

COUNTRY ALLIANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

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Alliance opposes Snowy sale

Country Alliance says that it supports the Victorian State Government in opposing the proposed privatisation of the Snowy Hydro Corporation.

Alliance spokesperson, Russell Bate, said the terms of the sale do not guarantee water entitlements for irrigators and would remove the ability of any Government to intervene if it became necessary to vary licence conditions

“Legislation debated in New South Wales would tie the Government’s hands for no less than 75 years,” he said.

“We support the Victorian State Government’s position in opposing the sale. The New South Wales opposition has already said it would oppose the sale, so we hope their counterparts in Melbourne will do the same.”

Mr Bate said he also supported the concerns of Gippsland independent MP, Craig Ingram, who said that a privatised Snowy Hydro would have the capacity to charge access fees to people wanting to access the more popular angling sites.

“While the New South Wales Minister of State has scotched that idea, the fact remains that the owner of the Snowy assets will be able to close access to its infrastructure, so no guarantees can or have been given,”

“These are valid concerns which are anything but scaremongering as suggested by the Minister’s spokesperson.”

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