



HPE/E3678

Amy Burgess  
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Snowy Water Licence Review Implementation

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Monday, 15 June 2020

Dear Amy,

**Subject: Public submission on proposed amendments to the Snowy Water Licence**

I write to express our overall support for the administrative changes to the Snowy Water Licence. In particular, the public release of the Snowy Hydro Annual Water Operating Plan (AWOP).

The public release of the AWOP will provide greater transparency as to how water is shared, allocated and managed. The sections of the AWOP of interest to our business and our customers will be;

- the mode of operation that will be used by Snowy Hydro for the coming water year,
- the timing and volume of the Required Annual Release and
- the volumes stored in each of the development accounts for both above-target and below-target water.

By having this information, it is hoped that in planning for allocation announcements, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Water (DPIE) may be able to make an announcement earlier in the water season. This will allow our customers greater confidence in their summer cropping programming and subsequent water accounting.

We note that in section 6.2.5 a suggestion that some costs to administer the licence be born by Murray and Murrumbidgee licence holders. Given the significant financial burden already placed on our licence holders, we do not support this approach and instead recommend that it also be recovered by electricity generation revenue.

Within the *Ten-year review of the Snowy water licence* document there are a number of actions that are listed throughout the document. Of particular interest to our organisation are the investigations by DPIE in partnership with Snowy Hydro, the MDBA, Water NSW and the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments into the following;

1. Action 13 – The dry flow sequence volume
2. Action 14B – Relaxation
3. Action 15B – Flexibility and pre-releases
4. Action 16 – Timing of releases
5. Action 18 – Early season commitment of release volumes.

Can you please advise on when these actions are expected to be completed and if the results from these investigations can be viewed by Murray Irrigation?

We also understand there is to be a more significant review of the Snowy Water licence in the near future. Murray Irrigation would welcome the opportunity to participate in this review and make a submission as we are very interested in certain licence arrangements, for example, management of above and below target water and River Murray Increased Flows.

Yours Sincerely,

**Philip Endley**  
Chief Executive Officer