



Capacity

2.5MW

Electricity generation

Est. 10 GWh pa

Carbon abatement

Up to 8,000 tonnes

Homes supplied equivalent

Up to 2,600 pa

Equivalent cars off the road

Est. 31,000 pa

Turbine

1 x 2.5MW



The Drop Hydro project in NSW

The Drop hydro plant

The Drop uses existing infrastructure and proven hydro technology to produce environmentally friendly electricity.

It took Pacific Hydro to recognise the powerful flows of water released for irrigation purposes from the Southern Hemisphere's largest irrigation channel, the Mulwala Canal, as an untapped source of hydro power.

As Australia's first hydroelectric scheme built on an irrigation channel, the project is now generating clean, renewable energy without affecting the water flow to the 2,600 farms the canal supplies.

Once approval had been gained from the local authorities and community, the 2.5MW The Drop hydro plant was constructed on the site and began generating power in November 2000. The project now generates about 10,000MWh of pollution free energy each year and avoids around 11,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions every year – that's the same as removing 2,500 cars from the road.

The project also generates 11,000 Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) each year, as recognised under the Federal Government's Mandatory Renewable Energy Target scheme.

We've negotiated a 10 year agreement to sell all the RECs and energy generated by the plant to major NSW energy retailer Country Energy.

Supported by grants from the Australian Greenhouse Office and the NSW Sustainable Energy Development Authority, the successful development of this project in a short time frame resulted from the cooperation of a number of organisations, including Murray Irrigation, which is responsible for the water supply.

Construction of The Drop hydro plant also provided considerable benefits to the local economy including investment and job creation, with up to 30 people employed on the site. The Drop uses existing infrastructure and proven hydro technology to produce environmentally friendly electricity.