

## **Snowy Advisory Committee - Communiqué 2 May 2019**

The Snowy Advisory Committee met by telephone to note progress of its advice into operating instructions for Snowy Hydro for the 2019-20 water year.

The amount of water available for the 2019/20 water year has been impacted by drought in the previous year. The annual target volume for Snowy River increased flows is 212 gigalitres, which equates to 21 per cent mean annual flow below Jindabyne Dam. However, available water will be less in drier years because water availability is determined by annual water allocations made to the water entitlements recovered or Snowy River increased flows. The water available for 2019/20 is 110.2 gigalitres, or 11 per cent of mean annual flows below Jindabyne Dam.

As a result of this low allocation, the options for water use in the coming year are constrained, but should be sufficient to allow for a spring flow event of 5000 ML/day peak flow rate over 8 hours. This flow event is aimed to deliver enough stream power to clean and regenerate the water channels in the Snowy River bed in the river down to at least the Delegate River confluence. This is being planned for October 2019.

A pattern of variable flows throughout the year for the Snowy below Jindabyne has been constructed using the Thredbo River as a surrogate of a similar sized river. This is called natural flow scaling and is explained further at [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/basins-catchments/snowy-river/snowy-science](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/basins-catchments/snowy-river/snowy-science).

The water available for Snowy Montane rivers is proportional to the amount available for the Snowy Below Jindabyne, so is also less this year. To enable a minimal flow from Tantangara Dam into the upper Murrumbidgee River, environmental flows to the Upper Goodradigbee River will be reduced until inflow and storage levels recover.

The plan for use of SRIF and SRMIF allocations for the coming year will be accessible in the coming months at [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/basins-catchments/snowy-river/initiative](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/basins-catchments/snowy-river/initiative).

The committee discussed low flows during the summer period and the priority of environmental outcomes for the river, with due consideration of providing for complementary socioeconomic uses when they can be realised.

The next meeting is planned for July in Marlo, Victoria, where the committee will start developing a new long-term plan for Snowy flows.