

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 3

Hearing: Budget Estimates 2017

Outcome: N/A

Program: Snowy Hydro Ltd

Topic: Storage levels in Talbingo

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Question Date: 23 May 2017

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Carr asked:

Let us go back over the last 10 years. What have been the minimum storage levels in Talbingo? What is the lowest level that that reservoir has gotten down to?

Answer:

Minimum Operating Level ("MOL"): 535.53 (metres above sea level based on Snowy Mountains Datum).

Lowest level: 538.46.

Note:

- MOL is determined by the lowest reservoir level that can be accessed by Snowy Hydro's assets, and is determined by the physical attributes of the associated inlet / outlet works. Storage between Full Supply Level ("FSL") and Minimum Operating Level is known as "active storage", and is fully accessible by Snowy Hydro assets. Storage below Minimum Operating Level is known as "inactive storage" or "dead storage", and is unable to be used by Snowy Hydro operational assets.
- At MOL, the Talbingo reservoir contains 761Gl of "dead storage", which is 83% of the total volume of Talbingo at FSL and water that is unable to be used by Tumut 3 Power Station.
- All Snowy Hydro Dams can be safely operated across the full range of storage levels, from zero to full.