

**INQUIRY INTO THE CONTINUED PUBLIC OWNERSHIP
OF SNOWY HYDRO LIMITED**

Organisation:

Name: Mrs Coral Talbot

Telephone:

Date Received: 2/08/2006

Theme:

Summary

SnowyHydro SnowyHydro - Re: Media comments last week in regard to selling the Trading Arm of Snowy Hydro Ltd.

From: "HM Talbot"
To: <snowyhydro@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 2/08/2006 1:31 PM
Subject: Re: Media comments last week in regard to selling the Trading Arm of Snowy Hydro Ltd.

Hello to all,

Please find the above attachment being my 3rd Submission to the Select Committee on the Continued Public Ownership of Snowy Hydro Limited.

Regards

Coral Talbot.

Max & Coral Talbot

Mrs CM Talbot

2nd August 2006

The Chairman
Inquiry into the Continued Public Ownership of Snowy Hydro
NSW Parliament
SYDNEY NSW 2630

Dear Chairman and all Committee members,

Re: Media comments last week in regard to selling the Trading Arm of
Snowy Hydro Ltd.

I write to express my concerns at the remarks made by the Chairman and Deputy
Chairman in the media last week suggesting a proposal to potentially sell the trading
arm of Snowy Hydro Ltd.

Knowing that Snowy Hydro Ltd are unquestionably generous with their sponsorships
is one thing but surely this generosity is not all generous when one considers the cost
to the receiver, for example, Snowy Hydro South Care Helicopter Service is indeed an
invaluable service in our Region and I commend them for their efforts without
question, one never knows when or for whom their help is needed.

The point I wish to make is that Snowy Hydro South Care use the Snowy Hydro
corporate colours to paint the helicopter and include Snowy Hydro in their name
surely this has to be an effective advertising strategy for Snowy Hydro and gives no
such obvious acknowledgement to the generosity of other contributors to the service.

The fact that I now receive from Jonathon Flegg the Christian Democratic Party's E-
Mag – "The newsletter for the Rev the Hon Dr Gordon Moyes AC MLC and
Christian Democratic Party" – in fact I do find this newsletter to be quite interesting
and to be fair the foot note on the last page does give the link to unsubscribe from the
newsletter **but I note that the line above this footnote includes a click on box to
donate.** Jonathon must have received my email address from my letters protesting the
sale to Dr Moyes or via submissions to the Inquiry for I do not know how else he
would have it and I believe others who have made submissions etc would also have
received the above newsletter.

I personally do not believe Snowy Hydro Ltd and/or employees would have made a
contribution to the abovementioned cause but I do seek reassurance from the
Chairman that my belief is absolutely justified and correct, after all the deliberations
and findings of this particular Inquiry are of particular importance to all Australian
citizens for a long time to come and must be above reproach, open and transparent.

I certainly can emphasize with Snowy Hydro employees and management their disappointment with the reversal of the Sale decision, neither Max nor myself meant hurt to anyone, we simply saw the sale as a political decision that was wrong and fundamentally flawed, the workers have all without doubt worked hard to achieve their goals and looked forward to being part of the action. However, it was and is not just the Talbot's that opposed the sale but many, many Australians that do not want essential infrastructure and in particular control of our water sold off to the highest bidder – there are plenty of examples why the sell off of Australian infrastructure is not in the best interests of the Australian Citizen despite what the economic rationalists might believe and expect us to believe.

I do not understand why Mr Charlton should state in the Cooma-Monaro Express last week and the same article repeated in the Summit Sun July 27 2006 titled "Listing still best solution" – (I have no problem with Mr Charlton thinking that way, from his position I believe it is a natural defensive stance) he goes on to say;

"Our channels to market are controlled by others who do not have the same commercial drivers as we do", "As for the future, Mr Charlton revealed that he had not given up", "I've not given up thinking about it. I just don't have the answer, listing is the best solution and I would love to see that revisited,"

However, his employers, all three Governments have clearly and publicly stated that the Snowy is not for sale. I personally do not see why such a complex water and power generating body with all its other responsibilities such as water for irrigation etc, and owned by the people, should ever have been allowed to be in the trading position it has made for itself – surely the true value of water has been overlooked. If the Inquiry were to recommend that the trading arm be privatised then I will have to thank Mr Della Bosca for his repeated statements that he does not have to be bound by the decisions of this Inquiry, it is my preference that the Inquiry is recognized by all for the wisdom of their decisions and recommendations.

Other concerns relating to the possible sale of the trading arm are as follows:

1. Who would own the Water Licence – the trading arm or Snowy Hydro?
2. Who would be responsible for compensation payments should the Water Licence need to be changed during the life of the Licence?
3. How is it envisaged that Snowy Hydro Ltd will pay for the operations/maintenance/upgrades etc of the Scheme should the trading arm be sold?
4. Why should it be necessary to sell Snowy Hydro Ltd or part thereof before the 10 year Review of the Water Licence in 2012?
5. No one including you has told the Australian Citizens why Snowy Hydro Ltd/trading arm is too risky for Governments to own the shares. Why is this so?

6. Who does the Committee envisage would have control of the timing of water release, should the trading arm be sold off - Snowy Hydro Ltd. or private company trading arm?
7. Is it envisaged that the Trading Arm as a private company be the sole buyers of Snowy Hydro Ltd. generation?
8. If the above answer is yes then how could a privately owned trading company be on the “free enterprise level playing field” that Australian farmers and manufacturers are subjected too even though other nations do subsidize their farming and manufacturing sectors.
9. If the trading arm was sold off to private enterprise with an arrangement that favours the new trading company in any way in relation to Snowy Hydro generation would the Governments and therefore the taxpayer be subjected to any payments of compensation or litigation due to unfair trading laws?

I wish the Committee well and thank you for your time.

Coral Talbot
