



TBM4 competition winner **Monica Brimmer** (Year 9)

"This painting represents two things – the electricity being created underground by the TBMs and the flowing water of the dams.

"The colourless background represents the tunnels of the TBM, while the animal tracks symbolise us moving towards a greener future in which the land and our animals are better cared for."

The fourth mega tunnel boring machine on Snowy 2.0 is named after Tumut High School student Monica Brimmer, whose artwork won first place in a First Nations art and storytelling competition hosted in partnership by Snowy Hydro and the Stars Foundation.

"Knowing there's something really important to the project out there with my name, in the mountains, is really cool," Monica said.

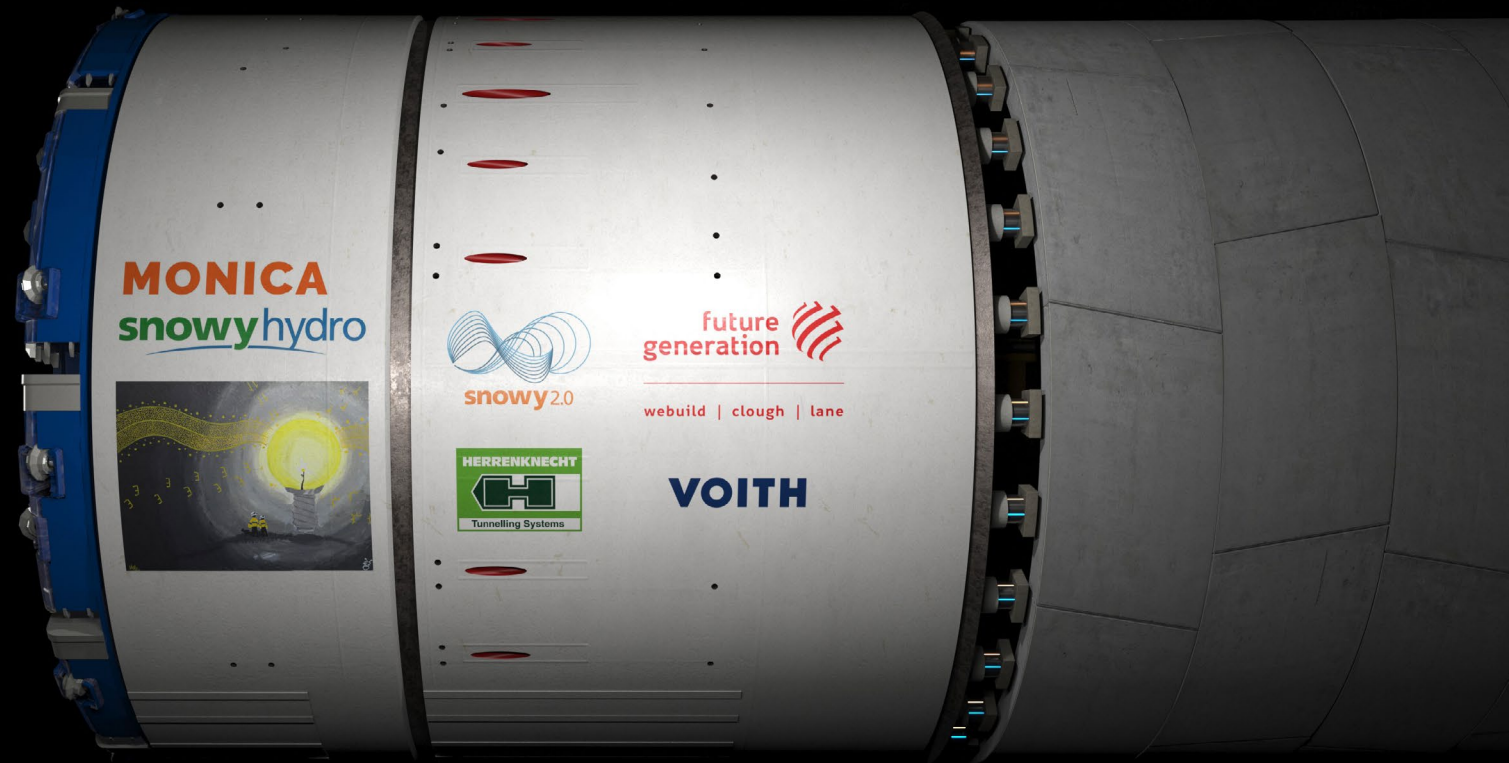
"I've been interested in engineering for quite a while – and it's pretty cool to put art and engineering together as part of something I could put my mind to."



Check out all the artwork submissions: P3-P7

Breaking new ground

'Magical' artwork celebrates the spirit of Snowy 2.0



Learn more about our mega TBMs

A tunnel boring machine, or TBM, is a large, purpose-built machine used to dig tunnels deep underground.

TBMs work by slowly rotating a cutting head at the front of the machine, breaking through rock and soil - also known as spoil - as they move forward.

As the tunnel is formed, the machine installs concrete lined segments, creating a strong, stable tunnel as it moves.

During the construction of Snowy 2.0, TBMs will excavate 27 kilometres of tunnels deep underground whereas the

remaining excavation will be carried out through methods including drilling and blasting.

TBM Monica is 178 metres long, 12 metres high - the equivalent of a four-storey building - and weighs more than 3300 tonnes.



What's in a name?

The tradition of naming tunnel boring machines (TBMs) after women dates back hundreds of years.

Inspired by St Barbara - the patron saint of miners, tunnellers and underground workers - the tradition goes far beyond superstition. machines are named for both luck and safety.

Statues of St Barbara are blessed and installed at new tunnel entrances across the globe and Snowy 2.0 proudly continues this practice.

St Patrick's Cooma parish priest Fr Mark Croker explained: "The story of St Barbara shows us the power of faith, it shows us the power of courage.

"For miners, these values were vital in their daily work and they remain inspiring for all of us in those difficult times all of us face daily."

snowhydro



Scan QR code below to learn more about the stories behind the art



Check out the other incredible artworks submitted to Snowy Hydro's TBM4 naming competition by Tumut High School students participating in the Stars Foundation program.



Bryelle Scobie (Year 9)

Titled *Waawii of the Snowy*, Bryelle explains her artwork's story.

"The blue is for the sky and the brown is for the ground, the wavy lines symbolise rain to fill the dams to make electricity.

"The wombat represents the machine tunnelling between the dams, the meeting places symbolise the people that are working on the project.

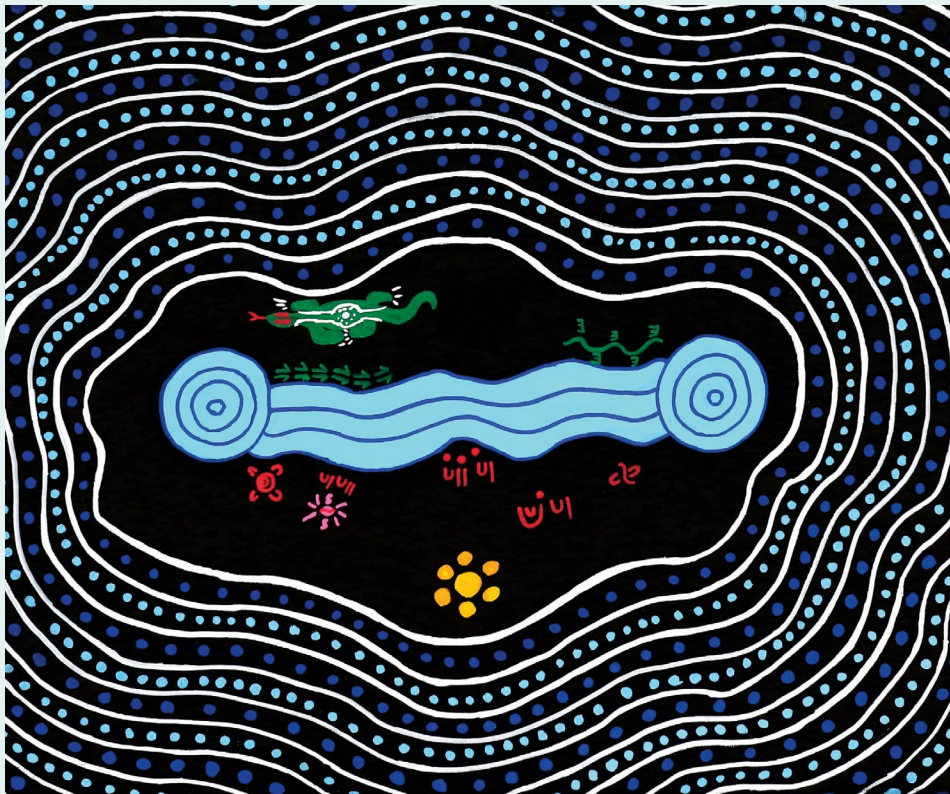
"The stars symbolise the three machines before and the lines on the wombat represent power/electricity."



Zoey Oaive
(Year 8)

“In this piece, I’ve explored the connection between the Snowy 2.0 project and the land itself.

“The work peels back the surface and highlights the intersection of engineering and Country.”



Keilani Piemonte
(Year 8)

“The blues represent water flowing through the land and helping create clean energy.

“The meeting places stand for the people coming together as a mob to work, learn and share knowledge.

“The sky shows the sun setting over the mountains, reminding us of the natural beauty and of the power of nature.”



Ruby McNally
(Year 9)

“The power station is in the centre of the artwork, being an important and central focus on the energy output.

“The symbols around it represent the dedicated Snowy 2.0 workers.

“The blue is the water traveling through the machine to create energy.”



Makayla Lotter
(Year 7)

“My painting represents water as being the main source of energy as it is an important part of our existence.

“Water is the primary source of energy in the middle of the artwork.”



Marli Hartshorn
(Year 10)

“My artwork is a map of what’s happening beneath our feet. It follows a tunnel boring machine on its journey through the Earth.

“I wanted to show respect for the Country it’s moving through and reveal the unseen parts of the mountains that most people never get to see.”



Charlotte Brimmer
(Year 9)

“My painting represents Mother Nature and how we can use Earth’s natural resources to create what we need.

“The yellow is the source of energy, the blue is the water which is needed to generate the energy.

“The water brings the trees to life and the trees create oxygen.”



Sierra Connolly
(Year 10)

“I created this piece to show the connection between the mountains and the Snowy 2.0 project.

“We wanted to honour the land where the giant tunnels connect the Tantangara and Talbingo dams, showing the hidden layers that are usually tucked away deep underground.”



Skye Burns
(Year 7)

“My painting represents the use of water to create energy.

“The background is swirls of blue representing water and in the front and centre is a light bulb which is shining bright representing the electricity that is produced through Snowy 2.0.”



Jazmine Crompton
(Year 11)

Jazmine details how **Connecting Australia Through Renewable Energy** focuses on a brighter tomorrow.

“Yellow dots show energy flowing to diverse communities, each uniquely represented, and the figures show Snowy Hydro staff and locals, symbolising collaboration and a shared future.

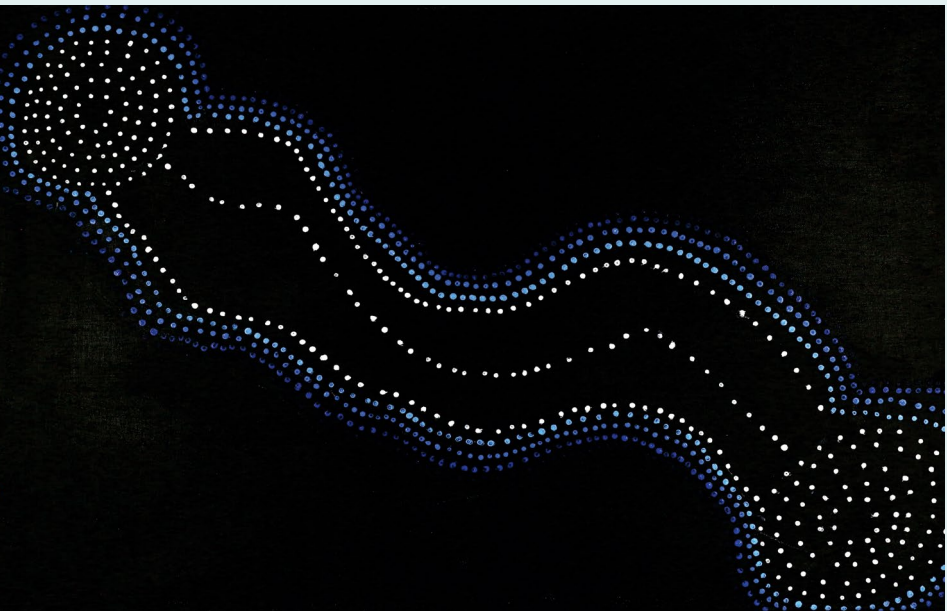
This piece also honours Snowy Hydro’s support of the Stars Foundation and its impact on young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women - highlighting a shared commitment to empowerment and sustainability.



Dakota Hibbens
(Year 8)

“My painting represents the Tantangara and Talbingo reservoirs, which are already part of the Snowy Scheme.

“It’s symbolic of water being pumped uphill to the higher reservoir during periods of low energy demand and then releasing it downhill to generate electricity when needed.”





Budding artists at work

Our commitment to community

At Snowy, we believe energy should do more than just keep the lights on. It should help power strong, sustainable communities.

While our operations continue to grow beyond the original Snowy Scheme, the Snowy Mountains remain the heart of our business.

Community engagement plays a significant role in how we deliver on this commitment.

We focus on open, respectful and consistent conversations with our stakeholders, partners and wider community, making sure that local voices help shape the work we do.

We work alongside our communities to create shared value, invest in local economies and support our ambition that no one is left behind in the energy transition.

Snowy Hydro Head of Social Impact and Community Sarah Norris said the project's links with the Stars Foundation formed a core part of that commitment.

"These partnerships are an absolute testament to our collective support and commitment for local young people and the next generation of community leaders."

Head of Social Impact and Community Sarah Norris

"It's about building meaningful relationships and creating pathways for success.

"We're eager to support ongoing opportunities and nurture these existing relationships into the future."



About Stars Foundation

Established in 2015, the Stars Foundation provides a holistic mentoring program that supports more than 4100 female First Nations students in primary and secondary schools across all mainland states and the Northern Territory.

Key indicators have shown:

- average school attendance for Stars students in 2025 was **78 per cent** compared to **67 per cent** for all Indigenous students at Stars' partner schools;
- **90 per cent** of 2025 Year 12 Stars students successfully completed their final year compared with the national Indigenous average of **68 per cent**;
- **78 per cent** of 2024 graduates successfully transitioned to work or further study.

Central to Snowy Hydro's partnership with the Stars is a shared focus on education and mentorship.

Through our joint efforts, we seek to provide young Indigenous women with the tools, guidance and support they need to realise their full potential.



Scan QR code below to learn more about Stars Foundation

