

Review of Snowy Water Licence: Invitation to inform the ten year review

Information for public submission

August 2017

Background

Under the *Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Act 1997* (the Act), the Snowy Water Licence (the Licence) is subject to mandatory reviews, initially after 5 years and then at intervals of 10 years. The first 5 year review of the Licence was undertaken between 2007 and 2009, and the Licence was varied following this review in 2010. Further variations were made to the Licence in 2011 following a public consultation process.

The next 10 year mandatory review of the Licence is now due.

Terms of reference

The terms of reference for the review are focused on Snowy Hydro Ltd's obligations under the Licence, which fall into three broad categories:

1. **'Increased flow requirements'** – also known as environmental releases – including Snowy River increased flows and Snowy Montane Rivers increased flows (see clause 1.1 (34) and Schedule 3 of the Licence).
2. **'Water release requirements'** – predominantly western river releases – including accounting and data provision rules (see clause 1.1 (104) and Schedule 4 of the Licence).
3. **Administrative obligations** – including obligations relating to compliance reporting (section 4 of the Licence), the Licensee's rights in relation to water (clause 7 of the Licence), the development of Annual Water Operating Plans (clause 8 of the Licence), fees and charges (clause 9 of the Licence), and the requirement to build and/or modify certain works (clause 6 of the Licence and clauses 6, 19 and 20 of Schedule 3 of the Licence).

The review will also consider Snowy Hydro Ltd's performance in meeting the conditions of the Licence, and will look at whether there are any anomalies or practical issues with the licence that need to be addressed.

The review will **NOT** address the following:

- the overall volumes of environmental flow releases, and whether these are excessive or insufficient;
- the transfer of responsibility for designing Snowy environmental flows from DPI Water to the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH);
- issues relating to the Commonwealth Government's announcement about the possible expansion of the Snowy Mountains Scheme; and
- town water supply issues.

It must be noted that submissions not directly related to the terms of reference for the review will not be considered.

Submissions

Written submissions are invited to assist the review. All comments, whether based on scientific, technical, historical, anecdotal or other origins, will be considered.

Copies of the Licence, together with relevant supporting documentation are available from:

- www.water.nsw.gov.au
- **DPI Water – Level 10 Macquarie Tower, 10 Valentine Avenue, Parramatta 2150**
- **DPI Water - Government Service Centre, 11 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan 2620**

Written submissions should be clearly marked "*Submission to the 10 year Review of the Snowy Water Licence*" and sent to DPI Water via:

- snowylicence.review@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- **Snowy Water Licence Review
Inter-governmental and Strategic Stakeholder Relations
Department of Primary Industries Water
Locked Bag 5123
Parramatta NSW 2124**

Inquiries about the review can also be directed to snowylicencereview@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Written submissions must be received by Friday, 13 October 2017.

A summary of submissions and a review report will be made available to the public upon the completion of the review process.

More information

www.water.nsw.gov.au

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (August 2017). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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