

**Canberra, 29 May 2018
For Immediate Release**

**PREMIERE OF SNOWY:
*Stories from former workers and families of the
Snowy Mountains Scheme***

Snowy Hydro, Woden Community Service, Gen S Stories and PhotoAccess have partnered on a Digital Storytelling project to deliver a diverse collection of stories, told from the point of view of seven ex-workers, two lifelong employees and a child of a Snowy worker. Snowy Hydro has generously provided \$25,000 to fund this project.

Ten former Snowy Scheme workers have immortalised their stories of courage, resilience and adventure in digital format for future generations. Each offers a unique perspective into what life was like building the Scheme between 1949 and 1974, and then working for Snowy Hydro.

These former workers and family members overcame significant personal hardships as well as the engineering and construction challenges to build one of the greatest and most complex hydro power systems in the world.

Paul Broad, Snowy Hydro's Chief Executive Officer said that the current employees of Snowy Hydro often reflect on the history of the Snowy Scheme.

"As we embark on a possible expansion of the Scheme we marvel at the engineering feat that is the mighty Snowy. The hard work, determination and vision of the pioneers who came before us is truly remarkable," he said.

"The digital storytelling project brings to life some of the stories from our past, and we're proud to be a part of it," he added.

Chris Redmond, CEO, Woden Community Service, said, "We are really proud to have the opportunity to work with these ten people to bring their stories and their experiences to life. The courage and resilience and ingenuity they displayed in the face of the harsh conditions of life in the Snowy Mountains is admirable."

"We wanted to share this message of hope in the midst of hardship with the wider community and to remember the sacrifices they made and adversities they endured in building this incredible engineering feat," he added.

Jenni Savigny, Gen S Stories and artistic director on this project said, "Having worked with diverse groups of storytellers over many years, it so important and rewarding to be able to give participants the opportunity to have a voice and be heard on their own terms. This particular project records the personal experiences of the ex-Snowy workers and their families, with a sense of what it was like to be there, and what it meant to people's lives.

You gain a greater understanding through their words and images, which is very special. They are the last of a generation and capturing their experiences is an important historical resource."

Megan Hinton Director, PhotoAccess said, "We are thrilled to be a part of this historical project and to be able to facilitate making of these stories, assisting each storyteller in producing a short film, bringing together their own recorded scripts, personal photographs and archive images with support from the National Archives of Australia."

The digital story, "Snowy: Stories from former workers and families of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme" will be officially launched at a special screening on 7 June at the Palace Electric Cinema in New Acton.

These stories will then be made available on the [Woden Community Service YouTube Channel](#).

Media interested in attending the premiere, or for interview opportunities with the participants and artistic director please contact Mark Devan, Manager Marketing and Communications at 0476 804 565 or email him at mark.devan@wcs.org.au

About the Snowy Hydro

Snowy Hydro is a dynamic energy company supplying electricity to more than one million homes and businesses. Since the days of our pioneering past, Snowy Hydro has grown into the fourth largest player in the energy market. Snowy Hydro not only operates the mighty Snowy Scheme (nine power stations including pumped storage at Tumut 3 Power Station and Jindabyne Pumping Station), it also operates gas and diesel peaking assets in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

The construction of the Snowy Scheme began in 1949 and was completed in 1974. More than 100 000 people from some 30 countries worked on the Snowy Scheme. Only a third of the workforce were Australian, many workers came to work on the Scheme to escape war-torn Europe and begin a new life. Working side-by-side allies and even former enemies had the opportunity to become part of the local community the 'Snowy Family'.

Snowy Hydro also owns the electricity and gas retail companies Red Energy and Lumo Energy, and the utility connections business, Direct Connect. www.snowyhydro.com.au

About Woden Community Service

Woden Community Service is a Not-For-Profit organisation that has been providing community based services for over 45 years covering all of Canberra. We employ around 400 staff and who, along with 80 volunteers, deliver a wide range of services covering children, families, young people and seniors including disability, housing and mental health services. Our vision is to build and nurture a vibrant and connected community. For more information visit www.wcs.org.au or call 02 6282 2644.

About Gen S Stories

Jenni Savigny of Gen S Stories has a wealth of experience working with various individual and groups to allow them to use the medium of digital storytelling to share their story in their own voice and pictures including previous project such as, "Surrender" and "Stories from the Street".

About PhotoAccess:

PhotoAccess is the foremost destination in the ACT for local, interstate and international visitors to see, appreciate, learn about, make and show contemporary photo-based art. We are a member-based visual arts organisation presenting an ongoing program of exhibitions, courses, talks, publications, community projects and artist residencies. PhotoAccess is proud to house the only publicly accessible black and white darkroom in the ACT & NSW region. We work with the community to increase appreciation and understanding of the power and potential of the photo-based image. We value innovation and creativity, accessibility, a sense of community, independence, excellence and integrity.