

Great Forester Irrigation Scheme

Scheme Performance

By Troy Bowen, Scheme Operator

The 2025/26 irrigation season for the Great Forester Irrigation Scheme delivered strong overall performance, with total water delivery volumes slightly higher than the previous year. Approximately 1,084 megalitres (ML) of water was delivered this season, compared with 1,069 ML last year.

The season was shaped by much drier conditions, particularly from Christmas onwards, which increased demand across the scheme.

Early in the season, very windy conditions created some operational challenges for irrigators, but the scheme continued to meet demand throughout the season.

Importantly, there were no major faults or outages, and all ordered water was delivered promptly.

Operational works, including spillway repairs (such as re-grouting cracks and joint sealing), toe drainage improvements and weed control, were completed successfully and contributed to stable scheme performance.

These works support long-term asset performance and help maintain reliable water delivery during peak demand periods.



There were no major faults or outages recorded during the season.

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

I thank all irrigators 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 Great Forester 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.

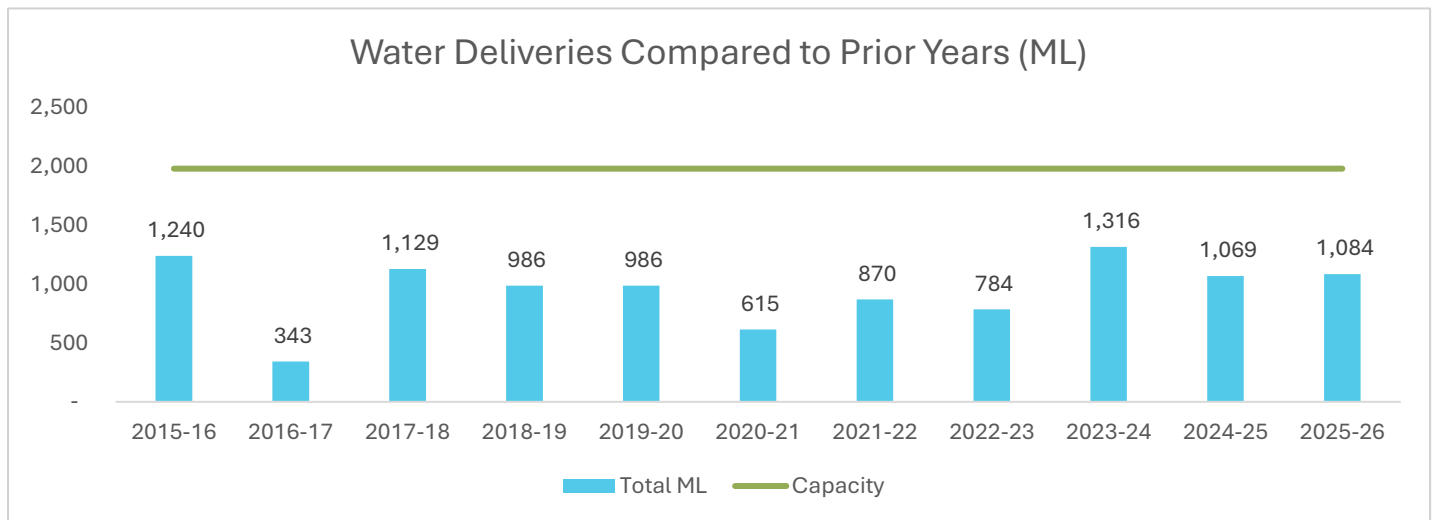
Great Forester Irrigation Scheme

Water Delivery

The 2025/26 summer irrigation season ran for 156 days, opening on 1 November 2025 and closing on 7 April 2026.

100 per cent of the Scheme’s water allocation was available and approximately 1,084 ML of water was delivered during the summer season.

The volume delivered represents a 55 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme’s 1,980 ML total summer capacity.



Great Forester 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
Headquarters Road 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
Weed and vegetation management
Dam surveillance
Dam repairs and maintenance



Great Forester 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.

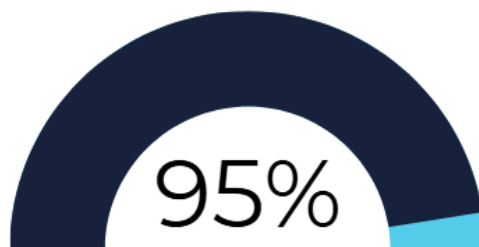
Audits generally involve a site inspection; a discussion with the landholder or irrigation staff; and a review of relevant records and documentation. To help the audit process run smoothly, now is a good time for irrigators to revisit their approved Farm WAP and confirm that irrigation activities align 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 – Headquarters Road 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 Headquarters Road Dam was at 95 per cent of capacity. The current volume is 2,219 ML, compared to the total volume of 2,330 ML. Dam levels are updated daily on Tasmanian Irrigation's website here: [Dam Dashboard - Tasmanian Irrigation](#).



Headquarters Road Dam –
current percentage of capacity

Get in Touch

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