

# Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme

## Scheme Performance

*By Brenden Keep, Scheme Operator*

The 2025/26 irrigation season for the Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme delivered strong overall performance. Total water delivery volumes were higher than last year – approximately 3,989 megalitres (ML), compared with 3,662 ML last year.

The season was predominantly dry, with only a brief rainfall event in December providing short-term relief. Low rainfall and high temperatures continued throughout summer and autumn, resulting in high demand for Tasmanian Irrigation water.

A major operational milestone this season was the decommissioning of the pump station on 1 April to enable the commencement of the Scheme's augmentation. This marked a significant step in the long-term development of the scheme, which will see capacity boosted from 5,460 ML to 14,860 ML.

More than 20 km of pipeline is already in the ground, and we thank all existing and new irrigators for their cooperation and support as we roll out this \$124.2 million project for the region.

Demand was also significantly higher than usual due to the absence of General Availability (GA) water this winter, resulting in irrigators relying more heavily on Scheme supply.



Despite the dry conditions and the early shutdown for augmentation works, the Scheme continued to meet irrigator demand throughout the delivery period.

I would like to thank all irrigators for their cooperation and communication throughout the season of high demand and major infrastructure transition.

Maintaining strong relationships and sharing information helps ensure the Sassafras Wesley Vale 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.

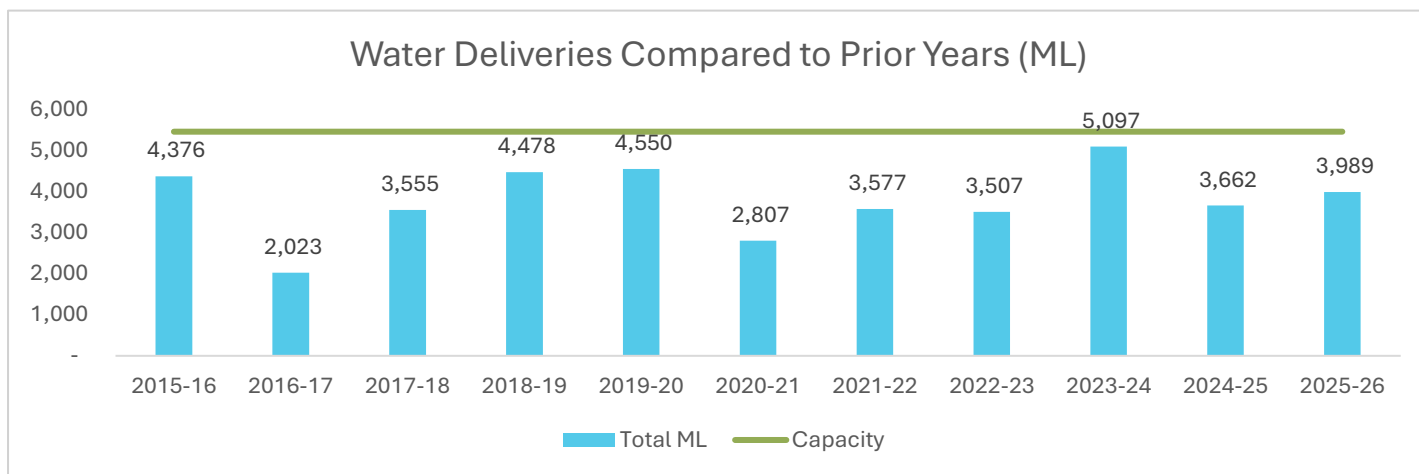
# Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme

## 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 3,989 ML of water was delivered during the summer season.

The volume delivered represents a 73 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme’s 5,460 ML total summer capacity.



## Sassafras Wesley Vale 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
Harford pump station	Motor bearing replacement
Great Bend pump station	Repair earthing grid
Scheme wide	Property outlet repairs

### 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



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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 Levels Update

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.

Tasmanian Irrigation updates dam levels on our website daily.

You can find out the current level and capacity of each dam here:

[Dam Dashboard - Tasmanian Irrigation](#).

### Get in Touch

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