

Submission to the

Five Year Review of the Snowy

Water License

February 2008

Scope

The NSW Irrigators Council (NSWIC) submission relates solely to the issue of the Mowamba Aqueduct.

Background

NSWIC understands that the review may consider decommissioning of the Mowamba Aqueduct based on the submission of a third party.

Submission

NSWIC understands that the volume diverted to the Snowy River using the Mowamba Aqueduct as a control is equivalent to the identified efficiency gains achieved in western areas.

The volume of efficiency gain is a determined amount. Mowamba is then used as a management tool to deliver that determined amount to the Snowy.

Removal of Mowamba would result in an uncontrolled flow into the Snowy. As a result, the volume to the Snowy could well exceed the efficiency gain. The result would be an erosion of reliability of access to all water users to the west. It is important to note all water users (recreational, environment, stock, domestic and irrigation) would see that decrease in reliability.

In low flow years – such as the current situation – the impact of the erosion would be particularly significant.

At a time when sensible management of water is a critical issue, there are no grounds for contemplating the removal of a practical and effective management tool such as Mowamba.

NSWIC opposes absolutely the submission that Mowamba be removed.