

Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme

Scheme Performance

By Russell McDougall, Scheme Operator

Tasmanian Irrigation delivered 4,053 megalitres (ML) of irrigation water to farmers throughout the Scottsdale region during the 2025/26 summer irrigation season.

This was slightly below the 4,489 ML delivered the previous year, mainly due to the wet, windy and cold weather prior to Christmas which impacted demand for irrigation water.

However, with little to no summer rain and temperatures averaging around the mid 20s for the remainder of the season, demand for water increased into 2026.

Farmers again confirmed their reliance on Tasmanian Irrigation water to plant and finish crops, as well as maintain pasture productivity for grazing enterprises.

Water delivery was very high in the zones that are fully allocated, resulting in pipelines running at full capacity especially when irrigators were turning on and off.

There were no planned or unplanned outages during the irrigation season, resulting in a high level of asset performance.

All assets performed very well, especially under extreme high flow irrigation conditions.

It was pleasing to see the mini hydro station perform much better this season. Despite the mini hydro being offline for 20 days, after vandals cut the optic fibre on Boxing Day, we were able to utilise the Headquarters Road Buffer Dam to ensure there was no disruption to water delivery. Once the repair parts arrived, we ran the mini hydro and pumps at near full capacity for several weeks to replenish water levels in Headquarters Dam and to offset any power generation losses.



The installation of a new 20-metre communications pole at the East Diddleum header tank has helped to ease communications issues with the mini hydro station. We are still experiencing some communications dropouts so we will continue to work to resolve this problem.

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.

During the winter shut down, our repairs and maintenance priorities are focused on annual mini hydro checks, high voltage testing and the replacement of meters, ensuring we continue to deliver water as efficiently, reliably and cost effectively as possible.

I sincerely thank all irrigators for their communication and support over the season, ensuring the Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme continues to deliver water where and when you need it.

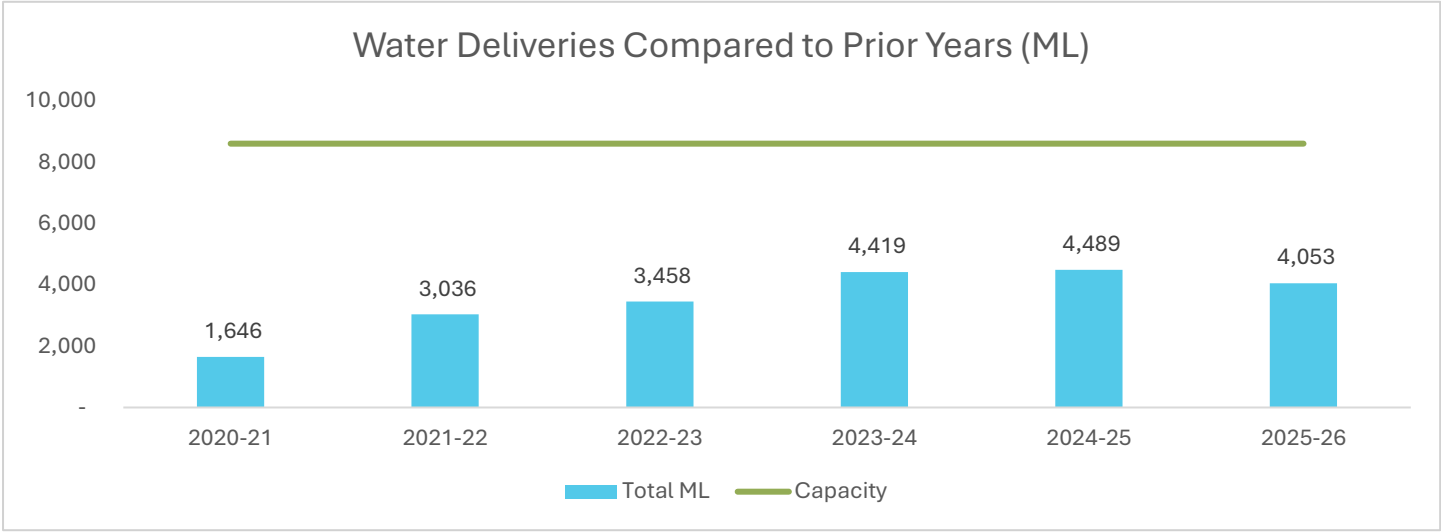
Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme

Water Delivery

The 2025/26 summer irrigation season ran for 157 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 4,053 ML of water was delivered during the summer season.

The volume delivered represents a 47 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme’s 8,600 ML total summer capacity.



Available Water

Thank you to irrigators for their continued interest in purchasing the remaining water available on the Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme. There are currently 415 megalitres of water available for purchase.

Tasmanian Irrigation Corporate Services Manager Cody Townend said the ongoing interest in purchasing Tasmanian Irrigation water was a direct reflection of the high value that irrigators place on having a secure allocation of water to minimise risk and boost profitability. “These entitlements offer a valuable opportunity for landowners seeking secure, long-term access to irrigation water to support agricultural expansion and business resilience,” Cody said.

Tasmanian Irrigation offers flexible purchase and lease options to help landowners secure access to irrigation water. These options include outright purchase, deferred payment plans, short-term leasing and lease-to-buy arrangements that credit lease payments toward eventual ownership of the water entitlement.

Work is also underway to potentially introduce a winter water product. We will share additional information about this in the coming months. To discuss irrigation water purchasing opportunities contact Cody Townend on (03) 6398-8433 or cody.townend@tasirrigation.com.au.

Scottsdale 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
Scheme wide	Gantry to lift heavy equipment at the workshop
Scheme wide	Upgrade security with CCTVs around major assets
Scheme wide	Critical spare purchases
Camden Rivulet 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
Vandalism repairs
High voltage transmission line vegetation management
Mechanical periodic maintenance
Dam surveillance
Dam repairs and maintenance



Scottsdale 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.

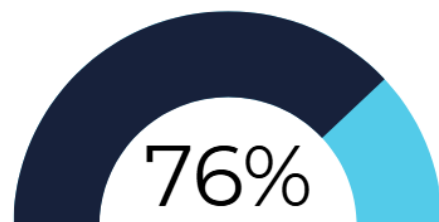
Audits generally involve a site inspection; a discussion with the landholder or irrigation staff; and a review of relevant records and documentation. To help the audit process run smoothly, now is a good time for irrigators to revisit their approved Farm WAP and confirm that irrigation activities align 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 – Camden Rivulet 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 Camden Rivulet Dam was at 76 per cent of capacity. The current volume is 7,445 ML, compared to the total volume of 9,780 ML. Dam levels are updated daily on Tasmanian Irrigation's website here: [Dam Dashboard - Tasmanian Irrigation](#).



Camden Rivulet Dam –
current percentage of capacity

Get in Touch

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