

Duck Irrigation Scheme

Scheme Performance

By Chris Hofing, Scheme Operator

The 2025/26 irrigation season for the Duck Irrigation Scheme delivered strong and reliable performance, despite total water delivery volumes being lower than the previous year. Approximately 1,861 megalitres (ML) of water was supplied to farmers this season, compared with 3,788 ML last year.

The season began with a later-than-usual start to demand, as irrigators benefited from mild and sunny early-season conditions.

Once demand increased, the scheme continued to meet irrigator requirements, with water delivered on time and pumps performing well throughout the season.

A minor challenge this year was a series of power outages, which caused short interruptions but did not result in extended downtime. TasNetworks was notified, and no further issues were recorded.

We will continue to monitor power reliability in the district and work with all stakeholders to minimise disruptions to our Scheme.

Operationally, the removal of the Smithton pump was completed smoothly and without disruption to irrigators.



Importantly, no major faults occurred this season.

It was great to be able to collaborate with irrigators to extend the season by 30 days, helping to finish and start crops, and maintain pasture productivity.

I thank all farmers for their cooperation and communication throughout the season. 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 Duck 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.



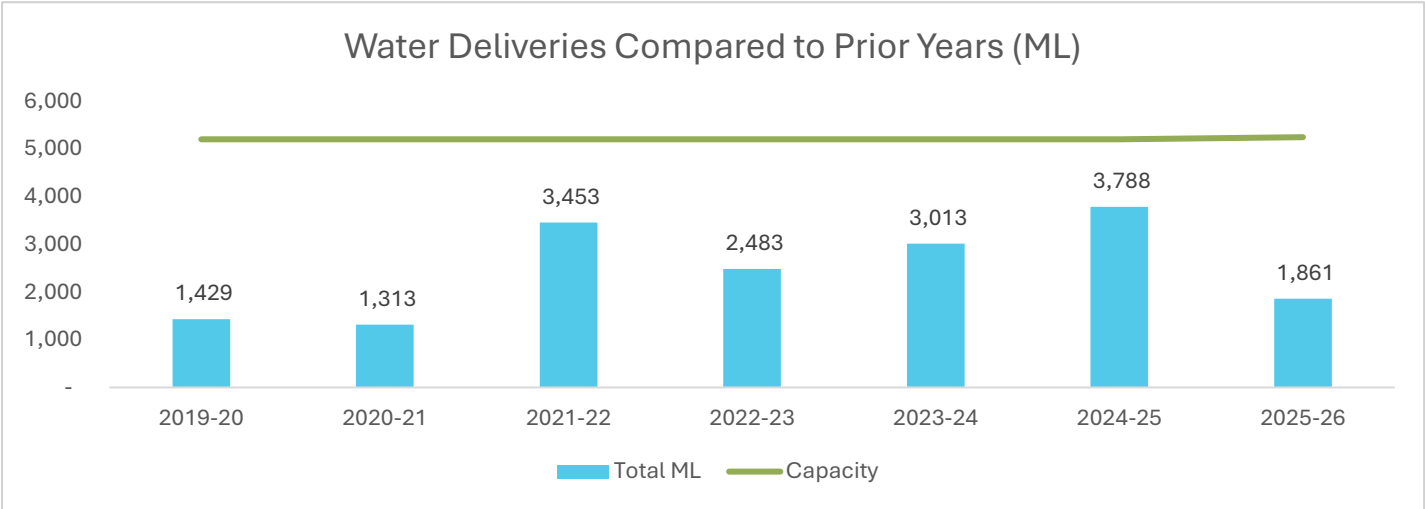
Duck Irrigation Scheme

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 1,861 ML of water was delivered during the summer season.

The volume delivered represents a 35 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme’s 5,245 ML total summer capacity.



Duck 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
Smithton pump station	Pump refurbishment
Smithton pump station	Refurbish the power quality filters
All pump stations	Wet well clean up
Edith Creek pump station	Pump refurbishment
Mill Creek 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
Pump station vibration monitoring assessments
Weed and vegetation management
Motor and pump lubrication
VESDA service (early fire protection system)
Dam surveillance
Dam repairs and maintenance



Duck 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.

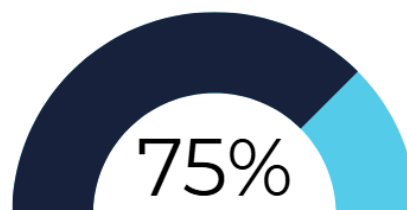
Audits generally involve a site inspection; a discussion with the landholder or irrigation staff; and a review of relevant records and documentation. To help the audit process run smoothly, now is a good time for irrigators to revisit their approved Farm WAP and confirm that irrigation activities align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

At the end of June, the Mill Creek Dam was at 75 per cent of capacity. The current volume is 4,724 ML, compared to the total volume of 6,275 ML. Dam levels are updated daily on Tasmanian Irrigation's website here: [Dam Dashboard - Tasmanian Irrigation](#).



Mill Creek Dam –
current percentage of capacity

Get in Touch

Chris Hofing, Scheme Operator

Phone: 0407 554 800

Email: chris.hofing@tasirrigation.com.au

www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au