



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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MILLIONTH PLANTING MADE IN SNOWY REHABILITATION

Environment Minister Robyn Parker has made the millionth planting in the award winning NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service program to rehabilitate former snowy scheme sites in Kosciuszko National Park.

The rehabilitation effort is a partnership with Snowy Hydro Limited, which provided \$32 million to address environmental impacts associated with the construction of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme.

Works include revegetation, major earthworks, land stabilisation, weed, waste and hazardous material removal.

Ms Parker made the millionth planting at Bourkes Gorge, where 275,000 cubic metres of dumped rock spoil has now been vegetated.

“The Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme was a great feat of engineering, however the work being done to rehabilitate the environment is equally impressive.

“In the last ten years national parks staff and volunteers have turned sites into lush bushland, and their innovative and hard work has captured international attention.

In 2011, the NPWS rehabilitation of former snowy scheme sites won the prestigious Australian Engineering Excellence Award for Environmental Engineering.

“As part of the landscape restoration the team harvests their seeds, cultivates each plant, and has even designed a suitable plant growth medium with 90 per cent plant survival rates.

“Working across varied sites in landscapes ranging from montane to alpine is extremely difficult, and half-way through the program we are well on the path to re-connect habitats and strengthen ecosystems in Kosciuszko National Park.”

The Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme was built between 1949 and 1974. While it provided a clean energy source, more than 380 sites were disturbed in Kosciuszko National Park as a result, and 36 of these required major environmental rehabilitation.

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Photos for news media:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nswnationalparks/sets/72157633330751457/>

File photos for news media of the project in general:

<http://www.flickr.com/search/?w=9028794@N03&q=snowy%20rehabilitation>