

**For Immediate Release**  
**Date: 08/01/10 Time: 11:10pm**

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## **Snowy Hydro SouthCare assists snake bite victim**

The Snowy Hydro SouthCare Rescue Helicopter was tasked on Friday night 8 January 2010 to Wombeyan Caves in NSW to transport a 13 year old male with a Red Belly Black Snake bite to The Canberra Hospital.

During the flight from Wombeyan Caves to the Canberra Hospital the patient remained conscious with blurred vision.

The red-bellied black snake's head is barely distinguishable from the body as there is no obvious constricted neck area. This snake is dangerously venomous but bites are rare because it is usually a placid and fairly docile snake, preferring to enact a lengthy bluff display with flattened neck and deep hisses rather than bite. It grows to a length of 2.5 metres, and is a very distinctive snake because of its simple and unvarying coloration. The upper surface of this snake is glossy black while the belly is light pink to brilliant red.

The red-bellied black snake is commonly associated with streams, rivers, creeks, swamps and other wetland areas. They may wander into well vegetated private gardens which are adjacent to water courses.

CEO of Snowy Hydro SouthCare, Steve Gregory, says "Summer is a busy time for snake bites and typically in Canberra and surrounding region the Eastern Brown Snake is the biggest concern".

The venom of most Australian creatures moves in the body's tiny lymphatic vessels. The general effects are slow in onset, as long as the patient remains still.

Mr Gregory adds, "the safest precaution is to carry a proper snake bandage (pressure immobilisation bandage) with you when you expect to spend time out in our natural bush areas and familiarise yourself with how to apply the bandage."

**NB: Please note that our full registered business name is Snowy Hydro SouthCare, please ensure you use the correct terminology when reporting. Many thanks.**

*The Snowy Hydro SouthCare Rescue Helicopter Service was established in 1998 as the primary provider of aero-medical and rescue helicopter services in the Australian Capital Territory and southeastern New South Wales. Call (02) 6205 1582 or visit [www.snowyhydrosouthcare.com.au](http://www.snowyhydrosouthcare.com.au) for more information.*