Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme

Tranche One

The rich basalt soils in the Sassafras Wesley Vale area have made it one of the most highly productive agricultural areas in Tasmania. The significant level of agricultural activity has generated a high demand for water

The Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme commenced operations in November 2012 and services the Sassafras, Harford, Thirlstane, Moriarty, Wesley Vale, Northdown, Pardoe and East Devonport areas in North West Tasmania. Water supplied for this scheme is sourced from the Mersey River at Great Bend. During periods of low river flows, the reliability of supply is underpinned by releases from Lake Parangana.

Water is pumped into a small reservoir at Great Bend, before being delivered throughout the irrigation district by 85kms of pipeline. Boost pumping operates at three sites: Sassafras Pump Station, Harford Pump Station and Northdown Pump Station.

Towns / area serviced

Sassafras, Harford, Thirlstane, Moriarty, Wesley Vale, Northdown, Pardoe and East Devonport

Principal primary production focus of scheme

Poppies, cereals, pyrethrum, potatoes and other vegetables

Length of irrigation season

150-day summer delivery (depending on rainfall, additional water may be able to be supplied by the scheme outside the irrigation season)

KMs of pipeline

Bass Strait

BurnieSomerset

Devons

Launceston

TAS MANIA

Bichero

Wild Rivers
National Park

National Park

Port Arthur

National Park

O Dams

Pump Stations

Power Stations

Construction started
Operations commenced

Capacity Cost

Approval

Number of irrigators Forecast opening

Forecast closing Daily flow rate

Initial water sales cost
Percentage of entitlements sold

ML available to purchase

December 2010 October 2011

November 2012

5,660 ML \$12.3 million

95 November

March 36.4 ML / day

\$1,130 / ML 100%

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