

Swan Irrigation Scheme

Scheme Performance

By Scott Williams, Scheme Operator

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

Approximately 1,178 megalitres (ML) of water was delivered this season, compared with 1,116 ML last year.

The season was shaped by very dry conditions, with only a single rainfall event in November providing an opportunity to pump approximately 200 ML into storage. The lack of rainfall and high temperatures persisted through summer and into autumn, resulting in ongoing high demand for Tasmanian Irrigation water.

Despite the ongoing dry, the scheme continued to meet irrigator demand throughout the delivery period.

Starting the season with a full dam ensured strong delivery performance, and irrigators experienced no issues accessing their water.

Operationally, the scheme performed well, with no major faults or outages.



A key activity this season was pulling the pump on the Swan River for maintenance, along with lifting a small number of outlets that had settled over time. These works were completed without impacting irrigators.

It was great to be able to collaborate with farmers to extend the season by 77 days, helping to finish and start crops, and maintain pasture productivity.

I would like to thank all irrigators for their cooperation throughout the season.

Maintaining strong relationships and sharing information helps ensure the Swan Irrigation Scheme continues to deliver water where and when it is needed.

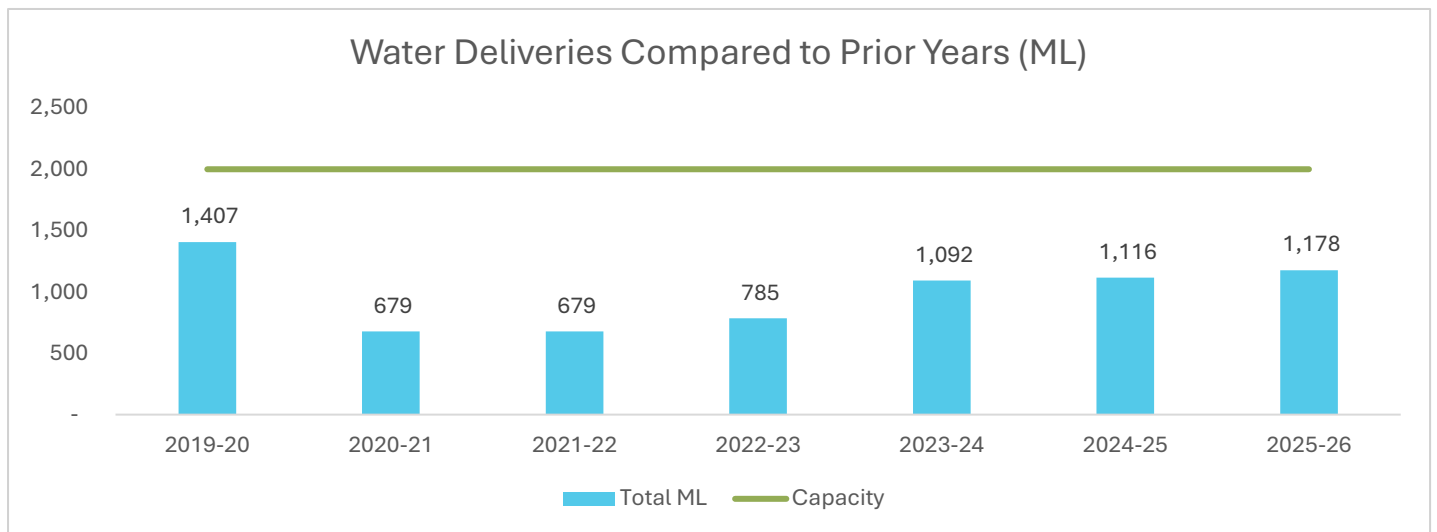
Swan Irrigation Scheme

Water Delivery

The 2025/26 summer irrigation season ran for 227 days, opening on 15 September 2025 and closing on 30 April 2026.

100 per cent of the Scheme's water allocation was available and approximately 1,178 ML of water was delivered during the summer season.

The volume delivered represents a 59 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme's 2,000 ML total summer capacity.



Swan 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	Replace worn out critical components
Melrose 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
Weed and vegetation management
Dam surveillance
Dam repairs and maintenance



Swan 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.

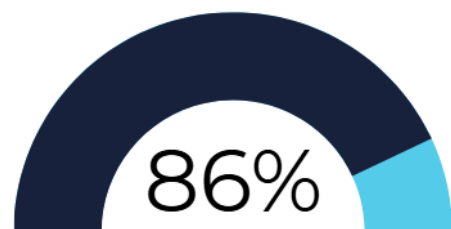
Audits generally involve a site inspection; a discussion with the landholder or irrigation staff; and a review of relevant records and documentation. To help the audit process run smoothly, now is a good time for irrigators to revisit their approved Farm WAP and confirm that irrigation activities align 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 – Melrose 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 Melrose Dam was at 86 per cent of capacity. The current volume is 2,960 ML, compared to the total volume of 3,440 ML. Dam levels are updated daily on Tasmanian Irrigation's website here: [Dam Dashboard - Tasmanian Irrigation](#).



Melrose Dam –
current percentage of capacity

Get in Touch

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