

# SNOWY ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMON SENSE REFORM

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The community will have a greater say in the management of environmental flows in the Snowy, with the re-configuration of the Snowy Scientific Committee to an Advisory Committee, the Member for Monaro John Barilaro said.

The Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Amendment (Snowy Advisory Committee) Bill 2013 will establish a new, more representative committee balancing community representation with scientific and technical expertise.

“This is a common-sense approach that enables a wide range of relevant groups to have an input into the development of an environmental flow strategy for the Snowy River,” Mr Barilaro said.

“It’s a sensible reform that’s long overdue and builds upon this Government’s mandate to allow regional community participation in matters that mean the most to them.”

Mr Barilaro said the former Snowy Scientific Committee had a limited membership and focused on ecological and scientific issues only surrounding flow releases from Jindabyne Dam and failed to meet its obligations under the Act to produce a State of the Environment Report annually.

“We all want to see a healthy Snowy River; this needs to be achieved in a balanced way recognising all interests and uses of the river,” said Mr Barilaro.

“The new committee will include NSW and Victorian Government specialists, four local community representatives, one representative from an environmental organisation, two Aboriginal representatives and a representative from Snowy Hydro Limited.

“The Snowy Advisory Committee will provide the important function of advising on both the timing and patterns of the annual release of environmental water recovered under the Snowy water licence.

“Elsewhere in the State, such advisory committees on environmental releases comprise a range of community and government representatives, it’s time that NSW followed suit,” said Mr Barilaro.

“This Liberal and Nationals Government is committed to making evidence-based decisions – which consider environmental, social and economic issues, and the creation of the Snowy Advisory Committee is very much in line with this approach.”