

# Greater Meander Irrigation Scheme

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## Scheme Performance

***By Brett Bennett, Scheme Operator***

The 2025/26 irrigation season for the Greater Meander Irrigation Scheme delivered performance broadly consistent with the previous year, with total water delivery volumes up by more than 2,000 megalitres (ML). Approximately 25,671 ML of water was delivered this season, compared with 23,599 ML last year.

Seasonal conditions played a major role in shaping demand. The season began dry and remained dry through to the end, with very low natural watercourse flows contributing to increased transmission losses. Despite these challenges, the scheme continued to meet irrigator demand across all serviced areas.

Operationally, the season was marked by several significant issues, including loss of performance at Hagley pump two, thermistor faults, switchboard cooling issues and a pipeline blow-out at the Hagley pump station.

Electricity supply outages also contributed to intermittent disruptions.

Despite these challenges, irrigators were kept informed and supply was managed for each activity.



The scheme benefited from starting the season with a full storage, and increased pipeline delivery capacity improved watercourse delivery, even with higher transmission losses.

I would like to thank all irrigators for their patience, communication and cooperation throughout the season.

Your support helps ensure the Greater Meander 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.

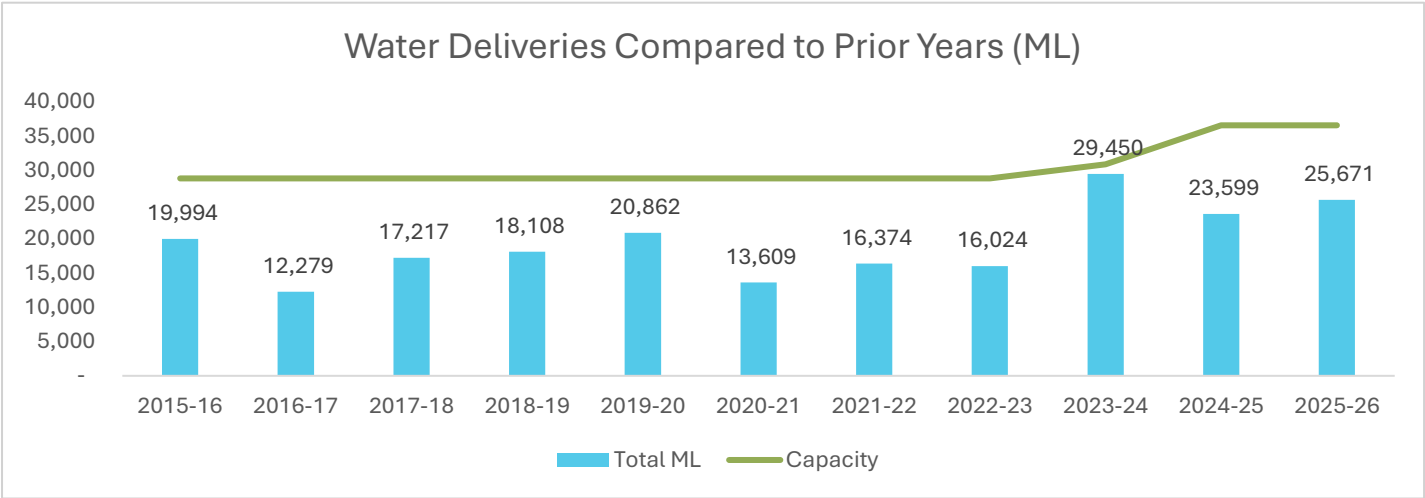
# Greater Meander Irrigation Scheme

## 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 25,671 ML of water was delivered during the summer season.

The volume delivered represents a 70 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme’s 36,545 ML total summer capacity.



## Greater Meander 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                                                           |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hagley pump station                | Install a cooling unit for the Variable Speed Drives cabinet                   |
| Scheme wide                        | Replace water meters and worn out critical components                          |
| Caveside                           | Upgrade comms at riparian valves at Western Creek, Dale Brook and Quamby Brook |
| Meander Dam                        | Clear rocks and trees from abutment access road                                |
| Cheshunt drain                     | Erosion repair                                                                 |
| Caveside and Rubicon pump stations | Install access hatch lids and screen cover to stop debris                      |
| Caveside and Rubicon pump stations | Install new enclosures for riparian valves at Coilers Creek and Ritchies Creek |
| Meander 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                              |
| High voltage periodic maintenance                       |
| Pipe leak repairs                                       |
| Dam surveillance                                        |
| Dam repairs and maintenance                             |





## Greater Meander 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 Update – Meander 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 Meander Dam was at 94 per cent of capacity. The current volume is 40,619 ML, compared to the total volume of 43,000 ML. Dam levels are updated daily on Tasmanian Irrigation's website here: [Dam Dashboard - Tasmanian Irrigation](#).



Meander Dam –  
current percentage of capacity

### Get in Touch

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