

South East Stage One Irrigation Scheme

Scheme Performance

By Sam Lawrence, Scheme Operator

The 2025/26 irrigation season for the South East Stage One Irrigation Scheme delivered strong overall performance, with total water delivery volumes higher than the previous year. Approximately 2,525 megalitres (ML) of water has been delivered so far this season, compared with 2,154 ML last year.

The season was shaped by extremely dry conditions, which significantly increased demand on the scheme. A very windy spring and early summer period added further pressure to the system, contributing to higher usage and operational workload.

Operationally, the scheme experienced minor challenges, primarily relating to the operation of the Craigbourne Dam cone valve.

A planned outage of one day was required to install a walkway at the toe of the dam wall, and an unplanned outage of one day was necessary to repair a jammed cone valve. Throughout the season, the cone valve continued to stick intermittently, requiring ongoing attention.

Despite these issues, the scheme successfully kept up with the high demand, and irrigators received the water they required.



Tasmanian Irrigation has just re-opened Craigbourne Dam for irrigation supply, following the detection of blue green algae earlier in June. See the report on page four of this newsletter for more detail.

I thank all irrigators for their cooperation and communication throughout the year.

Maintaining strong relationships and sharing information helps ensure our 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.



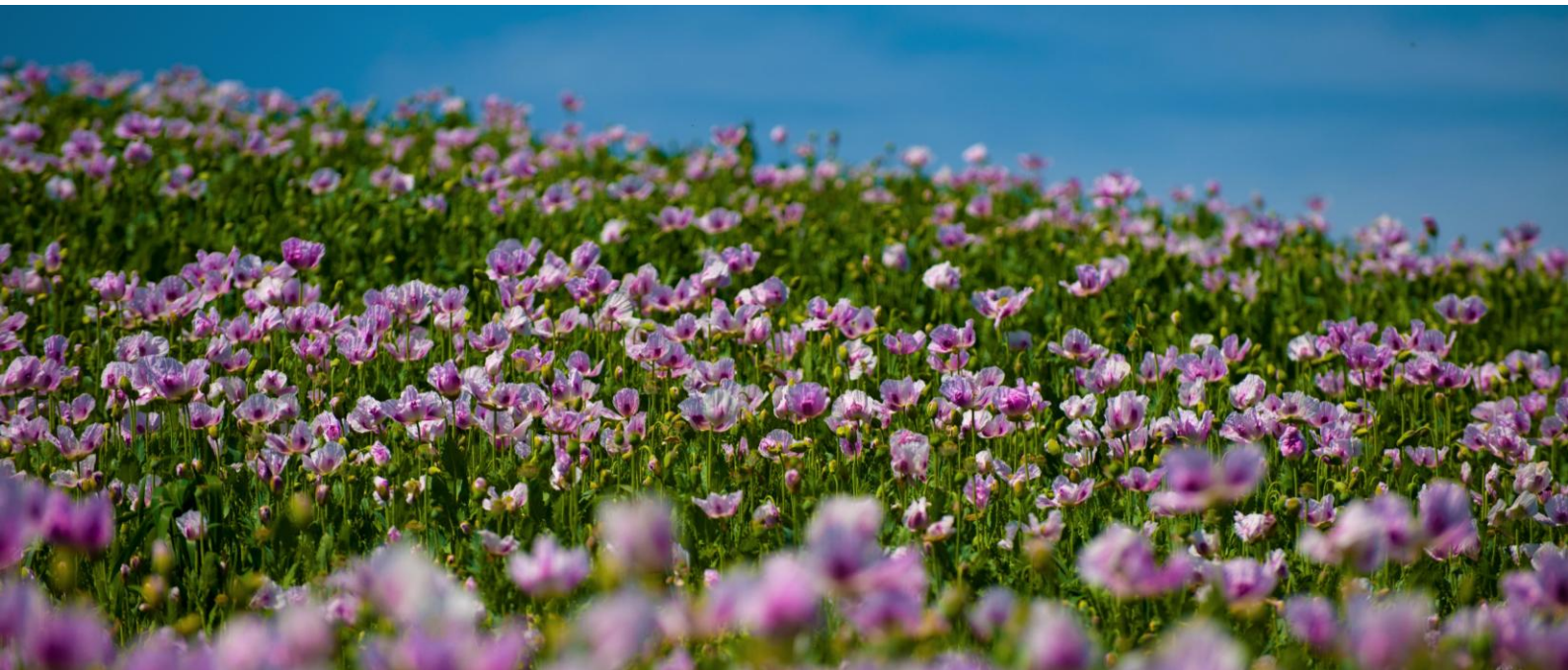
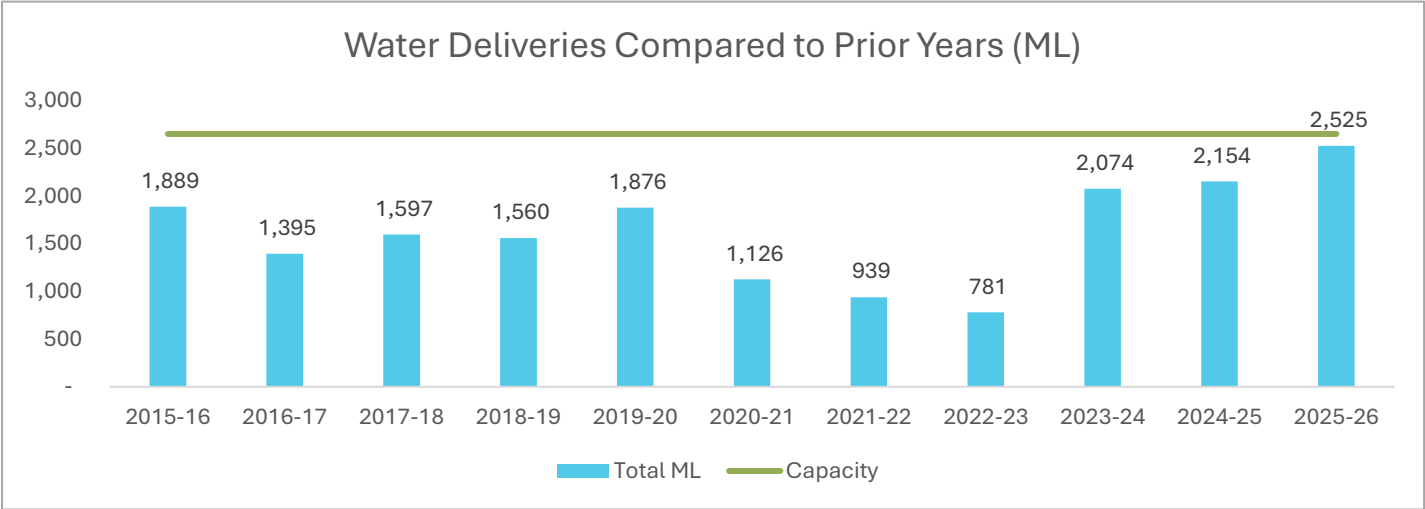
South East Stage One Irrigation Scheme

Water Delivery

The 2025/26 irrigation season will run for 365 days. It opened on 1 August 2025 and will close on 31 July 2026.

100 per cent of the Scheme’s water allocation is available and approximately 2,525 ML of water has been delivered so far this summer season.

The volume delivered represents a 95 per cent per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme’s 2,650 ML total summer capacity.



South East Stage One 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
Althaus pipeline	Pump replacement
Scheme wide	Water meter replacements
All pump stations	Pump motor safety upgrades
Craigbourne 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
Motor and pump lubrication
Dam surveillance
Dam repairs and maintenance



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Craigbourne Dam – Blue Green Algae

Tasmanian Irrigation advises that, following sustained monitoring and specialist testing, the precautionary closure of Craigbourne Dam has been lifted and normal use progressively restored.

The algal bloom was discovered during routine monitoring in early June. While testing of water samples was undertaken by an independent laboratory, Tasmanian Irrigation took the precautionary measure of closing the dam, temporarily ceasing the supply of water for irrigation. We also liaised with the Inland Fisheries Service and Marine and Safety Tasmania to put in place a temporary pause of recreational access to the dam.

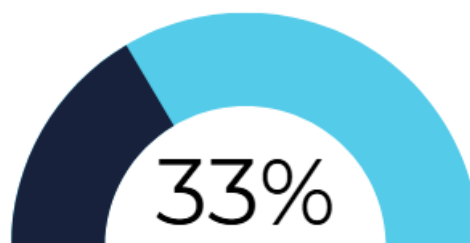
Supply for irrigation resumed on 26 June and recreational access to Craigbourne Dam will resume from 30 June. The decision was taken on the basis that: the algal bloom has subsided; two consecutive rounds of AST laboratory testing indicate cyanobacterial cell counts are declining across the lake; and CSIRO testing determined no toxic genes within the cells. The decision to lift the dam closure was made against the risk-based criteria in our Blue Green Algae Management Plan, consistent with the national Alert Levels Framework.

Tasmanian Irrigation will continue routine monitoring through the season. As *Dolichospermum* can lie dormant over winter and re-establish when conditions warm, there remains potential for renewed bloom activity in spring and summer, which we will monitor for and respond to accordingly. CSIRO has retained subsamples for metagenomic sequencing and the national cyanobacteria survey.

Dam Update – Craigbourne 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 Craigbourne Dam was at 33 per cent of capacity. The current volume is 4,195 ML, compared to the total volume of 12,600 ML. Dam levels are updated daily on Tasmanian Irrigation's website here: [Dam Dashboard - Tasmanian Irrigation](#).



Craigbourne Dam –
current percentage of capacity

Get in Touch

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