

# Don Irrigation Scheme

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## Scheme Performance

*By Ben Clarke, Scheme Operator*

The 2025/26 irrigation season for the Don Irrigation Scheme delivered strong overall performance, with total water delivery volumes higher than the previous year.

Approximately 1,609 megalitres (ML) of water was delivered this season, compared with 1,363 ML last year.

The season was characterised by dry conditions, with only a brief period of rainfall in December providing short-term relief.

There was strong reliance on Tasmanian Irrigation water to finish crops as dry conditions and high temperatures persisted through the summer and autumn months.

Despite the dry weather, the scheme continued to meet irrigator demand throughout the season.

A key operational focus this year was the flood-mitigation system at the Forth–South Pump Station (FSPS), which performed effectively during rainfall events.

However, the FSPS was out of operation for several weeks, requiring contingency planning to ensure irrigators continued to receive water. Plans were put in place for all affected irrigators, and deliveries were maintained without major disruption.



I would like to thank all irrigators for their cooperation and patience during the FSPS outage. Your communication and flexibility helped ensure the scheme continued to operate smoothly during this period.

It is always rewarding to see the scheme running well and irrigators happy with the service provided.

Maintaining strong relationships and sharing information helps ensure the Don Irrigation Scheme continues to deliver water where and when it is needed.

Please reach out if you require further information about our Scheme or the content of this end of season newsletter.

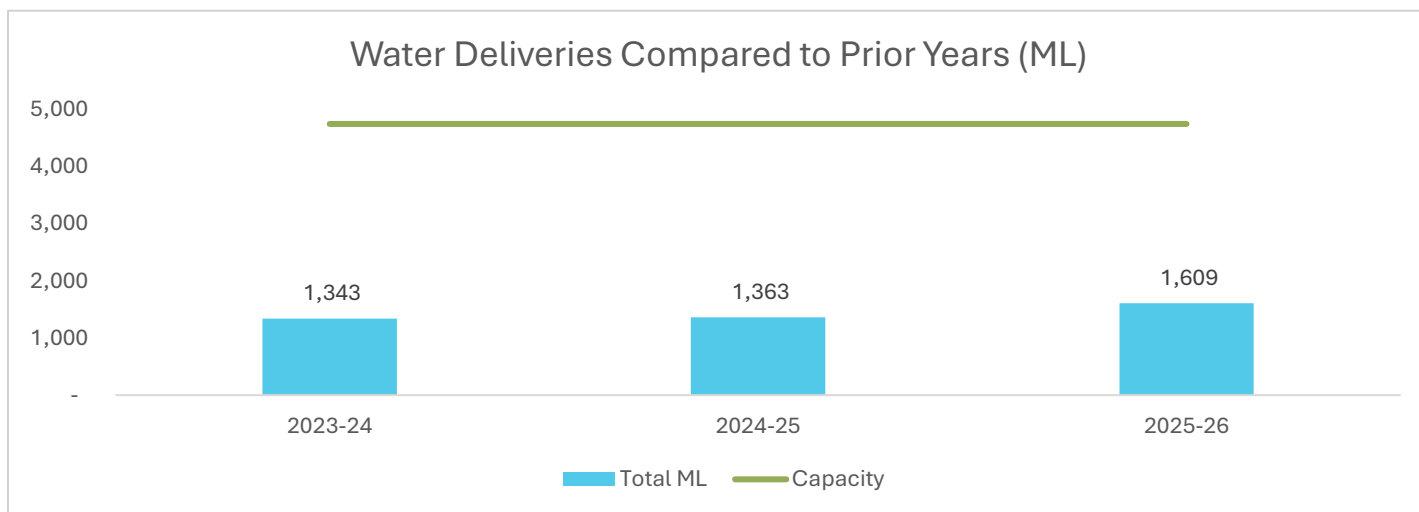
## Don Irrigation Scheme

### Water Delivery

The 2025/26 summer irrigation season ran for 183 days, opening on 1 October 2025 and closing on 31 March 2026.

100 per cent of the Scheme’s water allocation was available and approximately 1,609 ML of water was delivered during the summer season.

The volume delivered represents a 34 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme’s 4,750 ML total summer capacity.



### Available Water

Thank you to irrigators for their continued interest in purchasing the remaining water available on the Don Irrigation Scheme. There are currently 1,150 megalitres of summer water available, as well as an abundance of winter water.

Tasmanian Irrigation Corporate Services Manager Cody Townend said the ongoing interest in purchasing Tasmanian Irrigation water was a direct reflection of the high value that irrigators place on having a secure allocation of water to minimise risk and boost profitability. “These entitlements offer a valuable opportunity for landowners seeking secure, long-term access to irrigation water to support agricultural expansion and business resilience,” Cody said.

Tasmanian Irrigation offers flexible purchase and lease options to help landowners secure access to irrigation water. These options include outright purchase, deferred payment plans, short-term leasing and lease-to-buy arrangements that credit lease payments toward eventual ownership of the water entitlement.

To discuss irrigation water purchasing opportunities contact Cody Townend on (03) 6398-8433 or [cody.townend@tasirrigation.com.au](mailto:cody.townend@tasirrigation.com.au).

## Don Irrigation Scheme

### Asset Renewal Levy (ARL)

The ARL makes provisions for major asset repairs and replacements required to ensure the continuing operation of the Scheme.

The table below shows the asset renewal works completed or expected to be completed prior to the next season:

Facility Name	ARL Task Description
Barrington pump station	Access road repair
Scheme wide	Critical spare purchases

### Repairs and Maintenance

The table below shows the general repairs and maintenance completed or expected to be completed prior to the next season:

Maintenance Task Description
Electrical switchboard periodic maintenance inspections
Pump station vibration monitoring assessments
Weed and vegetation management
Motor and pump lubrication
VESDA service (early fire protection system)



## Don Irrigation Scheme

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### Farm Water Access Plan Audits

Tasmanian Irrigation is about to commence the annual Farm Water Access Plan (Farm WAP) audit process to maintain compliance and environmental excellence. Farm WAPs are property-specific documents that guide the responsible use of irrigation water and protect the long-term productivity and environmental values of irrigated farmland.

Audits are randomly selected and generally involve around 10 to 15 per cent of irrigators in each scheme who have used more than five megalitres (ML) of water during the season. If selected, irrigators will be contacted to arrange a suitable time for the audit. To help spread audits across a broader range of properties, irrigators who were audited last season and those currently awaiting updated Farm WAPs will not be included in this year's audit program.

Audits generally involve a site inspection; a discussion with the landholder or irrigation staff; and a review of relevant records and documentation. To help the audit process run smoothly, now is a good time for irrigators to revisit their approved Farm WAP and confirm that irrigation activities align with the approved plan. Common issues identified during audits include irrigation occurring outside approved Farm WAP areas or incorrect dam and storage information.

For assistance or questions, contact the Farm WAP Team on (03) 6398-8433 or email [FarmWAP@tasirrigation.com.au](mailto:FarmWAP@tasirrigation.com.au).

### Dam Levels Update

Tasmanian Irrigation took the opportunity to harvest water from rivers into storages during recent rainfall events, boosting dam levels across the State. With long range forecasts pointing to drier-than-average conditions ahead, making the most of rainfall events to replenish our dams is more important than ever.

Tasmanian Irrigation updates dam levels on our website daily.

You can find out the current level and capacity of each dam here:

[Dam Dashboard - Tasmanian Irrigation](#).

### Get in Touch

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