby was a two-day journey and Leed Managing Director Craig Laslett said the company was thrilled to be involved in the safe transfer of the iconic vehicle.

"It made perfect sense for us to support the effort to add the Scammell to the Museum's collection," Craig said. "The addition of the Scammell will help to educate the community about the enduring impact of construction for generations to come."

The truck was welcomed back to the Snowy Mountains in June and following a brief stop at the Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre in Cooma, travelled on to Adaminaby.

After some repairs and minor restoration works over the winter months the Scammell will enjoy an official unveiling later this year, before joining the rest of the heavy vehicle collection on permanent public display at the Snowy Scheme Museum.

Top: the Scammell Mountaineer arrives in the Snowy Mountains and above, at the Hunter Valley property before transportation by Leed.

PROJECT UPDATE

Snowy 2.0

TBM Lady Eileen relaunch

After completing the 2.8km main access tunnel (MAT) in 2022, TBM Lady Eileen Hudson has started on her second tunnel excavation for Snowy 2.0 - the 6km tailrace tunnel, which will connect Talbingo Reservoir to the underground power station complex. The Lady Eileen was disassembled in the MAT and reassembled at the Talbingo adit with new components including a cutterhead, shields and main drive. The conveyor stacker, grout batch plant and chiller plant were also relocated from the MAT portal to the Talbingo adit.

Before a TBM begins her journey underground, it is traditional for the machine and crew to be blessed for a safe journey under the watch of St Barbara, the patron saint of tunnelling and underground work. Local parish priest Father Mark Croker blessed the TBM, plant and workers at an onsite ceremony with many of the Snowy 2.0 team in attendance. The machine was then switched on and excavation began. This is the fourth TBM launch for Snowy 2.0 and a major achievement for the project.

More than 27,000 concrete segments manufactured at the Polo Flat, Cooma, precast facility will be used to line the tailrace tunnel with the segment erector, segment feeder, segment cranes, and sophisticated grouting system all onboard the TBM.

Ventilation in tunnels

With increased activity and void space underground, the ventilation system is being continually upgraded. Ventilation is required to provide clean air and manage dust and heat for the underground workforce.

The main ventilation system used on Snowy 2.0 is the positive displacement method where clean air is pushed from the surface through flexible duct pipes to the end of the tunnel. The air returns back through the tunnel to the surface taking dust and heat with it.

Large extraction systems called scrubbers will soon be installed underground to 'scrub' and clean the air where heat and dust is generated and concentrated. These scrubbers are designed to control dust, and remove pollutants and contaminants from the air underground for a safer work environment and to reduce the impact of excavation on the surrounding ecosystem.

Intakes take shape

A key component of a hydro power station is the intake structure where stored water enters the tunnels from dams and reservoirs. Snowy 2.0 has two intakes; one at Talbingo and one at Tantangara.

When Snowy 2.0 is generating power, water enters the headrace tunnel at the Tantangara intake from the upper reservoir and flows downhill to the power station. Water exits via the tailrace tunnel and into the lower reservoir at Talbingo.

When in pumping mode, the process is reversed. Water enters from the Talbingo intake, is pumped uphill and discharges into Tantangara to replenish storage at the upper reservoir.

Excavation is well underway at both intakes. At Tangantara, stage one earthworks are now complete with the excavation of about 205,000 cubic metres of earth. A further 78,000 cubic metres of drilling and blasting earthworks are expected in the next stage.

To support the excavation, more than 18,000 metres of rock bolts have been drilled and installed, and approximately 6,100 square metres of shotcrete sprayed. The excavation is currently more than 26 metres deep and will be extended to a total depth of 55 metres.

At Talbingo, construction teams have moved more than 310,000 cubic metres of earth, about half the total amount that will need to be moved for the intake excavation. More than 24,000 metres of rock bolts have been installed and 8,300 square metres of shotcrete sprayed to support the wall.

The shotcrete is tested for compressive strength with samples taken from the truck and cored from the face. The rock bolts undergo pull testing to check they are correctly installed and meet the design and quality requirements.

When complete, the total height of the Talbingo intake excavation will be 104 metres, with about 31 metres of that below the typical reservoir water level.

Project reset

Following a reset of the Snowy 2.0 pumped-hydro project, the estimated total cost of delivery has been revised to $12 billion. The reset includes an additional 200MW or 10% capacity, bringing total capacity to 2,200MW.

Approximately 80% of the billions of dollars of investment will go into Australian jobs, goods, services and skills.

Snowy Hydro CEO Dennis Barnes said the reset will enable the commercially sustainable and successful delivery of the project.

"Snowy 2.0 is being engineered to deliver clean and reliable storage and electricity generation for Australians for at least the next 150 years," Mr Barnes said.

"It is a truly transformative national project that is generating jobs and significant investment in regional areas."

Construction of Snowy 2.0 is now approximately 40% complete with first power to be delivered in the second half of 2027. The target date for commercial operation of all Snowy 2.0 units is December 2028.

Powerhouse design

With the completion of the main access tunnel (MAT) and key drill and blast activities for construction tunnels, work has begun to excavate the cavern complex 800m underground where Snowy 2.0's power station will be located.

The two main caverns being excavated to house the machine hall and the transformer hall are huge – about 1.5 times the length of the Melbourne Cricket Ground and the equivalent of a 20-storey building in height. The caverns will house six generating units and associated equipment, as well as overhead travelling cranes at the crown of the caverns for lifting and manoeuvering electromechanical equipment.

Snowy 2.0's lead civil structural engineer, Arlene DelaCruz, manages the civil and structural design reviews across all structures on the pumped-hydro project, including the power station complex, in accordance with Australian code, international code and best engineering practice.

Arlene joined the project 18 months ago and is responsible for coordination and communications with design contractors, consultants and engineers based in different locations and timezones.

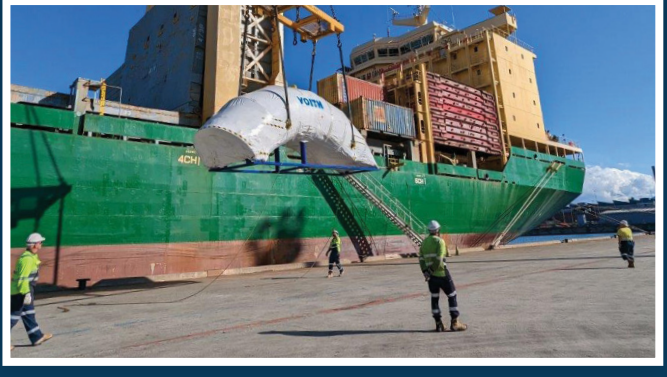
"We start with the submission of calculations, drawings and 3D models which the Snowy team reviews," she said. "If any issues in the design are identified, we discuss them and find a solution where every party agrees."

Engineering and design teams are making use of sophisticated 3D modelling and digital tools to visualise the many components of Snowy 2.0 as construction progresses. These tools create a 3D virtual environment to put everything in one place and see how all the components interact. Now that construction of the cavern is underway, it will be a continuous cycle of design verifications based on actual site conditions.

One challenge in the design of the powerhouse is its stiffness and vibration study. The design considers rock-structure interface as the power station complex structure will be anchored to the rock for additional support. Structural engineers, together with the geotechnical engineers, will closely monitor the behaviour of the interface during construction.

Arlene has been in civil structural practice for 17 years, for the past eight in hydro power and sees the Snowy 2.0 project as a once in a lifetime opportunity.

The design for the Snowy 2.0 power station, including the pump turbines, motor generators, transformers and many other huge and complex components, is being delivered by Voith Hydro, a 155-year old German company, and Tractebel Engie for the civil and geotechnical scope. Some components have already arrived in Australia, ready to be installed when the power station caverns are constructed.



Arlene DelaCruz on site; power station components arrive; conceptual design of Snowy 2.0 power station

Massive deliveries

The Hunter Power Project reached another milestone recently with the delivery of two giant generator stators. Weighing in at 313 tonnes, each generator is the equivalent weight of a commercial aeroplane loaded with passengers, luggage and fuel. The transportation was a complex logistical undertaking requiring liaison with the Port of Newcastle, the team at Mitsubishi in Japan and local engineered transportation company Rex Andrews.

After arriving at the Port of Newcastle, the generators were transported over two separate journeys, requiring a convoy pulled by five prime movers. The entire set was 150 metres long, 6.5 metres wide and 5.4 metres high, with a total weight of approximately 658 tonnes.

Snowy Hydro CEO Dennis Barnes said the deliveries were the result of months of meticulous planning from the Hunter Power Project team and marked a significant project milestone.

"Investment in dispatchable generators like the Hunter Power Project is vitally important as Australia transitions to renewable energy, which will ultimately benefit the environment and future generations," Mr Barnes said.

Once onsite, each of the generators was readied for lifting using a 600 tonne lift-and-lock jacking system. With the required pre-checks and inspections complete, the units were lifted to a height of five metres and moved horizontally 12 metres before being lowered into position. The generators will eventually be connected to the two open cycle gas turbines.

When complete, the Hunter Power Project will have the capacity to contribute 660 megawatts of energy to the National Electricity Market.

Community grants

The Hunter Power Project's community grants program is attracting strong interest from a wide range of community groups, including Sunnyfield Disability Services, who are using the funds to develop their Creative Hands Project.

The Cessnock-based support group is offering free weekly pottery classes for adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. The activities provide a creative and sensory experience which can help reduce the onset of challenging behaviour.

One of the pottery classes involved making snails for the participants to decorate their gardens. Regular recreational and therapeutic projects empower Sunnyfield's non-verbal clients and encourage more positive social reactions in the community.

The Hunter Power Project community grants program supports local projects and events with grants of up to $5,000.

For more information about eligibility, visit hunterpowerproject.com.au, email communityconsultation@ hunterpowerproject.com or call 1800 570 529.

Apprentice of the Year

Top: Kurt Wassink with his award and above, at work as a Snowy Hydro electrician.

In his final year of high school, Kurt Wassink had a couple of thoughts about his future. Coming from an extended family of heavy machinery operators, the Cooma local wanted to try something different and was keen to land an electrical apprenticeship. He also wanted to continue supporting community projects, a passion he'd developed when he started the Monaro billycart derby as a 15-year-old.

"I was pretty keen to work at Snowy," Kurt said. "I have a strong community mindset and I knew a bit about Snowy as my dad has been a contractor crane driver for 30 years and has done quite a few jobs for them."

While he was still studying at St Mary MacKillop College in Canberra, Kurt decided to give Snowy Hydro "a red hot crack", applying for the only role he was interested in.

Eight months later, he started his electrical apprenticeship with Snowy in Cabramurra and hasn't looked back. He later moved over to the Kosciusko region as part of the maintenance electrical crew working in Jindabyne. Kurt describes the culture at Snowy Hydro as incredibly supportive.

"It's amazing, second to none. Through COVID-19 and the bushfires it wasn't all sunshine and roses, it's been a bit rough for people. A lot of good comes out of Snowy and everyone helps out."

Now a fully qualified electrician, Kurt finished his apprenticeship with a nomination for the 2023 NSW Training Apprentice of the Year (regional). He says he was "very surprised" to take out the top prize for the Riverina region at an event at the Wagga Civic Centre in June.

Kurt recently completed the interview process for NSW Apprentice of the Year, celebrating the most outstanding apprentice across all regions. The winner will be announced later this year.

And he's found plenty of opportunities to contribute to the community spirit at Snowy. Kurt helps out with information sessions for new intakes and volunteers at events, often in the background setting up or making calls. The billycart derby he started as a teenager is still going strong.

"What you put into the community is what you get out of it. If you're active and passionate about people around you, it comes back in spades."

Start your Snowy career

Up to 10% of the Snowy Hydro workforce is employed in training and development programs, including apprenticeships, traineeships, and a graduate program.

Year 9 Careers Open Day

Opportunity for year 9 students from around the region to visit Snowy Hydro and hear from Snowy engineers, climate scientists and STEM experts to learn about career options.

Work experience

Programs including the well-established week or fortnight in years 10–12 to help young people appreciate the sort of work that matches their interests.

Traineeships

Complete a TAFE qualification in Business (12 months) or Information Technology (24 months) and gain real-world, on-the-job experience as a trainee. Trainees are employed on a full-time contract and paid to learn.

Apprenticeships

Complete a four-year mechanical or electrical TAFE qualification and gain on-the-job training and mentoring by Snowy's experienced tradespeople.

Sustainable communities

The search is on to find this year's tidiest town and most sustainable city through the Keep Australia Beautiful campaign. The iconic environmental program began more than 40 years ago to recognise communities for their outstanding efforts to reduce litter, increase recycling and improve their local environment.

The flagship Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities Award has a number of categories including the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation category, sponsored in 2023 by Snowy Hydro and Red Energy. This category focuses on initiatives and community engagement programs that raise awareness, foster resilience and address the challenges posed by climate change.

The sponsorship demonstrates Snowy Hydro and Red Energy's commitment to environmental stewardship and aligns with Snowy's role in underpinning Australia's transition to a low-carbon future.

"We are proud to have lived, breathed and delivered renewable energy to Australians through the mighty Snowy Scheme for generations and are committed to continuing this legacy and enhancing it with initiatives like Snowy 2.0," said Snowy Hydro CEO Dennis Barnes.

"Our sponsorship of the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities Awards is just one of the ways we can increase awareness about how Snowy is supporting the transition to renewables in Australia."

Snowy Hydro and Red Energy want to encourage and motivate community groups around NSW to take proactive measures towards climate resilience and a clean energy future. The awards are an ideal way for businesses, schools and councils to showcase their activities and provide participating communities with the opportunity to join the prestigious cohort of Keep Australia Beautiful winners.

According to Ian Judd, the committee chair for 2022's overall Tidy Town winner, Scone in the NSW Hunter region, the award is a badge of honour that demonstrates the love people have for their town and the pride they have for showcasing it to others.

Applications for the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation category are now open, with the winners of the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities Awards announced at ceremonies later this year.

Keep Australia Beautiful®

SCIENCE OF THE SNOWY SCHEME

with Kirsten Banks

Discover the science behind the mighty Snowy Scheme this spring!

Join Wiradjuri astrophysicist and science communicator Kirsten Banks as she applies her love for exploring the cosmos and breaking down complex concepts to her journey across the Snowy Scheme

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The education program, including the 10-part video series, activities and answer sheets can be found on the **Next Generation Education Hub** on Snowy Hydro's website.

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Mogul Matt's final tilt at Olympic gold

Australian mogul ski champion and Red Energy ambassador Matt Graham has battled a shoulder injury for 18 months since breaking his collarbone before the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. He is currently recovering from his fourth operation and hoping to return to full training and competition this northern winter season.

How do you overcome major injuries and setbacks, stay positive and overcome fear?

After each surgery I have been able to return to training and competing before undergoing another operation, which has allowed my head to stay in the game. I have the benefit of many years' experience so I trust my instincts and let the muscle memory take over. I also just really enjoy mogul skiing and that keeps me hungry to get back to the sport.

What's on the program for you in the lead-up to the next winter Olympics in Italy?

The 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan will be my last Games so I will be going in hoping to hunt down another medal, preferably a gold. My focus now is to allow my collarbone to get back to full strength and health before the 2023-24 World Cup season which kicks off in December. From then, my training and focus will be on preparing myself to peak at my last Olympics.

Have you thought about what you'd like to do once you hang up the skis from competition?

I completed a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 2022 and have been using this injury recovery period to get some work experience in the construction industry. I am currently doing some work for a building company in Sydney before getting back to training in September.

You've been sponsored by Red Energy since 2018. What do you tell family and friends about Red?

I like to tell them about the link between Snowy Hydro and Red Energy and that it is entirely Australian-owned. The majority of comments from family and friends who are now with Red Energy are related to the high level of customer service they have received if they have any queries or questions. Hearing those positive comments always makes me feel great about being a Red Energy ambassador.

Australian mogul ski champ Matt Graham

100% renewable

Thredbo Resort is the first Australian ski resort to have its major operations 100% powered by renewable electricity supplied by Red Energy. This includes power to the resort's chairlifts, snowmaking, public area lighting, administration and staff facilities.

The resort has also been awarded EarthCheck gold status three years in a row for meeting environmental standards across 10 different performance areas including energy efficiency and waste management.

Thredbo General Manager Stuart Diver says the team is proud of its achievements in the sustainability space.

"Innovative environmental initiatives cover all aspects of resort operations so we can preserve our unique alpine backyard for generations to come," Stuart said. "Becoming powered by renewable energy has been our goal for some time now and by achieving this we've set the environmental benchmark for Australian resorts."

THREDBO

Future stars

Snowy Hydro is proud to announce its partnership with Stars Foundation for a new mentoring program at Tumut High School supporting local Indigenous girls and young women.

The three-year sponsorship will assist Stars Foundation in delivering support and personal development focussed on health, education and employment outcomes to help the students unlock their future potential.

Along with school study, the program offers a range of activities related to music, sport, art, cooking and wellbeing to encourage completion of year 12 and transition into work or further study. Students are also encouraged to volunteer in community and cultural activities to help build their confidence and life skills.

The partnership with Stars Foundation continues Snowy Hydro's commitment to initiatives that support local communities to develop and thrive.

Snowy Hydro CEO Dennis Barnes said the opportunity to assist the development of local Indigenous girls through the foundation's intensive school-based mentoring was extremely important.

"Snowy already has a successful partnership with the Clontarf Foundation in Tumut, which supports Indigenous boys to continue their schooling," Dennis said. "Enabling the Stars Foundation to deliver their mentoring and engagement programs to Indigenous young women in the same area is exciting for us. We want to see these students shine."

Stars Foundation began in 2015 and today supports and mentors 2,600 girls and young women in 49 schools across Australia.

Tools for a trade-based career

Women interested in pursuing a trade-based career can discover their options at a trade day in Corryong sponsored by the Snowy Hydro Community Grants Program.

The Tool Skills Day, hosted by Empowered Women in Trades (EWIT), aims to inspire local students and young women to learn a skilled trade in the disciplines of civil, electrical and mechanical.

EWIT was one of 20 successful applicants from round one of the 2023 Snowy Hydro Community Grants program and strongly aligns with Snowy's commitment to a diverse and inclusive workforce.

Snowy Hydro has a range of entry-level programs that provide opportunities for local young people to go straight from the classroom into an energising and practical career.

The Tool Skills Day will be held at the Corryong Community Centre in September with hands-on workshops, information on trades-based career pathways, and the chance to chat one-on-one with 'tradie ladies'.

STEM school funding

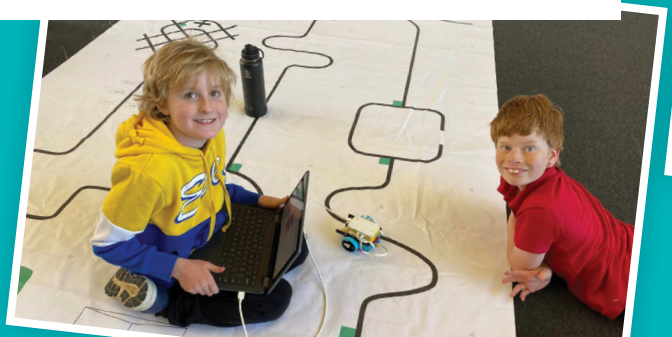
Snowy Hydro's 2023 Local School STEM Fund program is underway, with students enjoying hands-on experiences to challenge their creativity and critical thinking. Snowy has distributed approximately $160,000 in funding to schools in 10 locations to contribute to science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) initiatives.

At Cooma North Public School, the funds have been used to purchase 3D printers for students to see their own designs come to life. The school's weekly Robotics Club also secured funding to provide classroom expansion kits for students to be involved in various workshops and events. As part of the STEM Fund program, Snowy Hydro engineers have been joining the students to support them for an upcoming competition.

The collaboration with local schools has also led to a NAIDOC children's expo and STEM camp hosted by Brungle Public, a small school of 12 students. The two-day interactive event was attended by 280 students from local regional schools and featured special guests, workshops and performances connected to local Aboriginal knowledge and STEM subjects.

Snowy Hydro is committed to the local school community and the development of engagement with STEM subjects. The next round of applications for the Snowy Hydro Local School STEM Fund will open in February 2024.

For more information visit:
www.snowyhydro.com.au/localstemfund



Grants announced for great ideas

Funding from the first round of Snowy Hydro's Community Grants Program has now been distributed to 20 successful applicants across a range of community groups, events and initiatives across the Snowy Mountains and surrounds. Grants of up to $10,000 are awarded to support local initiatives.

A panel of judges examined more than 45 applications to ensure all of those successfully funded are underpinned by Snowy Hydro's values and the four community commitment pillars of education and development, health and wellbeing, regional capacity building and environment.

A total of $143,000 in funding will go towards one school event, five sporting-based community groups, nine community associations and several other events and programs.

The Snowy Hydro Community Grants Program has two rounds of funding each year, with 2023's second round now open. Interested applicants will need to demonstrate their project or event aligns with Snowy Hydro's grant selection criteria.

To learn more about Snowy Hydro's Community Grants Program visit:
www.snowyhydro.com.au/communitygrantsprogram

Matt Graham, Australian Mogul Skiing
Olympian and Red Energy Ambassador

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