

Media Release

21 November 2011

Kareeya reduces dam levels in lead up to wet season

Kareeya Hydro Power Station is reducing the water level in its Koombooloomba Dam to protect Tully from possible flooding if the region gets a heavier-than-normal wet season this year.

Power station Site Manager Kevin Ramm said the dam, which is currently at 33 per cent capacity, would be reduced to 20 per cent by the end of the month.

Although Koombooloomba Dam only contributes around ten per cent of the catchment for the Tully River, the power station is doing all it can to help protect the community.

“Tully has had more than its fair share of natural disasters recently,” Mr Ramm said.

“We are playing our part in protecting the community in the event of another heavy wet season this year.

“Weather forecasters are predicting above average rain this wet season,” he said.

“By reducing the dam level, we are creating room to store wet season flows, reducing the water flowing downstream.”

Mr Ramm said Kareeya monitored water levels in Koombooloomba Dam all year but particularly in the lead up to the wet season.

The power station generates enough electricity to power Far North Queensland to keep businesses working and the lights and appliances on in homes.

Kareeya Hydro Power Station, which has 15 employees, is owned by Stanwell Corporation.

Stanwell is now the largest electricity generator in Queensland and the second largest in Australia after a restructure of Queensland Government owned power generators on July 1 this year.

Ends

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Background

Stanwell Corporation is Queensland's largest power generator, with the installed capacity to supply more than 45 per cent of the state's peak power needs. Established on 1 July 2011 and owned by the Queensland Government, Stanwell is the owner and operator of:

- 1445 MW Stanwell Power Station (coal) near Rockhampton
- 1400 MW Tarong Power Station (coal) in the South Burnett
- 443 MW Tarong North Power Station (super-critical coal) in the South Burnett
- 385 MW Swanbank E Power Station (gas) near Ipswich
- 120 MW Swanbank B Power Station (coal) near Ipswich
- 318 MW Mica Creek Power Station (gas) near Mount Isa (not connected to the NEM)
- 86.4 MW Kareeya Power Station (hydro) in Far North Queensland
- 66 MW Barron Gorge Power Station (hydro) in Far North Queensland
- 32 MW Mackay Power Station (gas) in Central Queensland
- 7.3 MW Koombooloomba Power Station (hydro) in Far North Queensland
- 4.3 MW Wivenhoe Small (hydro) located at Wivenhoe Dam

Stanwell also sells energy from the 195 MW Collinsville Power Station in north Queensland, through a Power Purchase Agreement with its owners Transfield Services Infrastructure Fund.

Stanwell owns Meandu Mine, which has the capacity to supply up to seven million tonnes of coal a year to the adjacent Tarong power stations. It has a coal supply agreement with Wesfarmers Resources' Curragh Mine that includes the sharing of revenue from coal exports.

Stanwell is an active competitor in the National Electricity Market (NEM). The Corporation sells electricity into the NEM spot market pool and provides ancillary services to the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to ensure the secure and reliable supply of electricity throughout Queensland.

Stanwell employs nearly 1000 people across its various sites.

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