

# Blowering Dam

**Location:** On the Tumut River, about 13km upstream of Tumut

**Nearest town:** Tumut

**Local Government Area:** Tumut Shire

**Year completed:** 1968

**Dam type:** Rockfill with clay core

**Dam height:** 112m

**Length of crest:** 747m

**Water depth:** 91m

**Full supply level:** 379m above sea level

**Storage capacity:** 1,628,000ML

**Surface area:** 4,400 ha

**Catchment area:** 1,606km<sup>2</sup>

**Spillway:** Concrete chute

**Spillway capacity:** 230,000ML/day

## Blowering Dam

Blowering Dam is one of the largest water storages operated by State Water. Located on the Tumut River 13km south of Tumut, it can hold up to 1,628,000 megalitres (ML) or about three times the capacity of Sydney Harbour.

The dam has a surface area of 4,460ha, or more than 6,000 football fields. The wall has a height of 112m, taller than a 35-storey building.

### About the Dam

Construction of Blowering Dam began in 1964 and was completed in 1968. The dam was named after nearby, "Blowering Station."

Blowering Dam stores water that has been released from storages further upstream in the Snowy-Tumut Development Section of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme.

The large volume of water that is released from those storages to meet the demand for electricity in winter, is held in Blowering until summer, when it is needed for irrigation.

### Water Supply

Blowering Dam provides water for town water supplies, river flows and domestic requirements, irrigated agriculture, industry, flood mitigation and environmental flows.

Most of the area surrounding Blowering Dam is made up of large farms, with rice the main crop. Fat lambs, cereals, oil seeds and fodder crops are also produced. Smaller farms in the area grow vegetables, fruit and grapes.

Together with releases from Burrinjuck Dam, on the Murrumbidgee River, Blowering Dam also provides a regulated flow of water for the Murrumbidgee and Hay Irrigation

## Water Supply Licences

In the Murrumbidgee Valley Blowering Dam operates in conjunction with Burrinjuck Dam. Together, there are 1,642 licences with 2,911,263.7ML of entitlement within 1340km of river.

High security/industry entitlements 348,702ML•

General security entitlements 1,908,230ML•

Stock and domestic requirements 36,000ML •

Town water supplies 43,355ML•

Conveyance entitlements 376,000ML•

Water users hold access licences which determine their share component. Share components specify how much of the valley's resource is available for each licence holder to use. Examples of high security licence holders are local councils for town water supply and permanent crops such as orchards. Available Water Determinations (AWDs) credit access licence accounts with water, based on the water sharing plan for that valley.

## Hydro-Power Capability

Snowy Hydro Pty Ltd operates an 80 megawatt station. On average, it generates enough power annually to supply 40,000 people.

Water is made available for power generation only when releases are made for water users, the environment and during flood operations.

## Recreation

Blowering Dam is popular for a wide range of recreational activities. The lake created by the dam is used for boating, sailing and waterskiing.

Stocked with rainbow and brook trout, redfin, and golden perch, fishing is a popular pastime. The scenic foreshores of the lake are ideal for bushwalking and picnics.