TBM Monica weighs in at 3341 tonnes and is 12 metres high - the equivalent of a four-storey building.

Monica makes her mark

Purpose-built to handle challenging conditions

A major pumped hydropower expansion to the Snowy Scheme, Snowy 2.0 links existing reservoirs Tantangara and Talbingo through 27 kilometres of tunnels and a new hydroelectric power station located almost 1 kilometre underground at Lobs Hole.

Essentially a giant battery, Snowy 2.0 will store excess power from wind and solar and deliver it to homes and businesses when it's needed most.

Snowy 2.0's 2,200 megawatt (MW) capacity will deliver enough energy to power 3 million homes for a week, equivalent to around 23 million home batteries.

While the project's 17 kilometre headrace tunnel was initially designed to be completed solely by TBM Florence, a purpose-built tunnel boring machine is required due to challenging geological conditions.

TBM Monica has been designed to address these challenges and will travel through difficult rock formations, including a 850-metre-long fault zone.

This machine has a larger cutterhead than TBM Florence and also requires the production of bespoke concrete segments from the project's precast facility at Polo Flat and alterations to our fleet of segment trucks.

Launching from the Marica worksite, just outside Kiandra, TBM Monica will travel approximately 1.4 kilometres before it dives more than 300 metres underground and joins the headrace tunnel.

From there, TBM Monica will travel eastward towards TBM Florence - which was launched from Tantangara.

The borers will meet deep underground in the Snowy Mountains before they are disassembled and removed from the Marica tunnel portal.

Learn more inside about TBM Monica's Snowy 2.0 journey

Safety, precision crucial for deliveries to remote sites

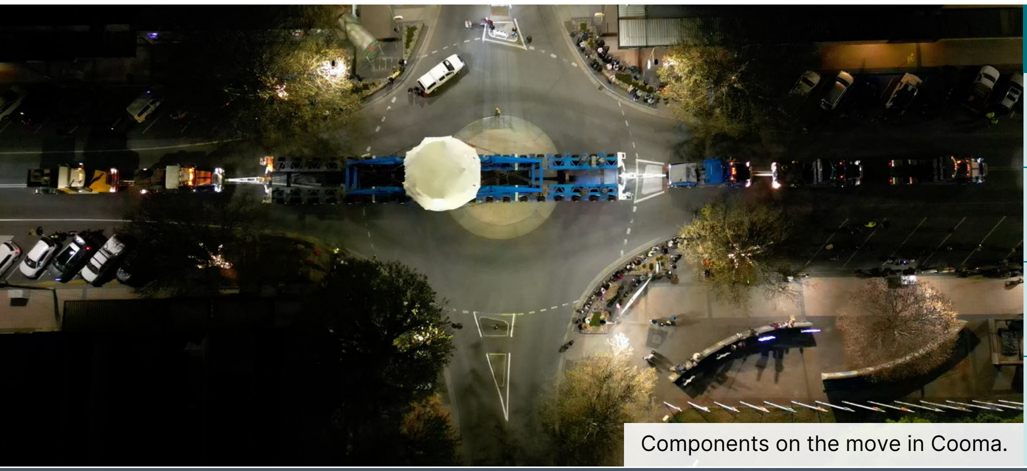
The precise coordination required to transport large loads and the project's booming workforce to remote worksites safely is no mean feat - especially given the Snowy Mountains' variable weather conditions.

The project's dedicated traffic and transport team worked closely with Transport for NSW, NSW Police, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and local councils to plan and organise TBM Monica deliveries.

The machine itself underwent rigorous testing in China before it was disassembled and shipped to Port Kembla with the first load arriving at the Marica site, just off the Snowy Mountains Highway outside Kiandra, in mid-August 2025.

In the intervening months, deliveries clocked up more than 85,000 kilometres and included more than 120 super loads requiring police and pilot vehicle escorts.

TBM Monica has been purpose-built for Snowy 2.0.


Components on the move in Cooma.

TBM Monica deliveries

- **60×40ft** containers: 629 tonnes
- **131** individual (break bulk) items: 2913 tonnes
- **3542** tonnes of cargo
- **26** police escorted loads

History in the making

More than 1500 people converged on Cooma in October 2025 to witness the delivery of TBM Monica's main drive - one of the largest loads ever transported in NSW.

The big rig tipped the scales at a mammoth weight of more than 450 tonnes – across five trucks and a trailer, driven by 210 wheels across 35 separate axles.

Snowy Hydro Head of Social Impact and Community Sarah Norris said the mega transfer evoked memories of the Thornycroft Antars hauling machinery and construction as part of the original Snowy Scheme.

The roadside and driveways were also lit up from Bredbo to Adaminaby for the must-see event.

"We were blown away by the community's attendance – it was a truly special evening and there was an incredible atmosphere," she said.

> "We appreciate there were quite a few little people that stayed up past their bedtimes to witness a little piece of Snowy history."


The big rig transfer attracted more than 1500 locals.

Scan QR code watch Monica's mega move

snowyhydro

How does a TBM work?

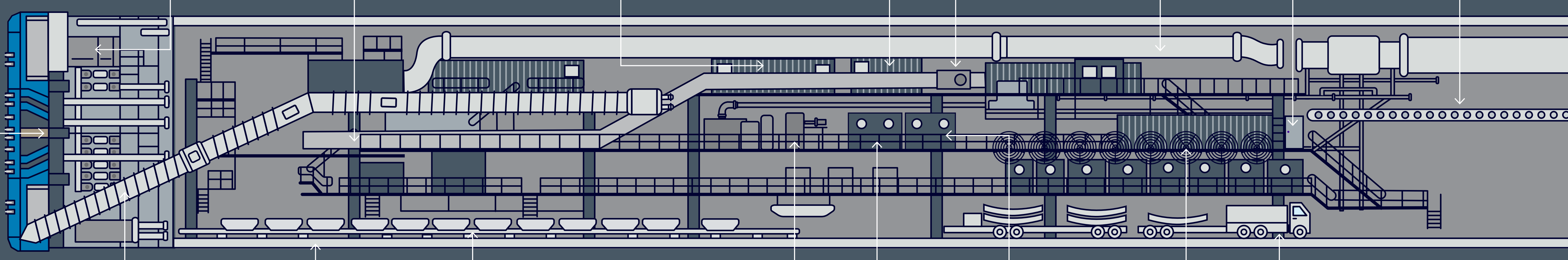


*Illustration purposes only

Top marks for winning art

TBM Monica was named after a talented Tumut High School Student who created a winning artwork for an First Nations art and storytelling competition organised by Snowy Hydro in partnership with the Stars Foundation and Tumut High School.

Monica Brimmer took her inspiration from flowing water, connected dams, mountains, energy, an underground power station and a connection to Country.

Monica said her artwork, pictured below, represented the creation of renewable energy and symbolised a "greener future in which the land and our animals are better cared for".

"When my name was read out I felt nervous and surprised but also really proud. I had hoped to win the competition but I really didn't expect it," she said.

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

> "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."
>
> Monica Brimmer,
> TBM namesake

Julie and Monica Brimmer celebrate winning the TBM4 naming competition.

TBM Monica stats

Manufacturer: Herrenknecht	
Length: 178 metres	Equivalent to 16 double-decker buses
Height: 12 metres	Equivalent to a four storey building
Weight: 3341 tonnes	Equivalent to 18 Boeing 747s
Segments: 28,575 (approx) **Rings:** 3175 (approx)	Nine segments per ring