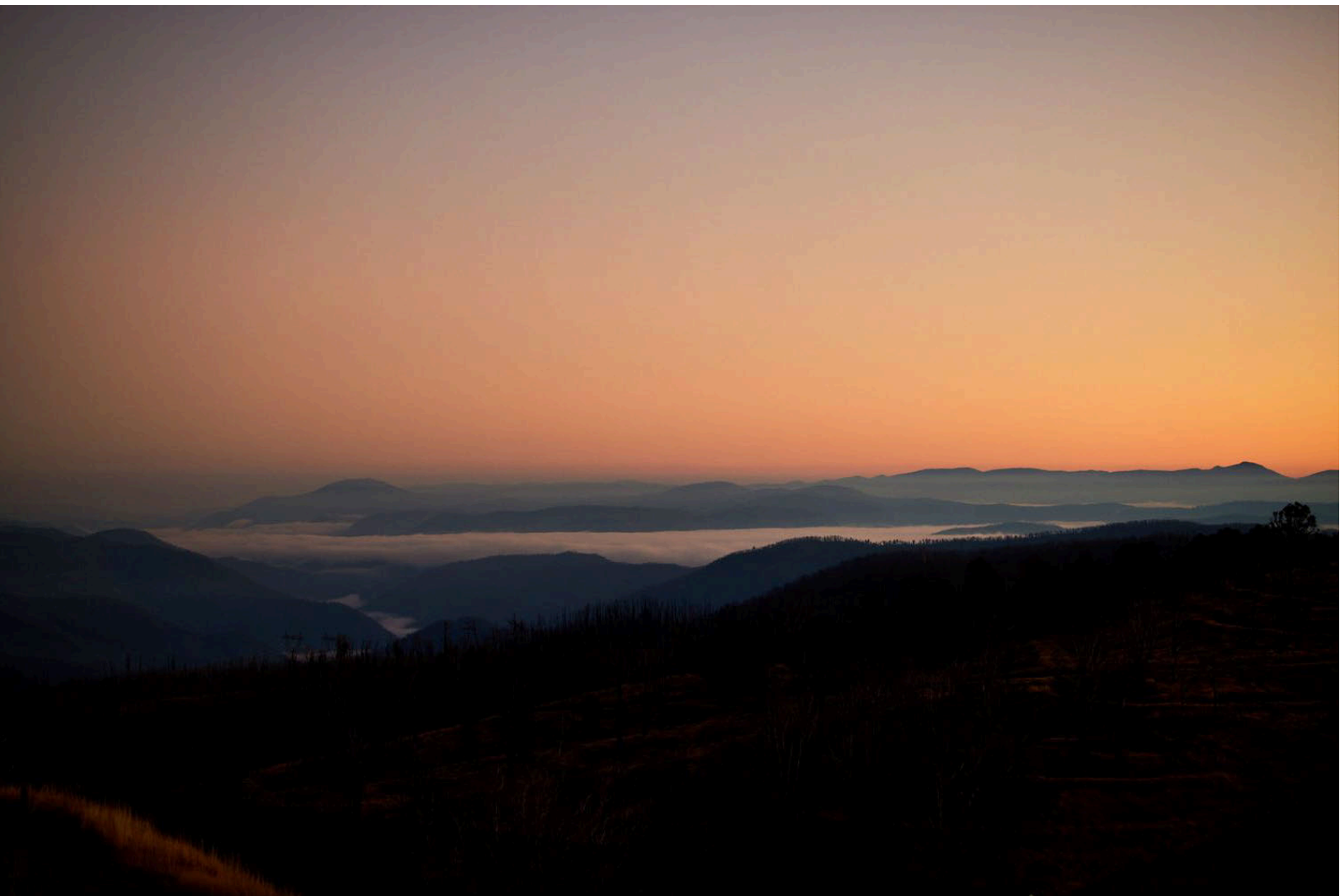




Snowy 2.0 - Annual Rehabilitation Report

June 2025 - May 2026



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Date: 17 July 2026

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1. Introduction

This annual report provides an overview of the rehabilitation activities undertaken for the Snowy 2.0 project during the reporting period June 2025 to May 2026. In accordance with Schedule 3 Condition 10(k) of CSSI-9687 and condition 25 of EPBC 2018/8322, the purpose of this document is to publicly report on the following rehabilitation elements:

- Overall rehabilitation progress;
- Rehabilitation of individual sites undertaken within the previous 12 months (June-May);
- Implementation of site specific rehabilitation plans; including the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation and contingency measures;
- Progress against completion criteria and performance indicators;
- Activation of any Trigger Actions Response Plans (TARPs) and details of response actions taken;
- Results of monitoring programs undertaken; and
- Draft rehabilitation program for the next reporting period

2. Summary of Rehabilitation Progress

Due to the project still being in construction, only a few small areas have been made available for rehabilitation in the reporting period June 2025 to May 2026. These sites are listed in Table 1 and 2 below. The majority of the project site can be defined as being in the “Active rehabilitation” phase (as defined by the Rehabilitation Completion Criteria, Snowy 2.0 Rehabilitation Management Plan Stage 1 (RMP), Section 4.4, Table 4-4,). The construction camps, laydowns and stockpile areas are still in heavy use. This also includes large sections of the internal road network utilising the verge for utilities and sediment basins to manage surface water run off. Given the status of the site this report will primarily focus on the approved site specific rehabilitation plans.

Areas available for final rehabilitation include:

Table 1. Areas available for final rehabilitation in the 2025-2026 reporting period

Stage 2 Management Plan	Stage 3 Site Specific Management Plan
Tantangara Reservoir Rehabilitation Management Plan (to be developed)	Tantangara Creek Fish Weir (approved)
Tantangara Reservoir Rehabilitation Management Plan (to be developed)	Tantangara Surface Depression (approved)

Table 2. Areas available for partial or progressive rehabilitation in the 2025-2026 reporting period

Stage 2 Management Plan	Stage 3 Site Specific Management Plan
Plateau Rehabilitation Management Plan (approved)	Plateau - Gooandra Trail to Nungar Creek
Marica Rehabilitation Management Plan (approved)	Marica Main Access Road Verge and Waterway Crossings

Plateau Rehabilitation Management Plan (approved)	BH3203 and BH3210 (approved)
Marica Rehabilitation Management Plan (approved)	BH4201 and BH4202 (approved)

Table 3 summarises the rehabilitation of individual sites undertaken within the previous 12 months. Further details on the works completed at each site as per the individual site specific rehabilitation plans is included in Section 3 below.

Table 3. Overall rehabilitation progress summary 2025-2026

Site Specific sub Plan	Area	Rehabilitation phase*	Current works
Tantangara Fish Weir	1.1 ha	Ecosystem and Land Use Development	Ground stabilisation complete, jute mesh and straw mulch applied, weed spraying continues, tubestock planting planned for Autumn 2027
Tantangara Surface Depression	0.1 ha	Ecosystem and Land Use Development	Ground stabilisation complete, jute mesh and straw mulch applied, weed spraying continues, tubestock planting planned for Autumn 2027
Plateau - Gooandra Trail to Nungar Creek	10 ha	Ecosystem and Land Use Development	Ground stabilisation complete, jute mesh and straw mulch applied, weed spraying continues, tubestock planting planned for Autumn 2027
Plateau - Nungar Creek to Tantangara Hill	2.1 ha	Active	Rehabilitation postponed due to ongoing construction, ongoing weed spraying as required
Plateau - Tantangara Hill	1.3 ha	Active	Rehabilitation postponed due to ongoing construction, ongoing weed spraying as required
BH3203 & BH3210	0.45 ha	Ecosystem and Land Use Development	Thatch applied, excellent natural regeneration occurring, ongoing weed spraying as required
BH4201 & BH4202	0.69 ha	Ecosystem and Land Use Development	Thatch applied, excellent natural regeneration occurring, ongoing weed spraying as required
Marica main access road Dip Creek & Eucumbene River Crossing	0.35 ha	Ecosystem and Land Use Development	Ground stabilisation complete, straw mulch and hydromulch applied, tubestock planting planned for Autumn 2027, ongoing weed spraying as required

*For Rehabilitation Phase definitions, please refer to Rehabilitation Completion Criteria; Snowy 2.0 Rehabilitation Management Plan - Stage 1, Section 4.4, Table 4-4.

3. Rehabilitation of Individual Sites

This section details the rehabilitation progress for each site, including the implementation of the site specific rehabilitation plans, and effectiveness of any mitigation measures identified and implemented through the monitoring program.

3.1 Tantangara Creek Fish Weir

3.1.1 Summary

Total Area: 1.1 ha

Rehabilitation Phase: Ecosystem Development and Land Use Establishment

As part of the Snowy 2.0 Project, a weir was constructed in Tantangara Creek to provide a physical barrier to prevent the Climbing Galaxias fish from entering the habitat of the critically endangered Stocky Galaxias, and impacting them through predation and/or resource competition. The Fish Weir is located on the Plateau between Kiandra and Tantangara, west of the Snowy Mountains Highway (SMH).

There are three main areas associated with the Fish Weir construction to be rehabilitated:

- 8 passing bays on the Nungar Creek Fire Trail
- The Fish Weir site and laydown area
- A temporary track from SMH to Eucumbene River approximately 150m long

Construction of the Tantangara Creek Fish Weir was completed in April 2025 allowing for initial rehabilitation activities to be undertaken prior to winter. This included reinstatement of site won topsoil, seeding and mulching of the 8 passing bays along Nungar Creek Fire Trail, temporary track from SMH and Eucumbene River, and Fish Weir and laydowns site in May 2025. Just mesh was also applied at the Fish Weir site to prevent erosion. Weed spraying for Black Thistle and Field Pansy was completed in December 2025. Tubestock planting with native grasses, trees, forbes and shrubs and placing of thatch is planned for Autumn 2027.



Figure 2. Fish Weir Passing Bay 6, 24 March 2026; excellent groundcover from straw mulch and direct seeding



Figure 3. Fish Weir Passing Bay 7, 17 March 2026; excellent ground cover from straw mulch and direct seeding



Figure 4. Tintangara Fish Weir access and laydown, 17 March 2026; excellent ground cover from straw mulch and direct seeding



Figure 5. Tintangara Fish Weir, 17 March 2026; excellent ground cover from straw much and direct seeding

3.1.2 Program of Rehabilitation Works

Table 4. Progress of rehabilitation works for Tintangara Fish Weir

Sequence	Task	Timing	Status	Comments
1	Access track verge reinstatement and topsoil spreading	March 2025	All completed May 2025	

	Obsolete passing bays reshaped, mulched, and seeded			
	Thatch applied at passing bays Watering of reinstated passing bays	April / May 2025	Post-poned	Thatch to be applied during planting of tubestock Autumn 2027. The site was hand seeded in May 2025 when adequate soil moisture therefore did not require watering. Watering to be undertaken following tubestock planting.
2	Weir site and laydown rehabilitation Diversion removal (Reshaping, topsoil placement seed and straw application). SMH to Eucumbene River Removal of road pavement and stockpiling of material for National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) use (Reshaping, topsoil placement seed and straw application). Access control – Reinstatement of rocks	April /May 2025	All completed by May 2025	Diversion removed May 2025 Reshaping topsoil, seed and straw mulch completed May 2025 Temporary track from SMH to Eucumbene River pavement removed, reshaping, application of topsoil and straw mulch, direct seeding by hand and placement of rocks completed by May 2025. Road pavement re-used on Goandra Trail.
3	Weed control of all areas Spring and summer prior to planting	Ongoing (November April)	Completed December 2025 - January 2026	Weed spraying for <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> (Black Thistle) and <i>Viola tricolour</i> (Field Pansy)
4	Primary revegetation - (Tube stock planting for drainage line, passing bay 1 and laydowns pending weed load and monitoring results	2025-2026 (November April)	Post-poned	The revegetation plan for all areas was reviewed and updated with new species in consultation with NPWS Tubestock planting planned for Autumn 2027
5	Secondary revegetation based on monitoring results	2026-2027 (November April)	Not started	Secondary revegetation will be undertaken in the following planting season if required

3.1.3 Mitigation Measures identified

TARP Activations: Nil

Other issues identified:

1. During a minor flood event, swelling of the Eucumbene River caused water to flow across the rehabbed temporary track between the SMH and Eucumbene River. Straw and seed placed in

this rehabilitation area washed away. The affected area is approximately 10m wide x 20m long.

Response: This rehabilitation area is within the fluvial floodplain of the Eucumbene River. It is proposed that this area be planted with with tubestock riparian species plants suitable to floodplain environment such as *Carex gaudichaudiana* (Fen Sedge), *Ozothamnus hookeri* (Kerosene Bush) and *Poa labillardierei* (Tall Tussock Grass). This has been discussed and agreed with NPWS for planting in Autumn 2027.

3.2 Tantangara Surface Depression

3.2.1 Summary

Total size: 0.1ha

Rehabilitation Phase: Ecosystem Development and Land Use Establishment

At Tantangara, Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Florence encountered unstable geological conditions during the excavation of the Head Race Tunnel (HRT) adit portal, resulting in the formation of a surface depression approximately 5m deep and 8m in diameter in December 2022.

In November 2023, the Snowy 2.0 - Main Works Modification 2 was approved to remediate the surface depression and undertake ground consolidation works near the head race tunnel adit portal at Tantangara. The Tantangara Surface Depression Rehabilitation Plan was approved in April 2024 and work commenced in May 2024 to backfill, shape, topsoil and stabilise the area. Jute mesh was placed in June 2024 to prevent erosion over winter, and in May 2025 hydromulching with native grass species was undertaken.

In April 2025, an infestation of sweet vernal grass was identified. Due to its allelopathic properties, sweet vernal grass causes the death of surrounding plants by releasing harmful biochemicals. The entire area was weed sprayed in April 2025 and again in December 2025 to successfully control the infestation.

In December 2025, initial tubestock planting and placement of some thatch was completed. All redundant sediment controls, surface monitoring equipment and concrete footings have been removed and a security fence has been installed around the entire area. Additional tubestock planting of grasses, trees, shrubs and forbs is planned for Autumn 2027.

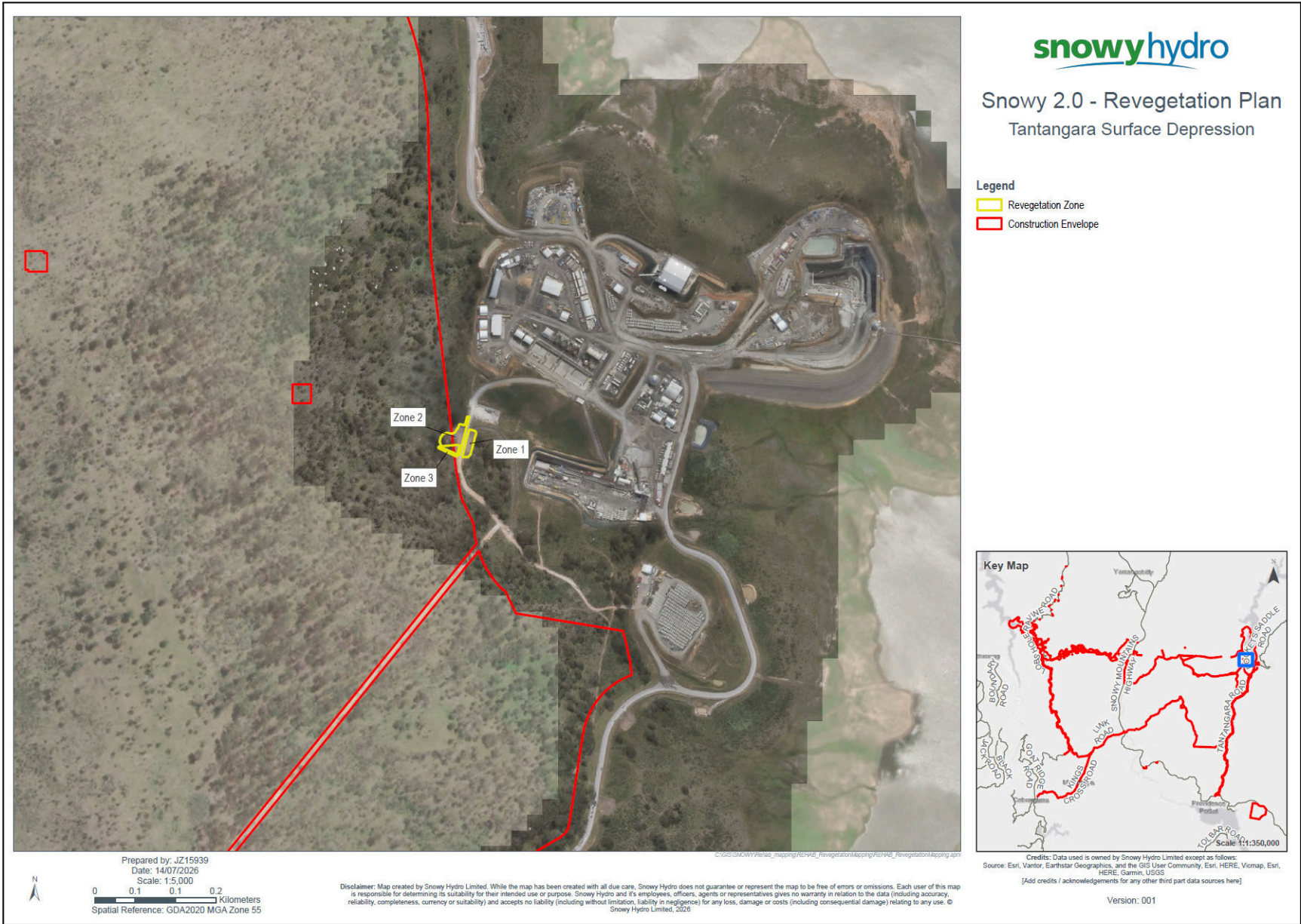


Figure 6. Overview of Tantangara Surface Depression



Figure 7. Tintangara Surface Depression, 19 March 2026; fencing in place, straw mulch and thatch applied and some tubestock planting



Figure 8. Rehabilitation of erosion and sediment control area of Tintangara Surface Depression 17 March 2026; survey controls removed, jute mesh and straw mulch applied, fencing in place and some tubestock planting

3.2.2 Program of Rehabilitation Works

Table 5. Progress of rehabilitation works for Tintangara Surface Depression

Sequence	Task	Timing	Status	Comments
1	Redmediation, back filling landforming	May 2024	Completed May 2024	

2	Topsoil application Mulching and seeding	June 2024	Completed June 2024	Topsoil and jute mesh applied
3	Weed Control	March 2025	Completed December 2025 and March 2026	Regular weed control for thistles
4	Hydro mulch and dominant native grass seed applied	April /May 2025	Completed March 2025	Hydromulching completed March 2025. Sweet vernal grass infestation identified April 2025, weed control undertaken
5	Tubestock planting of priority species identified.	November 2024 - April 2025	Completed December 2025	
6	Thatching of site with local dead branches from previous clearing activities	November 2024 - April 2025	Completed December 2025	
7	Supplementary tubestock planting	November 2025 - April 2026	Post-poned	Planned for Autumn 2027

3.2.3 Mitigation Measures Identified

TARP Activations: 1 (See Section 5 below for more details)

Event: Significant infestation of sweet vernal grass identified April 2025

Response: Weed spraying of the entire rehabilitation area completed in April 2025 and again in December 2025. Additional hydromulching, application of straw mulch and installation of fencing was undertaken in March 2026. Area to be planted with tubestock in Autumn 2027.

Outcome: Weed spraying has been successful, sweet verna grass infestation under control and will continue to be monitored.

3.3 Plateau (Gooandra Trail to Nungar Creek)

3.3.1 Summary

Total size: 10ha

Rehabilitation Phase: Ecosystem Development and Land Use Establishment

The Plateau section of the Snowy 2.0 Project refers to the construction of an underground power and communications services corridor between Tantangara Dam and Marica. The corridor predominantly runs parallel with existing roads and tracks, and was cleared of vegetation, topsoil stripped and windrowed to allow trenching and cable installation, and then backfilled.

The construction of the section between Gooandra to Nungar Creek has been largely complete since December 2023 with minor works remaining required to complete construction. Hydromulching of the finished sections of Gooandra Trail was undertaken in April 2024, with some tubestock planting of native grasses in May 2024. Initial ground stabilisation was found to be inadequate, and hydromulch

application did not meet ground cover requirements; which resulted in poor germination rates and failure of tubestock. Remediation works commenced in March 2026, with additional landform shaping, including ripping of compacted surfaces followed by hydromulching with native endemic grasses at an increased application rate of 8 tonnes per hectare (8 t/ha) in April 2026.

Following the second round of hydromulching, ground cover requirements have been met as shown in Figures 12 and 13 below. Routine weed control for Black Thistle was completed in December 2025 and March 2026. Additional tubestock planting is required to supplement the hydromulching and increase biodiversity and biomass in the disturbed areas. Secondary tubestock planting of grasses, shrubs and forbs is planned for Autumn 2027.

Additional works in this area have included the removal of all black plastic culverts, which have been replaced with concrete culverts. The culvert headwalls have been restored and stabilised with straw mulch and jute mesh. All remaining civil works along the track are now complete with extra road base material placed over all remaining exposed areas, all drainage lines reinstated and additional rollovers added.

The section between Nungar Creek and Tantangara Hill is not ready for rehabilitation as construction activities in this area are not completed. Specifically, the underground communications and power lines have not been energised or tested. Once ground stabilisation and reinstatement are completed, including topsoil and hydromulching, planting of tubestock will occur the following planting season.

The Tantangara Creek culvert installation has been delayed till Autumn 2027. The revegetation plan for this area will be reviewed with planting to occur in the following planting season.

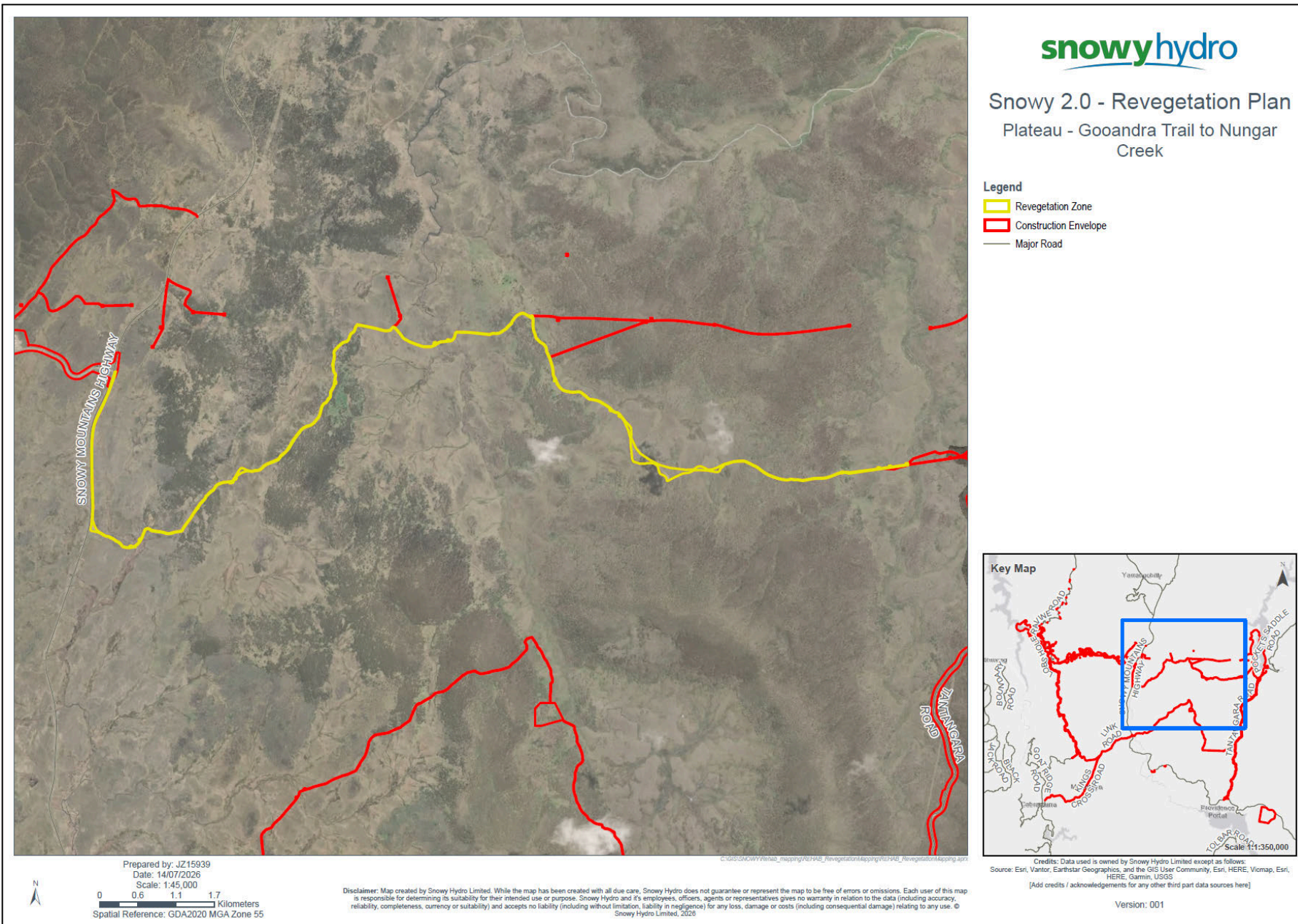


Figure 9. Overview of Plateau - Gooandra Trail to Nungar Creek



Figure 10. Gooandra Trail, 27 May 2026; hydromulching of trenchline and HDD pad complete



Figure 11. Gooandra Trail, 27 May 2026; all black plastic culverts have been replaced with concrete culverts, jute mesh and hydromulch applied



Figure 12. Gooandra Trail, 27 May 2026; former laydown pad with hydromulch and straw applied



Figure 13. Gooandra Trail, 27 May 2026; former laydown pad with hydromulch applied

3.3.2 Program of Rehabilitation Works

Table 6. Progress of rehabilitation works for Plateau - Gooandra Trail to Nungar Creek

Sequence	Task	Timing	Status	Comments
1	Access track reinstatement, HDD and laydown pads, batter reinstatement and utilities installation Hydromulching of Marica to Nungar Creek	90% complete - September 2024	Complete	Initial hydromulching undertaken in September 2024, secondary hydromulching in April 2026

2	Tantangara Hill land forming Remaining topsoil placement & straw mulch or hydro mulching – Nungar Creek to Tantangara	2024 / 2025 (November – April)	Not Complete - Area not ready for rehabilitation	Construction activities in this area are not complete. Underground communications and power lines not been energised or tested in this area.
3	Primary Revegetation (drainage line, HDD pads and laydowns tube stock planting) and weed control of all areas including the trench alignment	2024/2025 (November – April)	Partially completed grass planted, shrubs to be planted in Spring	Tubestock planting on all sites undertaken May 2025; not successful. Weed control for black thistle completed December 2025 and March 2026.
4	Secondary revegetation (additional direct seeding and tube stock planting for drainage line, HDD pads and laydowns) pending weed load and monitoring results. Tantangara Hill tubestock and direct seeding Direct seeding of alignment that has not been completed Tantangara Creek culvert installation and revegetation (to be undertaken in autumn 2025)	2024/2025 (November – April)	Not completed	Secondary tubestock planting planned for Autumn 2027. Tantangara Hill delayed, see comments above. Pending ground stabilisation and reinstatement, tubestock planting to occur the following planting season. Tantangara Creek culvert installation delayed till Autumn 2027, revegetation plan to be reviewed with revegetation to be undertaken in the following planting season.

3.3.3 Mitigation Measures Identified

TARP Activations: 1 (See Section 5 below for full details)

Event 1: Initial hydromulching by contractor did not meet ground cover requirements, minimal germination observed. Poor survival of initial planting tubestock native grasses.

Response: Additional ground stabilisation undertaken by contractor including ground scarification of compacted areas in March 2026, followed by secondary hydromulching with native endemic grass seeds at an increased rate of 8t/ha in April 2026. Secondary planting of tubestock trees, grass, shrubs and forbs planned for Autumn 2027.

Outcome: As of May 2026, ground cover requirements met with excellent germination from hydromulch. Ground cover to be monitored following winter.

3.4 Bore Hole sites BH3203 and BH3210

3.4.1 Summary

Total size: 0.45ha

Rehabilitation Phase: Ecosystem Development and Land Use Establishment

During the exploratory works for the Snowy 2.0 Project, a number of temporary boreholes were installed as part of geotechnical investigations to understand the regional geology. BH3203 and BH3210 are located between Tantangara and Talbingo reservoirs in the north-western corner of the Plateau. They are on the western side of Snowy Mountains Highway north of the Marica access road.

Decommissioning of BH3203 and BH3210 was completed in February 2021. The area to be rehabilitated includes two drill pads and a temporary access track. Both sites, including the access track, had topsoil, straw mulch and thatch (consisting of stockpiled trees and branches from initial clearing) applied. Following the initial rehabilitation, tubestock planting was undertaken in May 2025.

As topsoil was not stripped from the borehole pads, and topsoil from the track was stockpiled and reapplied over the site; natural recruitment in these areas has been very successful with the establishment of native grass and shrub species. This is illustrated in Figures 15, 16 and 17, which compare the natural regeneration at BH2303 between 2022, 2025 and 2026 respectively. Due to the high success rate of natural revegetation at these sites, additional tubestock planting is not planned. The sites will continue to be monitored, and if any aspects of the site are found to be unsatisfactory in accordance with the Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP), tubestock planting will be undertaken.

Continued monitoring of bogs and fens is being conducted as per Quarterly Observational Monitoring program with no evidence of incisions or drying observed to date.

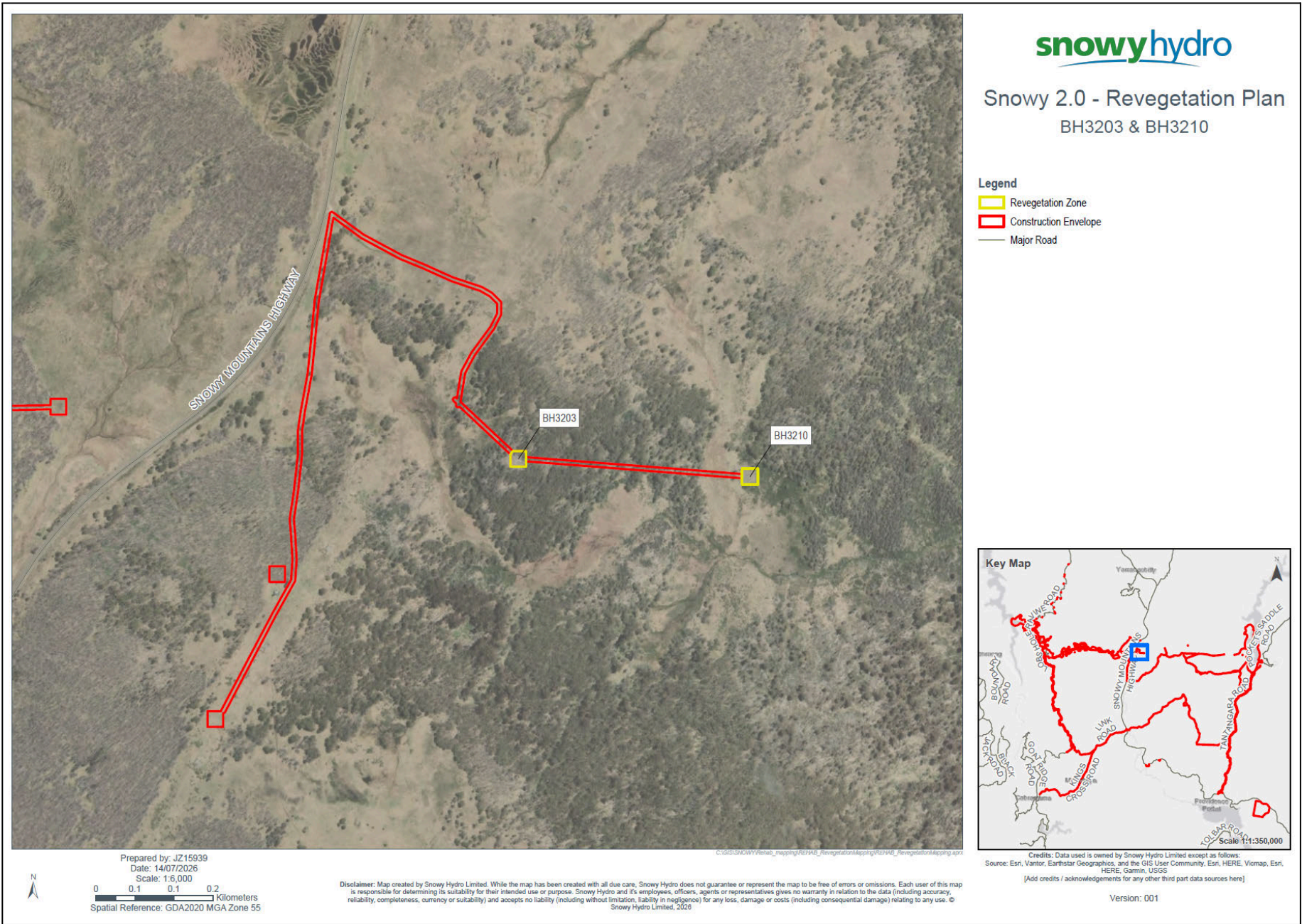


Figure 14. Overview of BH3203 and BH3210



Figure 15. BH2303, 19 December 2022; thatch applied



Figure 16. BH2303, 6 November 2025; some tubestock planting undertaken, natural regeneration of grasses underway



Figure 17. BH3203, 12 March 2026; excellent natural regeneration evident



Figure 18. BH3210, 12 March 2026; thatch applied and excellent natural regeneration evident



Figure 19. BH3210, 12 March 2026; thatch applied and excellent natural regeneration

3.4.2 Program of Rehabilitation Works

Table 7. Progress of rehabilitation works BH2302 and BH2310

Sequence	Task	Timing	Status	Comments
1	Weed control Drainage line tubestock	2024/2025 (November – April)	Ongoing as required Completed	Site is monitored for weeds quarterly, has not been required Tubestock planting completed May 2025; poor survival at BH2310
2	Revegetation (direct seeding pending weed load and monitoring results.	2024/2025 (November – April)	Not required	Site has shown excellent natural regeneration; additional tubestock planting not required
3	Supplementary tube stock	2024/2025	Completed May 2025	Initial tubestock planting completed May 2025, failed at BH3210. Supplementary planting not recommended due to excellent native regeneration

3.4.3 Mitigation Measures Identified

TARP Activations: Nil

Other issues identified:

1. Initial planting of tubestock failed.

Response: Supplementary tubestock planting not recommended due to excellent natural regeneration. Regeneration monitoring to be continued.

3.5 Bore Hole sites BH4201 and BH4202

3.5.1 Summary

Total area: 0.68ha

Rehabilitation Phase: Ecosystem Development and Land Use Establishment

During the exploratory works for the Snowy 2.0 Project, a number of temporary boreholes were installed as part of geotechnical investigations to understand the regional geology. BH4201 and BH4202 are located between Tantangara and Talbingo reservoirs in the north-western corner of the plateau. They are west of the Snowy Mountains Highway and north of the main Marica site.

Decommissioning of BH4201 and BH4202 was completed in February 2021. The area to be rehabilitated includes two drill pads and a temporary access track. Both sites including the access track had topsoil, straw mulch and thatch (consisting of stockpiled trees and branches from initial clearing) applied. Following the initial rehabilitation, some tubestock planting was undertaken in May 2025.

As topsoil was not stripped from the borehole pads, and topsoil from the track was stockpiled and reapplied over the site; natural recruitment in these areas has been very successful with the establishment of native grass and shrub species. Due to the high success rate of natural revegetation at these sites, additional tubestock planting will not be undertaken. The sites will continue to be monitored, and if any aspects of the site are found to be unsatisfactory in accordance with the Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP), tubestock planting will be undertaken.

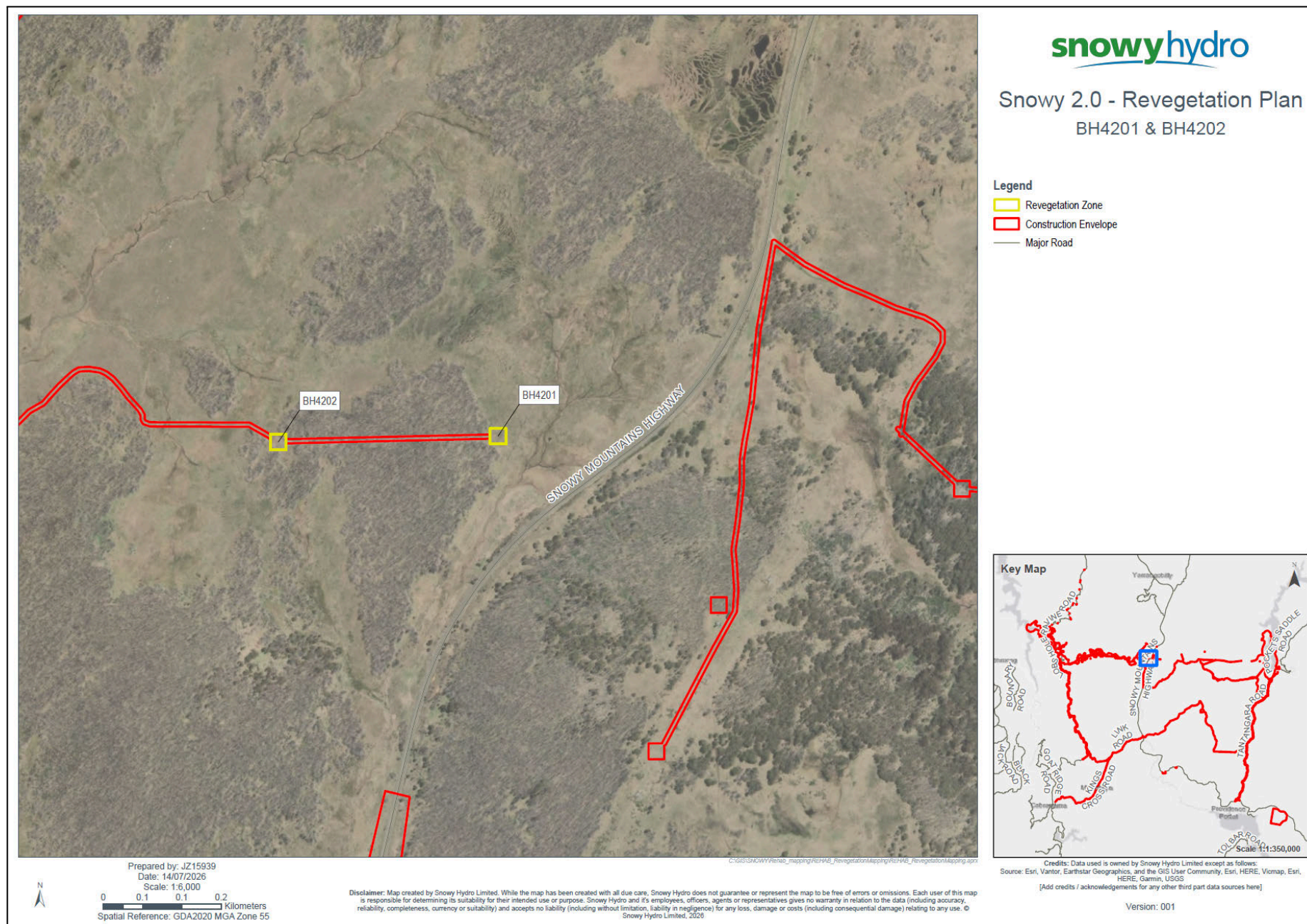


Figure 20. Overview of BH4201 and BH4202



Figure 21. BH4201, 12 March 2025; excellent natural regeneration



Figure 22. BH4201, 12 March 2025; thatch and excellent natural regeneration

3.5.2 Program of Rehabilitation Works

Table 8. Progress of rehabilitation works for BH4201 and BH4202

Sequence	Task	Timing	Status	Comments
1	Weed control	2024/2025 (November – April) Annually / Ongoing	Completed May 2025 and November 2025	Site is monitored for weeds quarterly, weed control completed May 2025 and November 2025
2	BH pad and Riparian zone tubestock	November/ December 2024	Completed	Tubestock planting completed May 2025; poor survival at both sites
3	Revegetation (direct seeding of BH4201 pending weed load and monitoring results. Additional thatch/mulch added to BH4201	2024/2025 (November – April)	Not required	Not recommended due to excellent natural regeneration in these areas
4	Supplementary tube stock (primarily in PCT 644)	2024/2025 (November – April)	Not required	Failed, but supplementary tubestock planting not recommended due to excellent natural regeneration

3.5.3 Mitigation Measures Identified

TARP Activations: Nil

Other issues identified:

1. Initial planting of tubestock failed.

Response: Supplementary tubestock planting not recommended due to excellent natural regeneration. Regeneration monitoring to be continued.

3.6 Marica Access Road Waterway Crossings

3.6.1 Summary

Total area: 0.35ha

Rehabilitation Phase: Ecosystem Development and Land Use Establishment

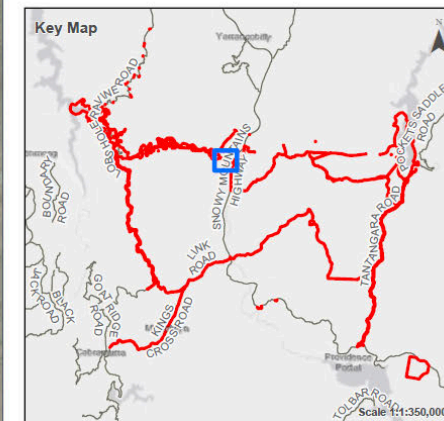
The Marica portion of the Snowy 2.0 project refers to the construction of a 240m deep and 28m wide surge shaft located between Tantangara and Talbingo reservoirs that will act as pressure relief during the operation of the new hydro power station. Marica also includes an adit portal which serves as access for TBM Monica, and a workers accommodation camp. Construction activities are still underway at the main site, however construction of the permanent access road is now complete and the verge and creek crossings are ready for final rehabilitation.

The Marica main access road verge and creek crossings were reinstated with topsoil and wood mulch, followed by hydromulching with native grass species in March 2024. Jute mesh was also applied to the batters for interim stabilisation at the waterways. Primary tubestock planting at Dip Creek and Eucumbene River crossings was completed in May 2025, with limited success. Secondary tubestock planting of Dip Creek and Eucumbene Creek crossings with native trees, grasses, shrubs and forbs is required to establish vegetative cover. This is planned for Autumn 2027.

Snowy 2.0 - Revegetation Plan Marica Main Access and Waterway Crossings

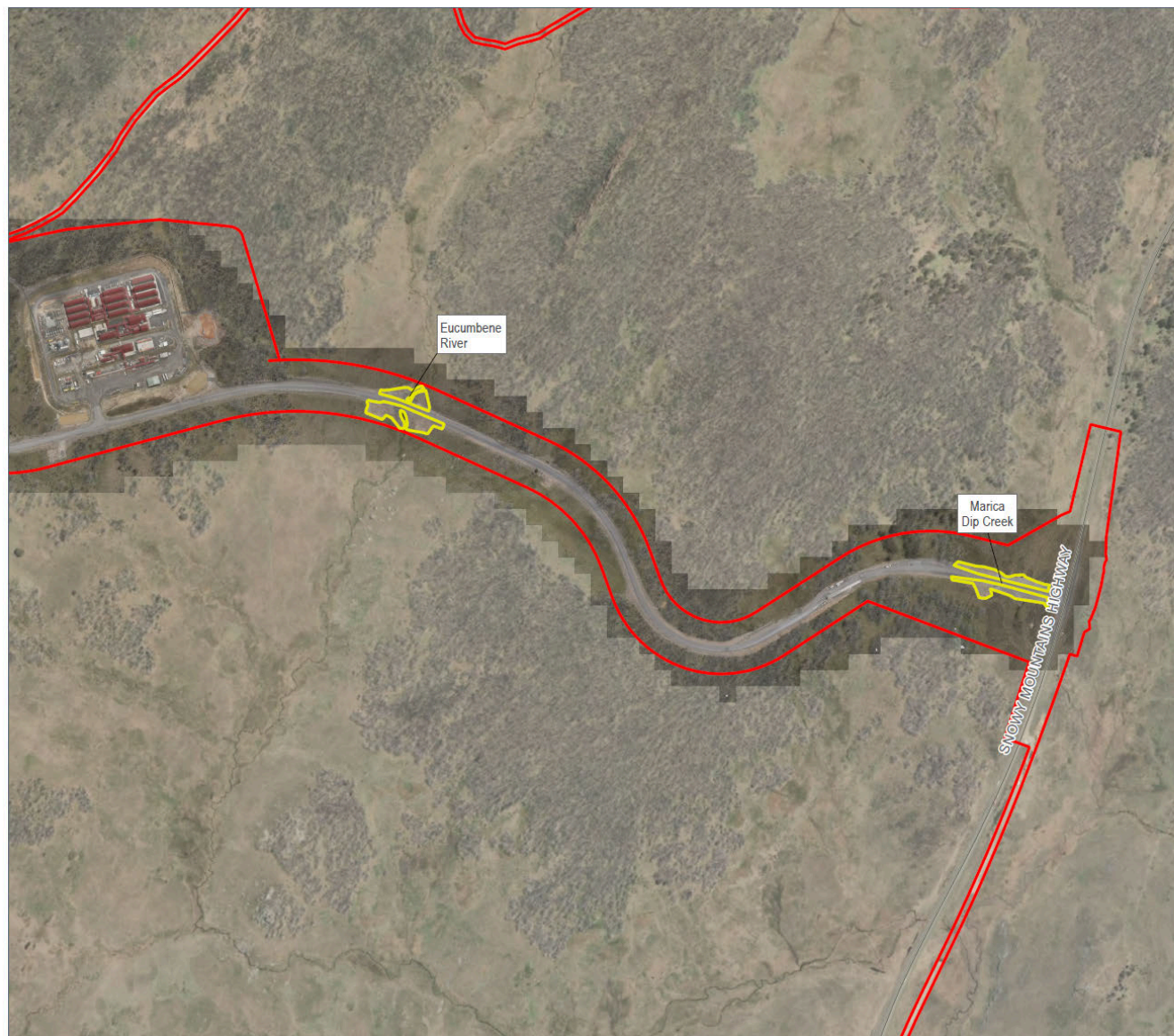
Legend

- Revegetation Zone
- Construction Envelope
- Major Road



Credits: Data used is owned by Snowy Hydro Limited except as follows:
Source: Esri, Vantor, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community, Esri, HERE, Viamp, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS
[Add credits / acknowledgements for any other third part data sources here]

Version: 001



Prepared by: JZ15939
Date: 14/07/2026
Scale: 1:6,000

0 0.1 0.2 Kilometers
Spatial Reference: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Disclaimer: Map created by Snowy Hydro Limited. While the map has been created with all due care, Snowy Hydro does not guarantee or represent the map to be free of errors or omissions. Each user of this map is responsible for determining its suitability for their intended use or purpose. Snowy Hydro and its employees, officers, agents or representatives gives no warranty in relation to the data (including accuracy, reliability, completeness, currency or suitability) and accepts no liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for any loss, damage or costs (including consequential damage) relating to any use. © Snowy Hydro Limited, 2026

Figure 23. Overview of Marica main access road waterway crossings



Figure 24. Marica Main Access Road, Eucumbene River Crossing, 31 March 2026; ground cover progressing



Figure 25. Marica Main Access Road, Eucumbene River Crossing, 31 March 2026; ground cover progressing



Figure 26. Marica Main Access Road, Dip Creek Crossing, 31 March 2026; ground cover progressing.

3.6.2 Program of Rehabilitation Works

Table 9. Progress of rehabilitation works for Marica Main Access Road, Eucumbene River and Dip Creek Crossings

Sequence	Task	Timing	Status	Comments
1	Tubestock planting – Dip Creek and Eucumbene River	November 2024	Completed May 2025	Tubestock planting of grasses and sedges completed in May 2025, all failed.
2	Temporary access track compaction relief	Following construction	Completed March 2024	
3	Topsoil and mulching	(As required if any rework identified)	Completed March 2024	
4	Weed control	(November – April) plus ongoing as required	Ongoing	Completed November 2025 and February 2026
5	Revegetation (direct seeding/hydro mulching)	Following topsoil application (November – April)	Completed March 2024	
6	Supplementary tube stock	November – April	Post-poned	Planned for Autumn 2027

3.5.3 Mitigation Measures Identified

TARP Activations: Nil

Other issues identified:

1. Initial planting of tubestock grasses failed.

Response: supplementary tubestock planting of trees, grasses, shrubs and forbs planned for Autumn 2027.

4. Progress Against Completion Criteria and Performance Indicators

The rehabilitation completion criteria for Snowy 2.0 Main Works are defined in Section 4 of the RMP.

Each site's progression against the benchmark indicators are then tabled in Appendix A. Given the stage of rehabilitation, the majority of sites are sitting in the 'Ecosystem and Land Use Development' phase of rehabilitation.

5. Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) Activation and Actions

A copy of the register of TARP activation events and mitigation measures implemented is included in Appendix B.

At this stage of rehabilitation, many of the key issues observed on site do not align clearly with the definitions of the TARP trigger levels. Snowy Hydro proposes to update the wording of the TARP in the next review of the RMP to expand the trigger levels to capture early stage rehabilitation issues.

Table 10. Summary of TARP activation events

Site	Date observed	Issue identified	Trigger level	Required mitigation measures	Target date	Progress comments	Status
Gooandra trail	November 2024	Inadequate ground preparation resulting poor germination following hydromulching, limited survival of tubestock grasses	4.2 Bare patches are > 30% (excluding rocks and logs)	4.2 Revisit revegetation methodology (i.e. substitute seeding for tubestock) Undertake analytical soil testing and evaluation, where appropriate implement recommendations for amelioration. Implement appropriate management actions including revising rehabilitation procedures if required.	November 2025	Civil remediation works undertaken by contractor, including scarification of compacted areas in March. Additional hydromulching at an increased rate of 8t/ha with native endemic grasses undertaken in April 2026. As of June 2026, ground cover requirements met with excellent germination from hydromulch. Secondary tubestock planting of trees, grasses, shrubs and forbs planned for Autumn 2027.	Continue to monitor
Tantangara surface depression	April 2025	Infestation of sweet vernal grass identified in rehabilitation area	7.2 Monitoring indicates substantial weed infestations	Undertake weed management to remove introduced weed species as soon as appropriate.	April 2025	April 2025 and December 2025; sweet vernal grass weed spraying in addition to regular weed spraying. Weed spraying has been successful, infestation controlled.	Continue to monitor

Investigations into the topsoil and subsoil balance project-wide are currently underway. For the sites available for rehabilitation, specifically Tintangara Fish Weir, Tintangara Surface Depression, Boreholes BH3203 & BH3210, Boreholes BH4202 & BH4202, and Marica access track and waterway crossings, topsoil re-use is complete, with no deficiencies.

Previously, potential deficiencies in topsoil at the Plateau site were highlighted. Initial revegetation efforts along Gooandra Trail had minimal success. Additional works were undertaken including civil reinstatement of inadequate areas, application of a straw mulch layer, and additional hydromulching at an increased rate of 8t/ha with native endemic grasses. This has proven to be successful with high rates of germination at the former laydown areas and pads. Supplementary planting with tubestock grasses, trees, shrubs and forbs is planned for Autumn 2027.

6. Monitoring Programs

6.1 Quarterly Observational Monitoring

As per Section 8.2.1 of the Snowy 2.0 Rehabilitation Management Plan - Stage 1, the Project is required to undertake Quarterly Observational Monitoring of rehabilitation sites. Formal Quarterly Observational Monitoring commenced in September 2025 at the Fish Weir, and all other rehabilitation sites in March 2026.

Results from the Quarterly Monitoring are recorded using the Quarterly Observational Monitoring Form. Photo points were established at each of the sites between September and November 2025.

Results from the current reporting year's Quarterly Observational Monitoring are included in Table 11 and Table 12 below.

Table 11. Summary of results of Quarterly Observational Monitoring March 2026

Site	Bare Ground	Erosion	Vegetation health	Weeds	Pest species	Bogs and Fens	Waterways and drainage lines	Human interference
Tintangara Creek Fish Weir (including all passing bays and temp track)	Bare ground - less than 5%	No erosion present	Limited germination of direct seeding, tubestock planting planned Autumn 2027	Individual weeds present, to be monitored and controlled in Spring	Horses and rabbits causing some damage to sites. Fencing to be considered	NA	Excellent natural regeneration, no issue	Monitor wheel track disturbance
Tintangara	Bare ground -	No erosion	Excellent tubestock	No weeds	Nil	NA	Nil	Nil

Surface Depression	less than 5%	present	growth	present				
Plateau - Gooandra Trail to Nungar Creek	Bare ground - less than 5%	No erosion present	Limited success of initial hydromulching and tubestock planting. Additional hydromulching in April 2026, tubestock planting Autumn 2027	Individual weeds present, to be monitored and controlled in Spring	Horses and rabbits causing some damage to sites. Fencing to be considered	NA	Excellent natural regeneration, no issue	Possible intentional removal of tubestock, exact cause unknown
BH3203 & BH3210	Bare ground - less than 5%	No erosion present	Excellent natural regeneration	Individual thistles present, to be monitored	Nil	No issue	No issue	Nil
BH4201 & BH4202	Bare ground - less than 5%	No erosion present	Excellent natural regeneration	Individual thistles to be monitored	Nil	No issue	No issue	Nil
Marica Access Eucumbene River	Bare ground - less than 5%	No erosion present	Initial tubestock planting all failed, secondary planting to be undertaken Autumn 2027	Individual weeds present, to be monitored and controlled in Spring	Nil	NA	No issue	Possible intentional removal of tubestock, exact cause unknown
Marica Access Dip Creek	Bare ground - less than 5%	No erosion present	Initial tubestock planting all failed, secondary planting to be undertaken Autumn 2027	Individual weeds present, to be monitored and controlled in Spring	Nil	NA	No issue	Possible intentional removal of tubestock, exact cause unknown

Table 12. Summary of results of Quarterly Observational Monitoring September 2025

Site	Bare Ground	Erosion	Vegetation health	Weeds	Pest species	Bogs and Fens	Waterways and drainage lines	Human interference
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Tantangara Creek Fish Weir (including all passing bays and temp track)	Bare ground - less than 5%	Minor erosion at PB1, PB2 and PB6. All other sites no erosion present	Limited germination of direct seeding undertaken in May 2025	Individual weeds present, to be sprayed Dec 2025	Horses causing damage to BPs 1, 2, 3 and 6	NA	No issue	Vehicle access to Fish Weir by Charles Sturt University staff. Star pickets installed to block access
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6.2 UAV Annual Monitoring

As per Section 8.2 Rehabilitation Monitoring Methodology of the Snowy 2.0 Project Rehabilitation Management Plan - Stage 1, the Project is required to undertake annual Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) monitoring of rehabilitation sites. UAV monitoring was undertaken in January 2024 and December 2024. Analysis of imagery data as per monitoring criteria was completed by external contractor Dendra Systems Ltd Australia (Dendra), with results included in the 2025 Annual Rehabilitation Report.

No UAV monitoring has been undertaken in the current reporting period. Dendra entered voluntary administration in late 2025. The software developed by Dendra for the ecological assessment of drone imagery was still in the early stages of development, and not all of the required monitoring criteria could be met. Issues with the imagery data collected, including inconsistent site boundaries between surveys also resulted in incomparable data between reporting years.

From the two rounds of UAV monitoring undertaken by the Project, it is evident that current technology cannot achieve the level of ecological analysis required to effectively measure the Project's rehabilitation progress against the completion criteria. Given the limitations of the UAV monitoring, it is proposed that the next round of annual monitoring be completed by on the ground ecologists to enable sufficient data to be collected and analysed, and achieve the best outcomes for rehabilitation. The RMP allows for a review of suitability of UAV technology for annual ecological monitoring. The Project is currently investigating whether UAV monitoring could be used to support on the ground ecologist assessments, and proposes to update RMP in consultation with NPWS and Conservation Planning and Assessment (CPA) to allow on-the ground ecological monitoring.

6.3 Three Yearly Monitoring

Rehabilitation reference plots were to be established and baseline monitoring completed in November/December 2024, following the submission of the Snowy 2.0 RMP in May 2024. Following establishment of reference plots and initial monitoring, SHL was to consult with NPWS to determine the suitability of the reference plots. The reference plots and the RMP would then be updated if required. The RMP was not approved until late October 2024. Due to the short timeframe between the plans approval and the window for monitoring, establishment of the reference sites and initial monitoring were not undertaken.

Establishment of reference plots and baseline monitoring did not occur in the 2025-2026 reporting period. An external consultant has been engaged to review the quantity and location of current proposed reference plots and provide feedback on their suitability. This study will also review the Project's rehabilitation completion criteria metrics to ensure that they facilitate rehabilitation progress to be appropriately assessed. NPWS and CPA will be consulted in regards to the draft results of the study to confirm the approach to baseline monitoring. Three yearly monitoring will then be carried out every three years following the baseline monitoring.

7. Future Rehabilitation Program

With major construction still underway at most sites, the 2026 - 2027 rehabilitation program will primarily focus on revegetation, maintenance and monitoring of the small number of sites identified in this year's report as being available for active rehabilitation.

Below is a draft program for the 2026 - 2027 season detailing ongoing rehabilitation activities, shown in Table 13.

Table 13. Rehabilitation Schedule 2026 - 2027

Site	Ongoing works
Tantangara Creek Fish Weir	Tubestock planting, thatch, fencing, ongoing weed control, maintenance as required
Tantangara Surface Depression	Tubestock planting, thatch, fencing, ongoing weed control, maintenance as required
Boreholes BH3202 & BH3210	Maintenance as required
Boreholes BH4201 & BH4202	Maintenance as required
Gooandra Trail to Nungar Creek	Tubestock planting, thatch, fencing, ongoing weed control, maintenance as required
Marica Access - road verge and waterway crossings	Tubestock planting, thatch, fencing, ongoing weed control, maintenance as required

It is expected that some additional sites will be ready for rehabilitation in the first half of 2027, as shown in Table 14.

Table 14. New sites available for rehabilitation 2026 - 2027

Site	Rehabilitation Stage
Lobs Hole - Site entrance Stage 5	Delayed - currently required as laydown area for heavy plant and trucks
Lobs Hole - GF01	Delayed - dependent on finalisation of Remediation Action Plan (RAP)
Tantangara Spoil emplacement	Partial ground reinstatement
Ravine Bay Spoil emplacement	Partial ground reinstatement

Lobs Hole - Ravine Road South	Partial ground reinstatement, site preparation straw mulch, hydromulch
Plateau - Nungar Creek to Tantangara Hill	Ground reinstatement, site preparation including straw mulch, hydromulch
Plateau - Tantangara Hill	Ground reinstatement, site preparation including straw mulch, hydromulch
Marica Access Tracks and drill pads	Remaining tracks and pads - as required ripping of tracks, direct seeding, straw mulch, thatch
Wallace Creek Trail	As required ripping of tracks, direct seeding, straw mulch, thatch
Copper Mine Trail	As required ripping of tracks, direct seeding, straw mulch, thatch
Lobs Hole HDV pad near MAT portal	Ground reinstatement
Fire Tank Road (Lobbs Hole)	Batter stabilisation, hydromulch, straw mulch
Ravine Road lower R5-R15	Batter stabilisation, hydromulch, straw mulch

8. Research Trials

As per Section 9.2 of the Snowy 2.0 Project RMP - Stage 1, Snowy Hydro will look for opportunities to research different rehabilitation techniques and their potential use on the Project.

To date, no opportunities for research trials have become available. Snowy Hydro is focusing on the results of early rehabilitation works and other rehabilitation works to inform the rehabilitation methodology for future larger-scale works.

The Project will be incorporating lessons learnt from the recent rehabilitation of the 11kV transmission line easement between Eucumbene Portal to Happy Jacks as required under condition B38 of the infrastructure approval (SSI 9717). Primary rehabilitation works including decommissioning of the overhead 11kV line, removal of poles, ground stabilisation and revegetation works were completed in 2025. The site will undergo regular maintenance and monitoring and supplementary seeding/planting as required.

- Targeted planting of colonising species first. Colonising species are fast growing, hardier species that establish in disturbed sites quickly. The purpose of planting these species first is to provide ground cover, add organic matter and increase soil microbial activity to re-establish ecosystem functionality. In time, other specialised species, such as forbs, have been found to naturally return on their own. The sites

will be monitored, and secondary seeding or planting of specialised species will be undertaken later as required.

- Implementing grazing protection. One of the biggest risks to rehabilitation success is damage from fauna such as horses, deer, pigs and kangaroos by trampling, grazing or other disturbance. Guarding of trees, placing coarse woody debris and fencing are all being considered for the Happy Jacks to protect the revegetation areas from introduced fauna in that area, particularly horses.

Snowy Hydro will continue to look for other opportunities for rehabilitation research on the Project, and keep implementing lessons learnt from current rehabilitation works as they progress.

9. Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities in relation to rehabilitation are further defined in the RMP and EMS.

9.1 Senior Environmental Advisor

- Manage the day to day implementation of the Conditions of Approval and RMP
- Prepare and update the Project Rehabilitation Management Plans
- Provide advice on decommissioning and rehabilitation strategies and approaches
- Liaise with key stakeholders including NPWS, CPA, and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE)
- Facilitate and manage engagement of subcontractors to complete works to meet schedule
- Prepare the Annual Rehabilitation Report
- Coordinate the Rehabilitation Monitoring Programs
- Coordinate works with wider project
- Implement the TARP, and maintain the TARP register

9.2 Rehabilitation Site Supervisor

- Supervise on site rehabilitation works by contractors
- Conduct quality assurance of rehabilitation works
- Conduct quarterly monitoring of rehabilitation sites including photo monitoring points
- Identify issues, provide advice on appropriate mitigation measures and oversee their implementation and close out
- Advise on rehabilitation issues that trigger the TARP, liaise with the Senior Environmental Advisor to implement required mitigation measures within required timeframes

9.3 Environmental and Planning Manager

- Manage the delivery of the Project Conditions of Approval, and Rehabilitation Management Plans
- Oversee rehabilitation procurement, forecasting and budgeting
- Provide updates to the Project General Manager - HSE and Project Director

- Report on rehabilitation progress and success
- Provide high level input into rehabilitation delivery and forecasting strategies

9.4 Project Director

- Sponsor and provide high level input into Project rehabilitation
- Provide resources required to support the implementation of the Conditions of Approval and RMP
- Ensure delivery of the Project

Appendix A - Individual site progression against completion criteria

For full Rehabilitation Completion Criteria please refer to Snowy 2.0 RMP - Stage 1, Section 4.4, Table 4-4. Note that for each site, phases that have been completed have been minimised, refer to previous years report for full details on completed rehabilitation phases for each site.

Table 1. Tantangata Creek Fish Weir

Rehabilitation Objective Indicator	Completion Criteria Benchmark Reference	Progress against criteria	Comment
Phase 1 - Active	ALL	Complete	
Phase 2 – Decommissioning and Demolition	ALL	Complete	
Phase 3 – Landform Establishment	ALL	Complete	
Phase 4 – Growth Medium Development	ALL	Complete	Site-won topsoil reused as growth medium
Phase 5 – Ecosystem and Land Use Development (CURRENT)			
Direct seeding to plan	5.1	Complete	Direct seeding undertaken
Plant density and ground cover to plan	5.2	Partially complete	Straw mulch applied, ground cover established. Tubestock planting yet to occur
Community composition (structure)	5.3	Not applicable yet	
Recreation areas landscaping	5.4	Not applicable	
Erosion land stability	5.5	Complete	
Weed density comparable	5.6	Not yet complete	
Animal impact managed	5.7	Not yet complete	
Phase 6 – Ecosystem and Land Use Sustainability	ALL	Not applicable yet	Primary revegetation activities currently underway

Table 2. Tantangara Surface Depression

Rehabilitation Objective Indicator	Completion Criteria Benchmark Reference	Progress against criteria	Comment
Phase 1 - Active	ALL	Complete	
Phase 2 – Decommissioning and Demolition	ALL	Complete	
Phase 3 – Landform Establishment	ALL	Complete	
Phase 4 – Growth Medium Development	ALL	Complete	Site-won topsoil reused as growth medium
Phase 5 – Ecosystem and Land Use Development (CURRENT)			
Direct seeding to plan	5.1	Completed	Hydromulching completed
Plant density and ground cover to plan	5.2	Partially complete	Straw mulch applied, ground cover established. Some tubestock planting undertaken, supplementary tubestock planting required
Community composition (structure)	5.3	Not applicable yet	
Recreation areas landscaping	5.4	Not applicable	
Erosion land stability	5.5	Complete	
Weed density comparable	5.6	Not yet complete	
Animal impact managed	5.7	Complete	Site fencing installed
Phase 6 – Ecosystem and Land Use Sustainability	ALL	Not applicable yet	Primary revegetation activities currently underway

Table 3. Plateau - Marica Main Access verge and waterway crossings

Rehabilitation Objective Indicator	Completion Criteria Benchmark Reference	Progress against criteria	Comment
Phase 1 - Active	ALL	Complete	
Phase 2 – Decommissioning and Demolition	ALL	Complete	
Phase 3 – Landform Establishment	ALL	Mostly complete	Ground reinstatement of Nungar Creek to Tantangara Hill, Tantangara Hill not yet complete due to construction delays. Tantangara Creek culvert to be installed
Phase 4 – Growth Medium Development	ALL	Complete	Site-won topsoil reused as growth medium
Phase 5 – Ecosystem and Land Use Development (CURRENT)			
Direct seeding to plan	5.1	Completed	Initial hydromulching complete, secondary hydromulching with native endemic grasses undertaken at an increased application rate
Plant density and ground cover to plan	5.2	Partially complete	Hydromulching complete, ground cover established. Some tubestock planting undertaken, supplementary tubestock planting required
Community composition (structure)	5.3	Not applicable yet	
Recreation areas landscaping	5.4	Not applicable	
Erosion land stability	5.5	Complete	
Weed density comparable	5.6	Not yet complete	
Animal impact managed	5.7	Not applicable	No animal interference observed
Phase 6 – Ecosystem and Land Use Sustainability	ALL	Not applicable yet	Primary revegetation activities currently underway

Table 4. BH3203 & BH3210

Rehabilitation Objective Indicator	Completion Criteria Benchmark Reference	Progress against criteria	Comment
Phase 1 - Active	ALL	Complete	
Phase 2 – Decommissioning and Demolition	ALL	Complete	
Phase 3 – Landform Establishment	ALL	Complete	
Phase 4 – Growth Medium Development	ALL	Complete	Site-won topsoil reused as growth medium
Phase 5 – Ecosystem and Land Use Development (CURRENT)			
Direct seeding to plan	5.1	Not applicable	Direct seeding not planned for this site
Plant density and ground cover to plan	5.2	Partially complete	Straw mulch and thatch applied, ground cover established. Some tubestock planting undertaken with limited success. Excellent natural regeneration.
Community composition (structure)	5.3	Not applicable yet	
Recreation areas landscaping	5.4	Not applicable	
Erosion land stability	5.5	Complete	
Weed density comparable	5.6	Not yet complete	
Animal impact managed	5.7	Not applicable	No animal interference observed
Phase 6 – Ecosystem and Land Use Sustainability	ALL	Not applicable yet	Primary revegetation activities currently underway

Table 5. BH4101 & BH4202

Rehabilitation Objective Indicator	Completion Criteria Benchmark Reference	Progress against criteria	Comment
Phase 1 - Active	ALL	Complete	
Phase 2 – Decommissioning and Demolition	ALL	Complete	
Phase 3 – Landform Establishment	ALL	Complete	
Phase 4 – Growth Medium Development	ALL	Complete	Site-won topsoil reused as growth medium
Phase 5 – Ecosystem and Land Use Development (CURRENT)			
Direct seeding to plan	5.1	Not applicable	Direct seeding not planned for this site
Plant density and ground cover to plan	5.2	Partially complete	Straw mulch and thatch applied, ground cover established. Some tubestock planting undertaken with limited success. Excellent natural regeneration.
Community composition (structure)	5.3	Not applicable yet	
Recreation areas landscaping	5.4	Not applicable	
Erosion land stability	5.5	Complete	
Weed density comparable	5.6	Not yet complete	
Animal impact managed	5.7	Not applicable	No animal interference observed
Phase 6 – Ecosystem and Land Use Sustainability	ALL	Not applicable yet	Primary revegetation activities currently underway

Table 6. Marica Access Track verge and and waterway crossing

Rehabilitation Objective Indicator	Completion Criteria Benchmark Reference	Progress against criteria	Comment
Phase 1 - Active	ALL	Complete	
Phase 2 – Decommissioning and Demolition	ALL	Complete	
Phase 3 – Landform Establishment	ALL	Complete	
Phase 4 – Growth Medium Development	ALL	Complete	Site-won topsoil reused as growth medium
Phase 5 – Ecosystem and Land Use Development (CURRENT)			
Direct seeding to plan	5.1	Complete	Hydromulching complete
Plant density and ground cover to plan	5.2	Partially complete	Straw mulch applied, ground cover established. Some tubestock planting undertaken, supplementary tubestock planting required
Community composition (structure)	5.3	Not applicable yet	
Recreation areas landscaping	5.4	Not applicable	
Erosion land stability	5.5	Complete	
Weed density comparable	5.6	Not yet complete	
Animal impact managed	5.7	Not applicable	No animal interference observed
Phase 6 – Ecosystem and Land Use Sustainability	ALL	Not applicable yet	Primary revegetation activities currently underway

Appendix B - Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) Register

Snowy 2.0 Rehabilitation TARP Register

Site Name	Date of Trigger	Aspect/Category	Key	Trigger level	Description of event	Required Response	Actions Implemented	Date of Implementation	Date of follow up review
Geoandra trail	November 2024	Landform stability	4.0 Ground	4.2 Bare patches are > 30% (excluding rocks and logs)	Initial hydromulching by FGJV did not meet ground cover requirements. Primary planting of tubestock grasses also failed.	4.2 Revisit revegetation methodology (i.e., substitute seeding for tubestock). Undertake analytical soil testing and evaluation, where appropriate implement recommendations for amelioration. Implement appropriate management actions including revising rehabilitation procedures if required.	Civil remediation works undertaken by contractor, including scarification of compacted areas in March. Additional hydromulching at an increased rate of 8t/ha with native endemic grasses undertaken in April 2025	March 2025	Ongoing through quarterly monitoring
Tantangara Surface Dep	April 2025	Vegetation	7.0 Weeds	7.2 Monitoring indicates substantial weed infestations	Significant weed infestation of sweet vernal grass identified	7.2 Undertake weed management to remove introduced weed species. Investigate management measures to reduce weeds including additional soil amelioration, establishment and retention of cover crops until weed presence is at acceptable levels	Entire area was weed sprayed April 2025 and December 2025. Hydromulching and straw applied December 2025. Very effective, infestation controlled	April 2025	Ongoing through quarterly monitoring