

Snowy Water Licence Review
Intergovernmental and Strategic Stakeholder Relations
Department of Primary Industries Water
Locked Bag 5123
Parramatta, NSW, 2124

Dear Sir

I am writing to you regarding the Snowy Water Licence review to put forward aspects of the review I would like to have considered.

I am a local of Dalgety of over 20 years, but formerly of Bondi, so I am still not considered a local but care about all local issues. I would not consider myself a greenie but see red when governments promise one thing, don't deliver but hold themselves up as environmental saviours to the general public, who don't know the truth.

The way the recovery of the river has been handled by NSW government of both political persuasions can only be described as disgusting. This includes the different ministries have sought to mask their real intention, along with stone walling and hiding behind bureaucratic speak totally appals me, and I have seen plenty of this over the decades. The constant way the responsibility for managing the Snowy is flicked from one minister to the other, is just another ploy to do nothing, which amazes me when you look at the significant amount of public money \$1.2 billion that has been invested by the 3 governments in this iconic, national and world renown project. It makes a mockery of its true intent to bring back a dying river and is an insult to those who don't get fooled by media and spin when the flows are released each year.

The first item is the importance of the reintroduction of the Moonbah River directly into the Snowy. At 21% there is no need for all the flows to be delivered by flows over the dam wall. I accept there has been much benefit via this method and in the past the volumes cleaned out the river of the silt and mud and it appears to have done its job. But this water via Jindabyne Dam does not provide the essential and necessary headwater for the Snowy River which was removed when it was dammed in 1967 some 50 years ago. So for a few short years it did in 2002 to 2006 and the science indicated there was great improvement. But since it was redirected back into the dam the river has had no connectivity with the upper montanes which would also assist in biodiversity in the aquatic life, the water when provided via Jindabyne Dam is inert,

whereas those which could be delivered via the Moonbah are oxygenated. Finally there is little to no carbon provided by the current flows which is a fundamental tool in the food chain for in- river bug, fish Moonbah is oxygenated and contains carbon which provides dynamic benefits for in river aquatic bugs, fish and plant life. It only represents 6% of the flow and the issue of more water being delivered in storm/flood events, than the licence says the Snowy is entitled to is a furfie, and is scaremongering. Many years ago a group from the Coleambally Irrigators were invited over and saw the Moonbah and thought it was laughable that so much was being made about the retention of the Moonbah. The chance of excessive water being delivered has been already calculated and I have a graph that would provide this evidence.

I would also like to raise the issue of how the flows are accounted for as this seems to be a "dark art" as it was referred to by an employee of one of the government agencies involved with management of the restoration of the Snowy. It is of major concern as all water is precious especially as 28% manf, the magic number that the expert panel assessed, was the true starting percentage is not what the Snowy is currently getting, only 21% (not true wet water but paper water as it is only apparently attached to general allocation water not high acquired back then by Waters for Rivers) so we are still 7% behind the eight ball. So I am going back to the Moonbah. There seems to be significant contradictions to what the actual amount that has spilt in the past and spills over the Moonbah weir. There needs to be an independent review of this as I am certain that there have been waters accounted for that have never been spilt over that weir. Not to mention the period when the dam wall alteration was not completed by the specified time but the water was still added to the debt the Moonbah Water account. Also how the upper montane flows are accounted for need to be considered too. All these over and unders must be place on a public record, accounted for and scrutinised so all can see.

Another issue of public record is that the Snowy Scientific Committee was in place to vet all issues of the recovery and provide advice to the NSW Government. Maybe because the NSW Government did not like what they were being told (like reintroducing the Mowamba) it was disbanded in 2014 to be replaced by the Snowy Advisory Committee. This entity is still not in place some 3 years later. So though ministers and our local member extolled its virtue of providing community and a variety of expert advice there is still no place at the government table for a public/community voice and not independent vehicle to assess how things are going it is all done in house and we just have to accept what is doled out as facts.

I would appreciate advice regarding an article in the Weekly Times 15th February 2017 where Neville Smith former CEO of Water for Rivers stated that 80% of the water savings came from efficiencies not purchasing of licences. Therefore only 20% of the Snowy's increased flows should be general security. Could I have an explanation please?

I here is the link

<http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/news/national/snowy-river-deal-delivers-on-its-target-18-years-on/news-story/14cd66c654cbaf1e7a211a6498814a62>

Thank you for this opportunity to raise these issues that I consider are relevant to the licence review. My final remark is that to think that it will be another 10 year before this licence review occurs again is definitely too long. So much may change in the restoration as it is a dynamic work in practice. No one can know what climatic conditions or technological advancements might occur in the next 10 years which could have a direct bearing on this whole issue. I would suggest that a 5 year review is more appropriate with a more diverse and wider scope to make comment on.

Yours sincerely

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