

North Esk Irrigation Scheme

Scheme Performance

By Troy Wells, Scheme Operator

The 2025/26 irrigation season for the North Esk Irrigation Scheme delivered reliable overall performance. However, water delivery volumes were lower than last season. A total of 2,756 megalitres (ML) was delivered, compared to 3,219 ML last year.

Seasonal conditions played a major role in shaping demand. A wet and cool spring delayed early-season usage, before conditions shifted into a dry and warm autumn, increasing demand across the Scheme. Despite the variable weather, the Scheme continued to meet irrigator requirements throughout the season.

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

Several maintenance activities were undertaken, including silt removal at the pump station, outlet stabilisation works and ongoing gorse control at Rocklands Dam. Work is also underway on repairs to a leak at the scour valve on the Evandale mainline.

These works were completed without impacting irrigators.

North Esk customers received their full allocations, and an additional 275 megalitres of excess water was delivered across the season.



It was great to be able to collaborate with farmers to extend the season by 30 days, helping to finish 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 North Esk 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.

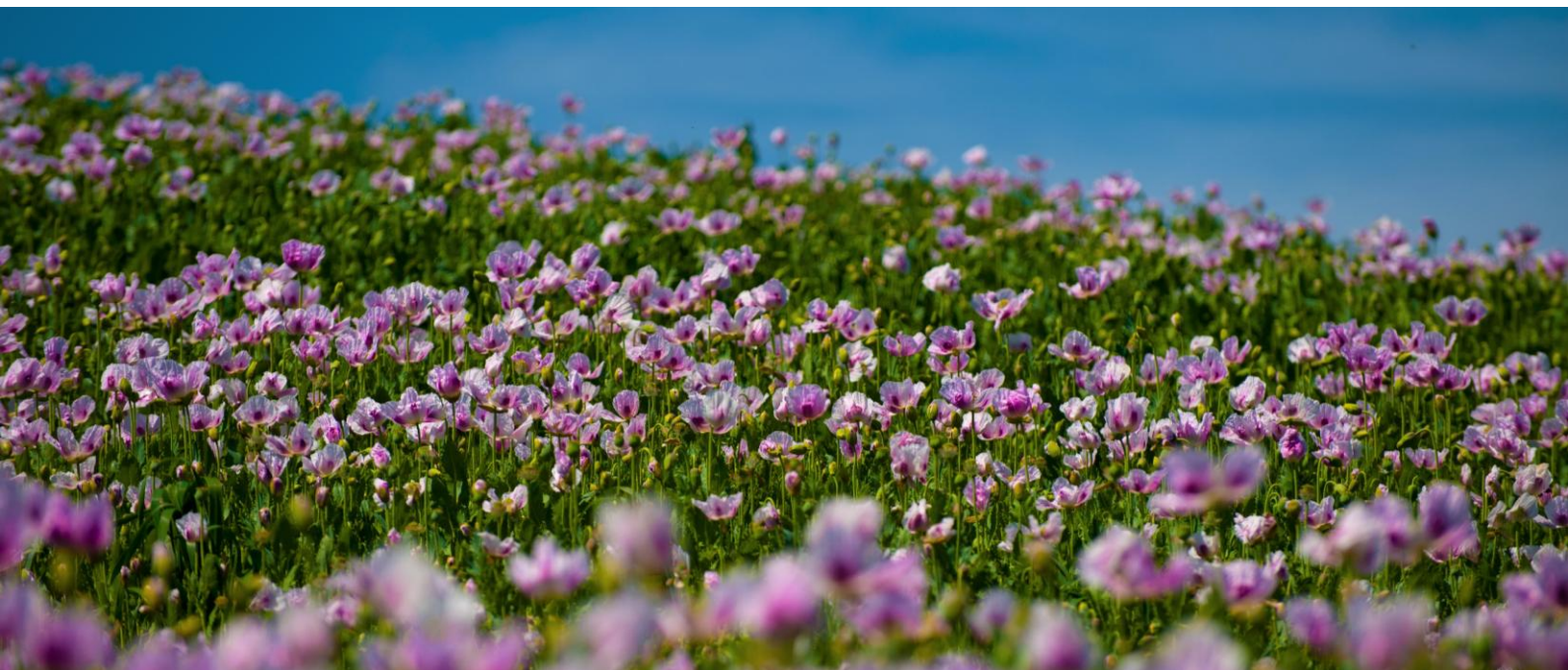
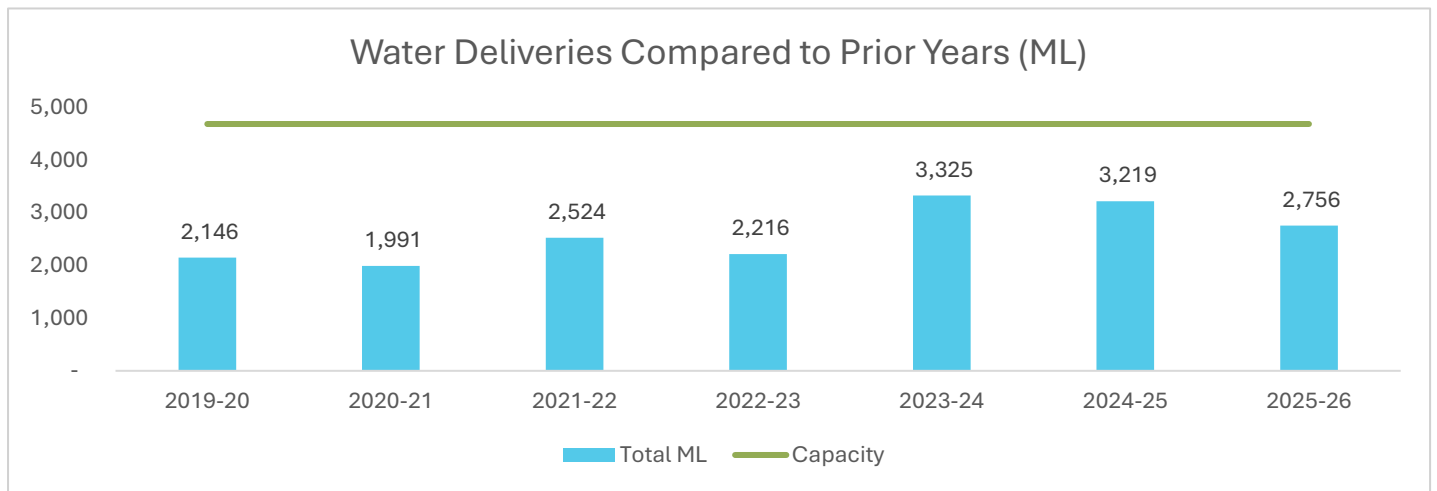
North Esk Irrigation Scheme

Water Delivery

The 2025/26 summer irrigation season ran for 180 days, opening on 1 November 2025 and closing on 30 April 2026.

100 per cent of the Scheme’s water allocation was available and approximately 2,756 ML of water was delivered during the summer season.

The volume delivered represents a 59 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme’s 4,685 ML total summer capacity.



North Esk 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	Pressure reducing valve and pump station critical spares
Rocklands 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
VESDA service (early fire protection system)
Weed and vegetation management
Motor and pump lubrication
Dam surveillance
Dam repairs and maintenance



North Esk 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.

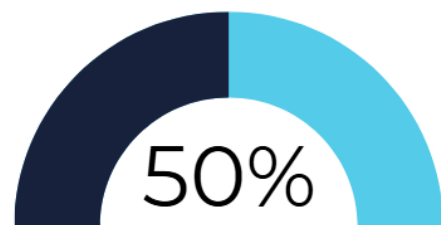
Audits generally involve a site inspection; a discussion with the landholder or irrigation staff; and a review of relevant records and documentation. To help the audit process run smoothly, now is a good time for irrigators to revisit their approved Farm WAP and confirm that irrigation activities align 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 – Rocklands 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 Rocklands Dam was at 50 per cent of capacity. The current volume is 2,776 ML, compared to the total volume of 5,580 ML. Dam levels are updated daily on Tasmanian Irrigation's website here: [Dam Dashboard - Tasmanian Irrigation](#).



Rocklands Dam –
current percentage of capacity

Get in Touch

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