

media release

Cyclone Ita provides good water supply for Kareeya Power Station

14 April 2014

Kareeya Power Station, west of Tully, will be able to supply plenty of green power for Far North Queensland and the rest of the State in coming months, thanks to heavy rainfall from Cyclone Ita.

The water level at Koombooloomba Dam, which fuels Kareeya Hydro, rose from 76 per cent to more than 92 per cent soon after Cyclone Ita passed over the Tully region last Sunday. It is 93.6 per cent today.

“Water levels in Koombooloomba Dam and Tully Falls Weir, which both supply water to Kareeya Power Station, have risen sharply thanks to Cyclone Ita,” Kareeya Acting Site Manager Steve Vale said today.

“We are running the four Kareeya Hydro generation units as hard as possible to use this water to generate green power,” Steve said.

Kareeya Hydro uses water from Koombooloomba Dam to drive turbines which produce electricity. No greenhouse gases are produced by the process, which is in keeping with Kareeya’s location in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Kareeya employees also have opened large valves, or regulators, at the bottom of Koombooloomba Dam wall to let excess water out of the dam, producing spectacular sprays of water.

Koombooloomba is a popular place for fishers and other water lovers but, due to the high level of the dam, boats with engines over four horsepower are prohibited on the lake for safety reasons.

This restriction will be removed once the dam level drops back below 90 per cent.

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Background

Stanwell Corporation Limited (Stanwell) is a diverse energy company. We own coal, gas and water assets which we use to generate electricity for the National Electricity Market (the NEM); we sell electricity directly to major customers; and we trade gas and coal.

With a generating capacity of more than 4200 megawatts, Stanwell is also the largest electricity generator in Queensland. The business has the capacity to supply more than 45 per cent of the State's average electricity needs through coal, gas and hydro generation at seven geographically dispersed sites.

Stanwell employs more than 800 people throughout the State.

Stanwell is the owner and operator of:

- 1460 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
- 302 MW Mica Creek Power Station (gas) near Mount Isa (not connected to the NEM)
- 88 MW Kareeya Power Station (hydro) in Far North Queensland
- 66 MW Barron Gorge Power Station (hydro) in Far North Queensland
- 34 MW Mackay Power Station (gas) in Central Queensland
- 7.3 MW Koombooloomba Power Station (hydro) in Far North Queensland
- 4.7 MW Wivenhoe Small (hydro) located at Wivenhoe Dam

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.