

SNOWY RIVER ALLIANCE Inc.

'VOTE 1' for the SNOWY RIVER 2010 Federal Election

In 1967, when Jindabyne Dam was completed, 99% of the Snowy River headwaters was captured by the Snowy Scheme and diverted west for electricity generation and irrigation. The mighty Snowy River became a swampy creek.

In 1996, scientists identified that 28% average annual flow was the MINIMUM required to restore the river.

In 2000, following a long community campaign, the Commonwealth, Victorian and New South Wales Governments signed an agreement to restore 28% flow to the Snowy River.

In 2002, the three Governments passed the Snowy legislation which included funding to return 21% flow to the Snowy River below Jindabyne Dam, by 2012. In August 2002, the first environmental flows were returned to the Snowy River when the Mowamba Aqueduct, which diverted the Mowamba River into Jindabyne Dam, was shut off allowing the Mowamba River to follow its natural course down to the Snowy.

However in January 2006 the Aqueduct was re-opened.

The water, which flowed down the Mowamba River whilst the Aqueduct was shut off, is known as the Mowamba Borrowings Account and it has to be repaid to Snowy Hydro Ltd. The repayment of this 'debt' is capping Snowy flows at 4% annual flow.

To date, the three Governments have jointly provided \$425 million to return 21% flow to the Snowy River by 2012,

BUT ... ten years on, the Snowy River remains on life support, of 4% annual flow.

The following actions are required immediately to save the Snowy River:

- Permanently close the Mowamba Aqueduct to allow the Mowamba River to flow its natural course down to the Snowy;
- Payout the Mowamba Borrowings Account to avoid capping Snowy flows at 4% annual flow;
- Funding to deliver 21% 'real water' below Jindabyne Dam by 2012;
- Return flows to the Upper Snowy in Kosciuszko National Park below Guthega Dam and Island Bend Dam;
- Funding to deliver the final promised 7% to return the 28% minimum annual flow required to restore the Snowy, including compensation arrangements with Snowy Hydro Ltd;
- An independent inquiry into the expenditure of the \$425 million of taxpayers' money provided for Snowy River environmental flows.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATES FOR GIPPSLAND WHAT THEY WILL DO TO SAVE THE SNOWY?

www.snowyriveralliance.com.au

The Snowy River must flow again.