



February 2026

Hi everyone,

After a brief break for the festive season, construction on the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme is back in full swing. Pipe manufacturing has been completed at Vinidex's facility in Wynyard with 152km of pipe now produced. More than 120km of this pipe has now been welded and installed. Filling of pipelines has now commenced for flushing and pressure testing. The valve crews continue to progress behind the pipe install.

The balance tank at Valleyfield is nearing completion. This tank is the first to be built entirely from stainless steel, significantly reducing maintenance requirements and costs, and is one of the biggest constructed in Tasmania to date. The crews will transition to the Poatina balance tank in coming weeks to commence welding work there.

The Poatina pump station is now complete and ready for energisation. Electrical works are continuing at Valleyfield and Epping pump stations.

The 650-megalitre Poatina buffer dam remains unfilled while we wait for the pipeline to be installed linking this dam to the rest of the scheme.

Tasmanian Irrigation is grateful to all landowners who continue to work with us and our contractors Hazell Bros during this construction phase, ensuring the project remains on track to deliver water in time for the 2026/27 irrigation season. Please reach out if you have any questions regarding the project.



Figure 1 - Poatina Pump Station

Progress Update



Balance Tank Construction



Figure 2 - Valleyfield balance tank construction

During the construction tender for the project, the Tasmanian Irrigation design team asked the contractors to develop options that would provide TI with the best design life for the balance tanks.

We worked closely with Hazell Bros to investigate a range of options including concrete, steel lined and epoxy coated steel before landing on stainless steel as the preferred design. Hazell Bros worked with local subcontractors to procure and construct the 6mm stainless steel, which is unrolled from a coil then jacked up to height using a custom-built jacking system.

The Poatina balance tank will be one of the biggest stainless-steel tanks constructed in Tasmania to date.

Tasmanian Irrigation's engineering department is pleased with the outcome, confident that this tank design will provide irrigators with 100 years of design life and significantly reduce maintenance costs when compared to other options that were being considered. The balance tank volumes at Poatina and Valleyfield are 3.45 megalitres and 1.35 megalitres respectively.

Team Member Profile – Jen Pearce, Hazell Bros

However, the following year she had a change in direction, signed up for a Certificate II in Construction and fell in love with civil construction.

Now, as a third-year apprentice with Hazell Bros, Jen is loving working on the \$217.9 million Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme and was recently named Hazell Bros' Apprentice of the Year.

"I just love the hands-on work, problem solving and that every day at work is different," Jen said.

"I spent 14 months working at Lake King William near Tarraleah doing a big job for Hydro Tasmania, building an intake for a tunnel, and now I am working with a great crew to put 150 kilometres of pipeline in the ground for this irrigation project.

"I have been working on a GPS rover, pipe pickups, fencing, laying pipe and much more.

"I'm now in my final year of my civil construction apprenticeship and I am definitely developing a lot more confidence and a good sense of leadership."

Jen said she previously didn't have much awareness about irrigation projects and the economic benefits of high-surety irrigation water for farmers and Tasmanian communities. But that's all changed.

"I have a new appreciation for these big projects and what they deliver for our State," she said.

"I would be very happy to do more work on irrigation schemes and keep on learning as much as I can."



Figure 3 - Jen demarcating the construction corridor

Have you completed your Farm Water Access Plan?

Tasmanian Irrigation's Farm Water Access Plan (Farm WAP) team, Amy Madsen and Tracy Richards, are working closely with irrigators to complete their Farm WAPs.

All Farm WAPs must be completed by 1 October 2026 to enable access to water when the scheme is commissioned later this year. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact farmwap@tasirrigation.com.au.

most up-to-date guidance and requirements: <https://tasirrigation.com.au/farm-waps-nmis>. A Frequently Asked Questions section is also available on our website and will be progressively updated as questions arise. A question relating to Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania (LNGT) survey results has been included.

Under connection agreement conditions, water supplied by Tasmanian Irrigation may only be applied to land and stored in dams covered by an approved Farm WAP.

Farm WAPs demonstrate that irrigation water is used sustainably and in compliance with Australian and Tasmanian Government requirements.

Remaining Water Available for Sale

The Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme now has 95 per cent of summer water sold. This leaves only 1,366 megalitres remaining to purchase.

If you are interested in purchasing NMIS water, please contact Jacob Tierney on 0400 068 869 or jacob.tierney@tasirrigation.com.au.

The Tasmanian Irrigation team is working with Hydro Tasmania to determine winter water availability and pricing.

Key Project Contacts

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