

**Submission
No 50**

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

Organisation:

Name: Mr Bob Brown

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Theme:

Summary

SnowyHydro SnowyHydro - Submission on Continued Public Ownership of Snowy hydro ltd

From: "Brown Bob"
To: <snowyhydro@parliament.nsw.gov.au.>
Date: 16/06/2006 1:07 PM
Subject: Submission on Continued Public Ownership of Snowy hydro ltd

Please find below a submission for your consideration under the category of Others

My name is Bob Brown and have been employed by Snowy Hydro since 1990, my principal work scope is as a Civil Supervisor for Maintenance and Construction etc. of Outlying Works eg Dams, Roads and Aqueducts, 90% of these assets are within Koszkiusko National Park. I was also a Union Delegate (AMWU) until just recently and during the demise of the Snowy Scheme under Government Control which occurred during 1993 and did not end until the year 2000 when Terry Charlton started to have a firm grip on things.

This submission relates to these Civil Assets:

1. After 1993 there were a number of changes which not only saw maintenance decline to a level which was almost beyond recovery but earned us the title by the then NPWS of a "Deferred Maintenance Regime" (this is on record) in relation to our roads and tracks within the Park. These had deteriorated to the point where erosion, sedimentation and running surfaces were critical, some were in fact dangerous to drive upon. Sediment was flushed down already silted up waterways from Diversions destroying much of the fauna, it's habitat and flora. At times Native Vegetation was destroyed in cost cutting exercises and rehabilitation was non-existent.
2. The work force in reality was slashed without any compassion, intelligence or impact considerations upon the Scheme. Stress was prevalent and whole families suffered as a result of methods used, a foreboding future, no work, relocate homes and no prospects. Our injury rate accelerated, my small section (16) had 12 reportable incidents with injuries (medically treated, lost time and 1 incapacitated for life) within 6 months, due in fact to people either worrying about their future – afraid they would be next for the chop, and trying to cover the same work with far fewer people out of dedication to the Snowy.
3. Local Business was not given a fair go, in as much as supplies and small contracts were by the lowest price, notwithstanding the fact that freight charges could drastically increase the cost from major centres.

Since Charlton took over:

1. Operations not only within the National Park but on other lands are carried out with the very best of environmental practices (we are second to none), training is extensive and awareness is part of our EBA system. Rectification of past degradation through neglect and cost cutting is almost complete
2. The work force is stable, co operative with very high morale, (that was until the plug was pulled on privatisation) injuries have declined to a standard envied by others and employment opportunities and prospects have increased.
3. Supplies are now sourced locally where ever possible giving small business the opportunity which never they never previously had.

Under Government shareholding and without access to proper capital funds, many of us see a return to the "bad old days", the Snowy Scheme could not possibly recover a second time from such mismanagement and lack of funds.

In reply to the few objectors to privatisation (I noticed the media with all it's hype did not even interview employees even though the opportunity was given)

We are an icon, and the only reason we still are is through the dedication of the Snowy Workers, our Managers and our CEO that pulled it from the brink of collapse
The scheme's future should not be a museum piece nor a Dodo we should have the right to preserve this heritage into the next century by becoming a proper business.

Thank you for this opportunity Regards Bob Brown

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