



Hi everyone,

Two important construction milestones have just been reached on the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme – more than 100 kilometres of pipeline have been installed, and the Poatina Buffer Dam has been completed.

This ensures the project remains on track to deliver highly reliable irrigation water to the Northern Midlands region for the 2026 summer irrigation season.

As well as 100km of pipeline now in the ground, infrastructure is also being installed that allows landowners to connect to the scheme once commissioned. Pipe fittings including air, scour and property outlet valves are being installed progressively behind the dig, lay and backfill crews.

The earthen embankment on the 650-megalitre Poatina Buffer Dam is now complete, and outlet pipes have been installed and pressure tested. This work follows the recent completion of a new drop structure added to the Poatina tailrace, which is vital to ensuring reliable water supply for irrigators. You can read more about this below.

Tasmanian Irrigation is incredibly grateful to all landowners who continue to work with us and our contractors Hazell Bros during this construction phase. Please reach out if you have any questions regarding the project.

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construction milestones.



Progress Update

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Drop Structure Innovation



A drop structure was recently installed in the tailrace at Poatina Power Station to redirect water into the Poatina Buffer Dam during high-flow periods. This infrastructure allows the scheme to maintain its design flow rate even when the power station operates below full capacity, guaranteeing reliable water supply for irrigators.

Minimising the required power station outage required close collaboration with head contractor Hazell Bros, which implemented an innovative precast concrete solution for the drop structure instead of traditional cast-in-situ methods. Two 400-tonne cranes were deployed to position the precast panels, significantly reducing construction time.

Tasmanian Irrigation worked closely with Hydro Tasmania to facilitate a 16-day shutdown of the power station to enable these works. Their support was crucial to keep our project on schedule.

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Irrigator Representative Committee Meeting

The Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme Irrigator Representative Committee (IRC) met in early October.

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connection looks like and how it will operate.

Tasmanian Irrigation will continue to liaise with the IRC to seek feedback on key issues and any upcoming challenges.

We thank all volunteer IRC members for their time and commitment to collaborating to ensure effective communication between TI and landowners. To contact the NMIS IRC, see the contact details below.

Irrigation Career Day

Students from Campbell Town and Bothwell high schools recently visited the Poatina Buffer Dam to explore career opportunities on civil projects.

The on-site educational opportunity was part of a collaboration between Tasmanian Irrigation, Hazell Bros and the Beacon Foundation, supporting young people to have the aspiration, motivation and ability to determine their working future.

NMIS Project Manager Jacob Tierney said students were enthusiastic to learn about the many careers associated with a large infrastructure project and excited to understand the range of job opportunities these projects create in regional areas.

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Safety Spotlight: Unexpected Emergency

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work on a recent cold, wet morning when he noticed a car stopped on the road ahead.

Dean slowed down and as he approached, he realised there had been a head on collision between two vehicles.

What Dean did next helped ensure the safety of everyone involved. You can find out what happened and get Dean's take outs from the incident here.

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[Find out more](#)

Tasmanian Irrigation's Dean Anyon after attending the accident

Safety Shutdown

Tasmanian Irrigation called a four-day shutdown on the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme in October.

We continue to work closely with all contractors to ensure the highest possible safety standards on all work sites.

Project Manager Jacob Tierney said while there were no serious injuries resulting from the incident, there was zero tolerance for safety breaches.

Jacob said the shutdown will not impact the project's construction timeline.

Key Project Contacts

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