
Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme

location In south eastern New South Wales.
owner Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority

the plaques

types **National Engineering Landmark and Information Plaques**

location On a rock in a small garden, left of the entrance to the visitors gallery at Tumut 3 Power Station.

type **International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark** Awarded in 1997 by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

location Beside the Institution of Engineers, Australia plaques at Tumut 3 Power Station.

The “Snowy” ranks as one of the world’s great engineering achievements. From an engineering point of view, it exposed Australian engineers to state-of-the-art construction, contract and labour management techniques; it established a major contracting industry; and raised the expertise of Australian engineering to new heights.

plaque text

Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme

This scheme diverts the Snowy and Eucumbene Rivers inland to provide irrigation water and a secure source of renewable energy. It includes 16 large dams, 225km of tunnels and aqueducts, a pumping station and 7 power stations of which this was the last to be completed. The scheme was built between 1949 and 1974 by a multinational workforce and was completed within budget and on time. It was, on completion, the most complex, multi-reservoir, multipurpose hydro-electric engineering scheme in the world.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia and the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority, 1989.



Sir William Hudson (1896–1978)

Born in New Zealand, Hudson studied engineering in London, graduating with distinction in 1920 after service in World War I. He worked as an engineer on dam construction and hydro-electric projects in New Zealand, Scotland and Australia. He was appointed Engineer-in-Chief of the Sydney Water Board in 1947 after working for the Board on construction of Cataract and Woronora Dams.

In 1949 he was appointed Commissioner of the new Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority, with overall responsibility for the largest engineering project ever undertaken in Australia.

Hudson was knighted in 1955 and retired from the Authority in 1967, aged nearly 71.



Tumut 3 Power station