

Dial Blythe Irrigation Scheme

Scheme Performance

By Theresa Chapman, Scheme Operator

The 2025/26 irrigation season for the Dial Blythe Irrigation Scheme was marked by steady overall performance.

Approximately 1,510 megalitres (ML) of water was delivered this summer season, compared with 1,716 ML last season.

The season began with a wet and cold spring and early summer, before shifting rapidly into very dry conditions from late summer onwards. The sudden dry-off created a spike in demand across the scheme, with many irrigators increasing usage later in the season than usual. This elevated demand continued through to the close of the season.

A key operational challenge this year was repeated draining of the balance tank, which caused temporary loss of flow across the Scheme. To address this, we will begin keeping a careful record of any flow sharing arrangements, allowing rapid/quick problem solving while still enabling irrigators to maximise their use of the Scheme.

While the Scheme was operating at full capacity, flow control was critical to meeting demand, while maintaining the required flows and pressures.

Despite these issues, the scheme continued to supply water across all serviced areas, and several important operational learnings were gained.



Season highlights included:

- Strengthening relationships with irrigators;
- Successfully coordinating a team to remove and clean the e-flow flow meter; and
- Daily early-morning inspections at the South Riana Lake — often shared with the local echidnas and swans, a reminder of the unique environment we work in.

I sincerely thank all irrigators for their cooperation throughout the season, particularly during periods of flow-sharing and informal coordination between neighbours. Continued improvement in casual flow-sharing arrangements will help reduce pressure on the balance tank and improve service delivery next season.



Last Updated: June 2026

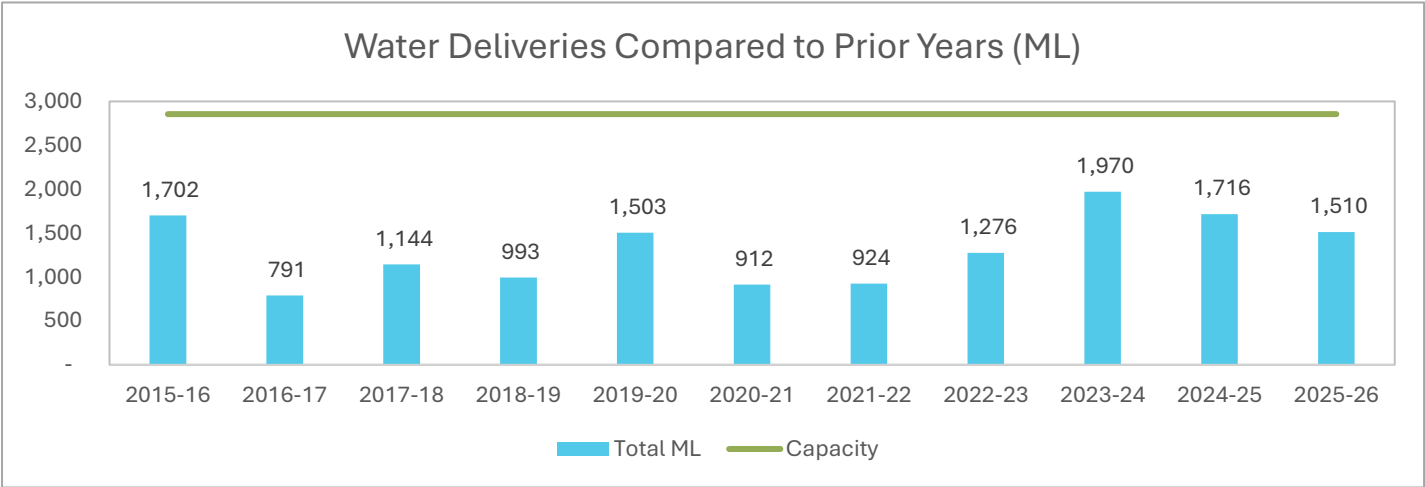
Dial Blythe Irrigation Scheme

Water Delivery

The 2025/26 summer irrigation season ran for 150 days, opening on 1 November 2025 and closing on 31 March 2026.

100 per cent of the Scheme’s water allocation was available and approximately 1,510 ML of water was delivered during the summer season.

The volume delivered represents a 53 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme’s 2,855 ML total summer capacity.



Dial Blythe 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
South Rianna pump station	Refurbish the power quality filters
South Rianna pump station	Install extra fans and heaters to electrical cabinets
Scheme wide	Upgrade the Cuprona flow meters
South Riana Dam	Dam asset renewals

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
Weed and vegetation management
Motor and pump lubrication
VESDA service (early fire protection system)
Dam surveillance
Dam repairs and maintenance



Dial Blythe Irrigation Scheme

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.

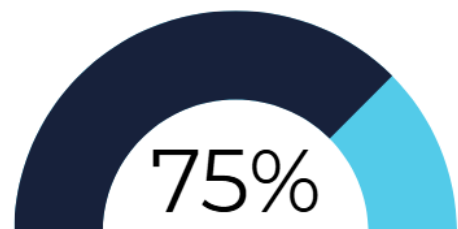
Audits generally involve a site inspection; a discussion with the landholder or irrigation staff; and a review of relevant records and documentation. To help the audit process run smoothly, now is a good time for irrigators to revisit their approved Farm WAP and confirm that irrigation activities align 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.

Dam Update – South Riana Dam

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.

As at the end of June, the South Riana Dam was at 75 per cent of capacity. The current volume is 3,055 ML, compared to the total volume of 4,069 ML. Dam levels are updated daily on Tasmanian Irrigation's website here: [Dam Dashboard - Tasmanian Irrigation](#).



South Riana Dam –
current percentage of capacity

Get in Touch

Theresa Chapman, Scheme Operator
Phone: 0428 617 805
Email: theresa.chapman@tasirrigation.com.au
www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au