



Tuesday ,18 October 2011

### **Revised Snowy water licence to maximise benefits to water users and the environment**

NSW Water Commissioner David Harriss today announced variations to Snowy Hydro's water licence that will ensure sensible release arrangements to benefit both water users and the environment.

Mr Harriss said that the need to make amendments to the current licence was realised as a result of the recent extreme drought, followed by well above average rainfall.

"Snowy Hydro's water licence is managed by the NSW Office of Water, which invited public submissions earlier this year."

"Twelve submissions were received analysed and can be viewed in a report available on the Office of Water's website," he said.

"With these variations to the Snowy Licence, we can expect an improved management of water that accumulates in Snowy Hydro's storages following an extreme drought period."

The volume, known as the Dry Inflow Sequence Volume (*DISV*), represents the reduction in the normal releases to the Murrumbidgee and Murray Valleys as a result of inflows that are lower than the previous lowest inflow sequence.

Under previous licence rules, the accumulated *DISV* had to be repaid as soon as the water became available. This resulted in some forced release of water through the 2010/11 water year from the storages below the Snowy Scheme at times that were not useful for consumptive water users.

Under the new rules any additional release of water due to accumulated *DISV* from previous water years will now be retained within the Snowy Scheme to support the reliability of future Required Annual Releases and to establish Drought Accounts.

**Ends**