

Midlands Irrigation Scheme

Scheme Performance

By Ryan Thomas, Scheme Operator

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

11,698 megalitres (ML) were delivered this summer season, compared with 9,616 ML last year.

The season was shaped by drier-than-normal conditions, with below-average rainfall and extended periods of high demand. Tasmanian Irrigation's decision to sell remaining unsold winter water in Zone Three also contributed to increased usage across the scheme.

Despite the elevated demand, the scheme performed well overall. A significant operational challenge occurred when a winding failure in the mini hydro caused a two-week shutdown. It was a great effort by all to avoid a longer shutdown at such a busy time of year.

Outside of this event, pump stations and associated infrastructure held up strongly under continuous high-flow conditions.

Occasional trips at the mini hydro resulted in short outages of one to two hours, and TasNetworks planned outages (up to eight hours) had minimal impact on delivery.



High prevailing westerly winds early in the season required multiple trips to Arthurs Lake to clean the offtake screens, though this rarely affected supply.

Overall, the Scheme demonstrated resilience and reliability during what appears to be a near-record year for water delivery for the Scheme.

I would like to thank all irrigators for their cooperation and communication throughout the season. Your support helps ensure the Midlands 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.

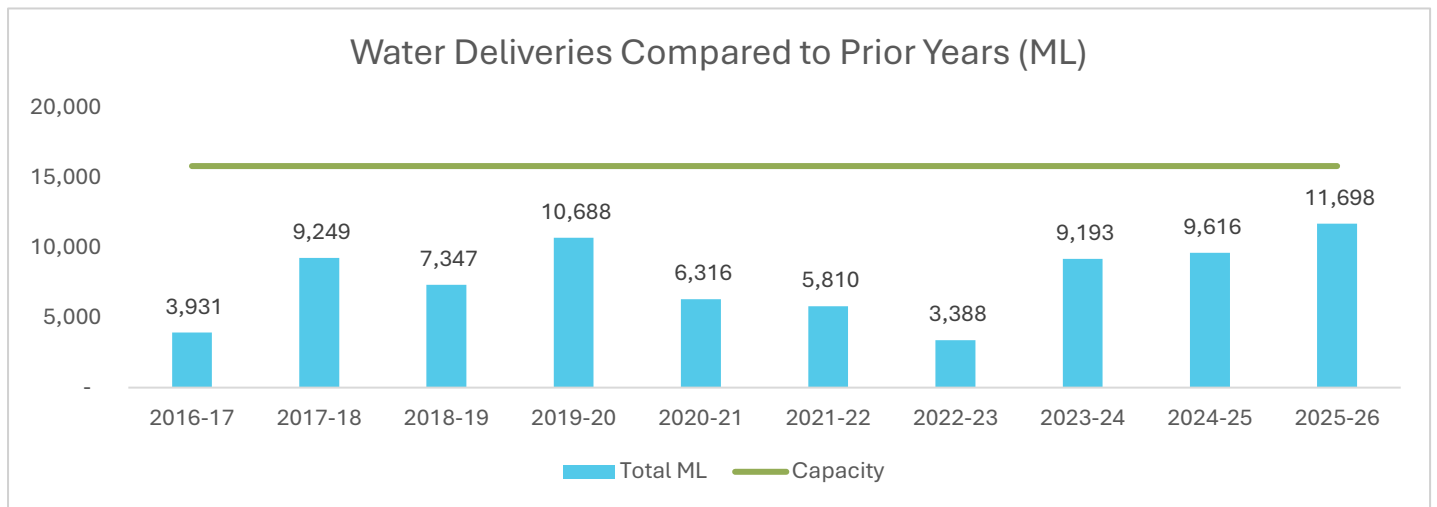
Midlands Irrigation Scheme

Water Delivery

The 2025/26 irrigation season is running for 365 days, opening from 1 October 2025 and closing on 30 September 2026.

100 per cent of the Scheme’s water allocation was available and approximately 11,698 ML of water was delivered during the summer season.

The volume delivered represents a 74 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme’s 15,812 ML total summer capacity.



Midlands 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
Midlands Highway pump station	Pump refurbishments
Midlands Highway pump station	Progressive Variable Speed Drives replacements
Midlands Highway pump station	Static Compensator (Statcom) 10-yearly service
Scheme wide	Fibre optic upgrades
Scheme wide	Replace worn out critical components (water meters, pilots, solar controllers)
Upper Floods 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
High voltage periodic maintenance
Dam surveillance
Dam repairs and maintenance



Midlands 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.

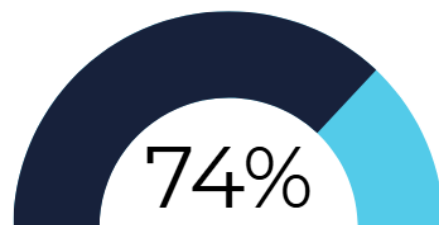
Audits generally involve a site inspection; a discussion with the landholder or irrigation staff; and a review of relevant records and documentation. To help the audit process run smoothly, now is a good time for irrigators to revisit their approved Farm WAP and confirm that irrigation activities align 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 – Upper Floods 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 Upper Floods Creek Dam was at 74 per cent of capacity. The current volume is 372 ML, compared to the total volume of 500 ML. Dam levels are updated daily on Tasmanian Irrigation's website here: [Dam Dashboard - Tasmanian Irrigation](#).



Upper Floods Creek Dam –
current percentage of capacity

Get in Touch

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