

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **SEARCH AND RESCUE A SUCCESS OVERNIGHT**

Snowy Hydro SouthCare rescued a group of bushwalkers north of Jindabyne yesterday evening. One of the bushwalkers was suffering a cardiac condition and was transferred to The Canberra Hospital once retrieved.

The group had with them the 406 MHz Emergency Beacon which is now the standard EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Response Beacon) for use within Australia.

It is encouraged that all bushwalkers have with them an emergency beacon and success was shown overnight with the patient being found and retrieved within 45 minutes, potentially saving his life.

The Emergency Beacon set off a satellite call which notified the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's (AMSA) Rescue Coordination Centre who in turn notified the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Rescue Helicopter which was able to find the group using the GPS coordinates given from the beacon.

"Searching for people in rough and heavy bush land can be a challenge, the emergency beacons make it much faster to locate people in distress and if a member of your party has injuries, you can see the benefits of being able to locate you immediately and transport you for further medical treatment you may require" says CEO Steve Gregory.

"AMSA advises that old analogue beacons can no longer be used as distress alerting devices and as of 1 February 2010 it will be illegal to operate a 121.5 MHz beacon. They should be removed from the environment immediately to ensure they do not block out true distress alerts and take valuable resources away from real life and death situations." Mr. Gregory added.

For more information on EPIRBs please visit [www.amsa.gov.au](http://www.amsa.gov.au).

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