



NEWS FROM **JOHN FORREST MP** FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE ELECTORATE OF MALLEE

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Snowy Legend Cloud Seeding

Legends continue to be made in the Snowy Mountains. John visited the Snowy Hydro and was able to see first hand their cloud seeding programme. The second successive winter cloud seeding programme by Snowy Hydro was drawing to a close.

Snowy Hydro Limited has a very strong commercial interest in making snow as a convenient storage for water to use for important power generation.

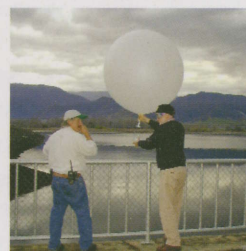
John is a long time champion for cloud seeding research and says that Snowy Hydro are to be congratulated for their commitment to the significant project in snow enhancement across the Snowy Mountains.

They are utilising state of the art technology, which they modified and adapted themselves. This is already producing encouraging results in extra snowfall.

Whilst we will have to wait for the full 5 years of the program to build up a reliable data base for statistical interpretation, John remains confident in the scientific rigour being utilized that the end result will be a confident affirmation of the efficacy of cloud seeding to make snow.

John was appointed in May by The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment, to be his representative on any forthcoming meetings on the issue of Cloud Seeding and the Government's representative in the forthcoming Tropical Warm Pool-International Cloud Experiment to be conducted in Darwin between November and February 2006.

He is not backward in sharing his dream to have cloud seeding adopted in the flatlands of the continent, particularly in the Wimmera Mallee, for precipitation enhancement where mainstream Australian scientists say it won't work.



Left: John, with Balloon Technician Tony Werrett, releasing the weather balloon at Khancoban pondage in September, prior to the decision to seed a cloud event. This balloon transmits vital information to the control centre on water content, temperature, height and coordinates.

Right: Generator site at Stoney Rises with Project Directors John Denholm and Barry Dunn and Project Officer Mike Mathews.

The relevance of the Snowy Hydro research is that it introduces a new approach to the confirmation of efficacy not utilised before in Australia.

Previous experiments in the past have usually resulted in some very unwholesome public scientific argument about whether it made a difference or not which has put back confidence in cloud seeding research in Australia by decades.

Snowy Hydro are determined this will not happen this time and John intends to launch on from the Snowy experience to get similar programs operating over northwest Victoria, particularly over the Grampian Mountains for rain enhancement.



Right: The radiometer site atop Blue Cow near Mt Kosciusko with Project Directors John Denholm and Barry Dunn of Snowy Hydro. The radiometer provides extremely accurate distance measurement of the moisture content of clouds with greater precision than conventional radar. Information from this site dictates whether a cloud seeding activity will proceed.