

Winnaleah Irrigation Scheme

Scheme Performance

By Brett James, Scheme Operator

The 2025/26 irrigation season for the Winnaleah Irrigation Scheme delivered overall performance slightly lower than previous years, largely due to a late start to irrigation demand. Approximately 5,610 megalitres (ML) of water was delivered this season, compared with 5,716 ML last year.

Cold and windy conditions at the beginning of the season meant that irrigation did not meaningfully ramp up until mid-December, resulting in more than two months of reduced early-season usage.

The Scheme was well placed to meet irrigator demand once conditions warmed.

A minor operational challenge occurred on the BANCA line, where two air valve failures resulted in temporary shutdowns of the northern end of the scheme. These issues were repaired promptly, and irrigators were kept informed throughout.

A major planned activity this season was the main valve replacement at Cascade, which required the Cascade area to be offline for approximately six weeks. During this period, stock and domestic supply was maintained via the Frome system, ensuring no interruption to essential water access.



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

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

Maintaining strong relationships and sharing information helps ensure the Winnaleah 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.

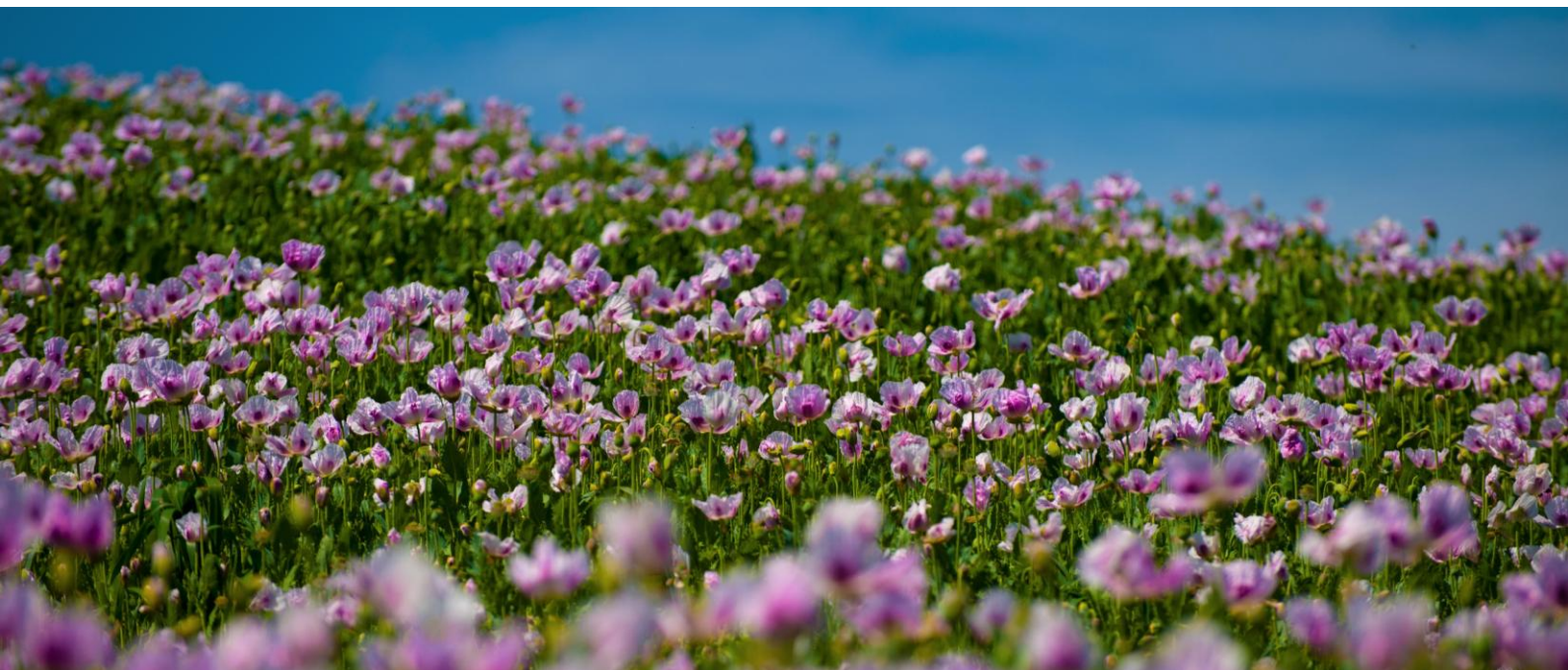
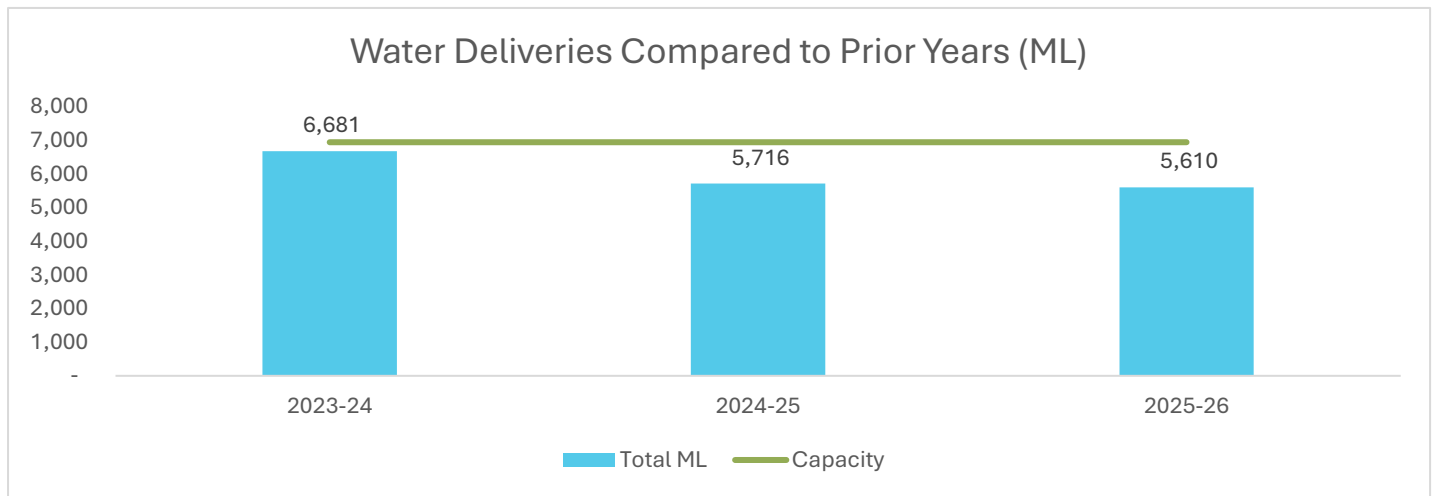
Winnaleah Irrigation Scheme

Water Delivery

The 2025/26 summer irrigation season ran for 215 days, opening on 1 October 2025 and closing on 4 May 2026.

100 per cent of the Scheme’s water allocation was available and approximately 5,610 ML of water was delivered during the summer season.

The volume delivered represents an 81 per cent per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme’s 6,948 ML total summer capacity.



Winnaleah 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
Derby valve house	Replace the main isolation valve
Scheme wide	Replace worn out critical components (water meters, isolation valves)
Frome and Cascade Dams	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
Motor and pump lubrication
Dam surveillance
Dam repairs and maintenance



Winnaleah 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.

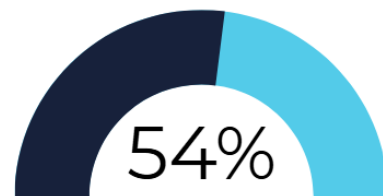
For assistance or questions, contact the Farm WAP Team on (03) 6398-8433 or email FarmWAP@tasirrigation.com.au.

Dam Update – Frome Dam and Cascade Dam

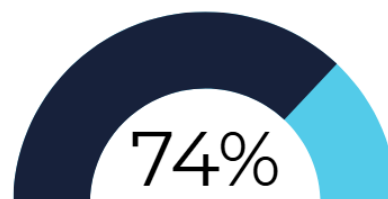
Tasmanian Irrigation took the opportunity to harvest water from rivers into storages during recent rainfall events, boosting dam levels across the State. With long range forecasts pointing to drier-than-average conditions ahead, making the most of rainfall events to replenish our dams is more important than ever.

At the end of June, Frome Dam was at 54 per cent of capacity (current volume is 1,149 ML, compared to the total volume of 2,136 ML) and Cascade Dam was at 74 per cent (current volume is 2,549 ML, compared to the total volume of 3,450 ML). Dam levels are updated daily on Tasmanian Irrigation's website here:

[Dam Dashboard - Tasmanian Irrigation](#).



Frome Dam – current percentage of capacity



Cascade Dam – current percentage of capacity

Get in Touch

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