

**Submission
No 25**

PROPOSED SALE OF SNOWY HYDRO LIMITED

Organisation:

Name: Mr Keith McFadden

Telephone:

Date Received: 1/06/2006

Theme:

Summary

I am deply opposed to the sale of Snowy Hydro, I do not believe that the sale is in the best interest of the State or of the Nation. I believe the asset is being undervalued and more importantly sold off against the wishes of most Australians. I am frustrated that the present NSW and Federal Governments are not listening to the over whelming voice opposed to the sale, and are instead pushing ahead with there own stubborn interests in mind to sell off this iconic Australian accomplishment. All for what I view is short term financial gain, with complete disregard for its heritage and cultural values. I believe the sale is purely to prop up the Governments financial mismanagement. I also have strong views that water is too valuable an asset in this the driest continent on earth, in the middle of the biggest drought on record to be sold off. In my professional life as a Hydrographer measuring River flow, I have viewed people in the Western areas of the State who for years had been good neighbours to one another, fighting and stealing water from one another. Because in those areas of the State in times of drought water is more precious than gold. The sale cannot guarantee the security of water for irrigation to these people. This is the water diverted from the Snowy Mountains Scheme. What of the heritage and cultural significance, the birth of immigration into this country, can that be sold. Men from Snowy River still weep for the loss of the family farm which lies under the flooded lakes of the scheme. I am personally not interested in Government moves to limit foreign ownership, that doesn't matter to me, neither does phoney guarantees of security of water for 75 years. The Snowy Mountains Scheme saw beyond its own lifetime the importance of water to this land, when will we as a people see beyond our own lifetime the importance of this precious asset. What matters is that the sale is stopped entirely. The water in the Snowy Mountains Scheme belongs to the people of NSW, its our water and the Government should not have the right to sell it without our voice being heard. I am opposed to the sale not for political reasons, I have voted Labour all my life, and I am a working man and a Trade Union member and I never thought they would sell off the farm. I am writting to you in an effort to stop the sale of Snowy Hydro, simply because I am frustrated at the lack of opportunity for my voice to be heard, and a political process that is letting Australia down. Please show me a way to stop these politicians selling of an Australian icon for much less than it is worth.

Mr Keith McFadden