Lower South Esk Irrigation Scheme

Tranche One

The Milford Dam is used to hold water extracted from the South Esk River in winter and then released to irrigators along the river in the summer when the river runs low

The Lower South Esk Irrigation Scheme commenced operations in October 2013 and services the Conara, Epping Forest, Evandale, Perth and Longford areas in Northern Tasmania. The majority of water in the Lower South Esk system is delivered through the South Esk River. A pump station located on the banks of the South Esk River extracts winter flows from the river and it is pumped via a transfer pipeline to be stored in the 6,000 ML Milford dam.

Releases from the dam are made via the transfer pipeline back to the river during each irrigation season. The scheme's Irrigators draw their water directly from the river further downstream. Water is harvested in the winter when the river is high and held until summer when the river is much lower.

Towns / area serviced

Conara, Epping Forest, Evandale, Perth and Longford

Principal primary production focus of scheme

Cropping, pasture, poppies, potatoes, peas, onions and cereals

Length of irrigation season

180-day summer delivery

KM of pipeline

Dame

Pump Stations

Power Stations



Approval

Construction started
Operations commenced

Capacity Cost

Number of irrigators

Forecast opening

Forecast closing Daily flow rate

Initial water sales cost

Percentage of entitlements sold

ML available to buy

February 2011 March 2012

October 2013

5,298 ML \$12.7 million

27

November

March

35.32 ML / day

\$1,170 / ML

100%

0

