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## Fwd: Snowy Water Licence Review

1 message

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**SnowyLicence Review** <snowylicence.review@dpi.nsw.gov.au>  
To: Jeremy Kinley <jeremy.kinley@dpi.nsw.gov.au>

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From: **Craig Ingram** <craig.ingram@live.com.au>  
Date: Sun, Oct 15, 2017 at 12:31 PM  
Subject: Snowy Water Licence Review  
To: "snowylicence.review@dpi.nsw.gov.au" <snowylicence.review@dpi.nsw.gov.au>

### Snowy Water Licence Review

I thank you for considering my comments on the tenth anniversary of the Snowy Water Licence.

My recommendations are designed to ensure not just that the maximum positive benefit is gained from the environmental flow releases, they are also designed to rebuild trust in the management and oversight of the flows.

It is my view that the Government has lost significant community trust in the management of Snowy flows through miss management, deliberate political undermining of intent of the agreement and failure to honour commitments and legislative obligations.

The delivery of environmental flows came through a major community campaign and at a significant financial investment by the shareholder governments. The positive community response that should be more prominent from the return of environmental flows has been limited and will continue to be because of the lack of community or scientific input to the flow releases and the distrust of Snowy Hydro and the Governments. This is compounded by the failure of the government to deliver their obligations.

The removal of the Snowy Scientific Committee and failure to replace it with the legislated oversight structure in the Snowy Advisory Committee is a clear case example of the Governments failure.

In my view, what is required as an outcome from the review and a positive step in restoring confidence is the;

- Immediately Establish the snowy advisory committee.
- Change the Snowy Water Licence to provide for a Snowy River base flow to be released through the Mowamba River and the commitment for decommissioning of the weir to ensure a natural headwater to the Snowy River to provide daily variability and river connectivity.
- Protecting the Upper Montane Flows - the potential changes to the snowy scheme through the federal governments Snowy 2.0 could impact on the upper montane flow volumes. Under the Water Licence as its currently worded, the Upper Montane Flows are linked to lost generation of power, if snowy 2.0 is built with increased generating capacity the value of montane water stored high in the scheme increases, potentially the power generation lost for releasing this water as environment flows also increases. As Upper Montane Flows are linked to generating capacity the licence needs to make it clear that flows in the water licence are based on today's generation capacity or volume equivalents for each river system and not impacted by any engineering changes to the scheme.
- The Upper Montane Flows need much greater independent scientific rigour over which rivers receive flows and what volumes.
- A new clause needs to be inserted in the water licence to ensure advice and input is required on the annual flow releases from independent advisory body.

I my view these changes will increase the accountability and community trust in the management of flows and flow releases.

Regards

Craig Ingram

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