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September 2024

Hi everyone — Jacob Tierney here, Project Manager for the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme project.

I'm very pleased to be able to tell you that construction has started on the [Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme \(NMIS\)](#).



The first community meeting for this 25,500 megalitre project was held in March 2019, and it's great to have work underway after five years of development and approval activity.

On behalf of the team at Tasmanian Irrigation, I want to thank farmers for their commitment to the project.

Please find below the first of what will be many updates on how construction is proceeding.

The Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme

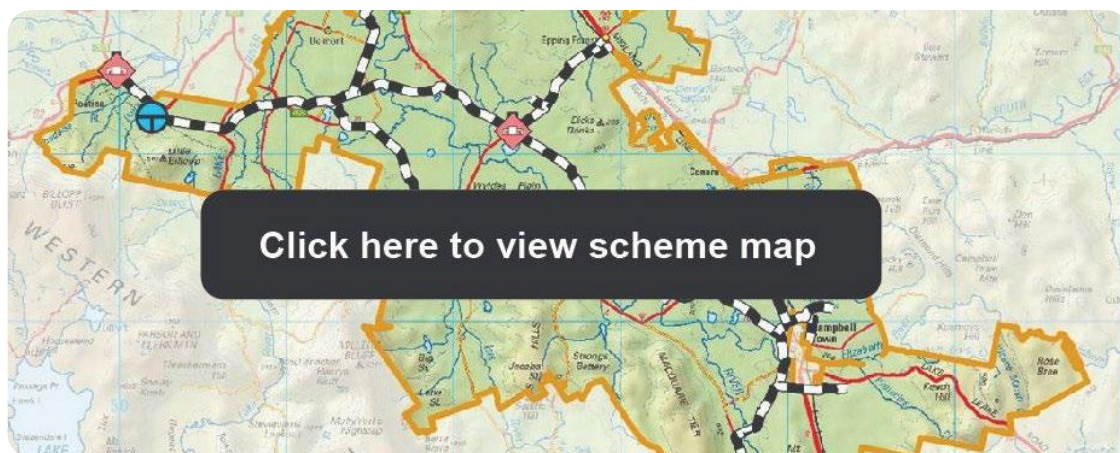
The NMIS will be the largest irrigation scheme in the State in terms of its capital value and summer capacity.

The construction phase is now underway with the final approval under federal environmental legislation received on 26 August.

As you may be aware, the project required approval under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, because of potential impacts of the project on important Tasmanian Devil and Quoll denning habitat. Approval followed comprehensive assessment of impact, including a [public consultation period](#) earlier this year.

The NMIS is scheduled to be commissioned and deliver first water in time for the 2026/27 summer irrigation season.

You can read about the NMIS in more detail on the [Tasmanian Irrigation website](#).



Construction

Our head contractor Hazell Bros have been on the ground for a couple of months completing key pre-commencement and planning activities. Works will initially commence in three locations across the scheme with pipe stringing, welding and topsoil stripping.

The wild weather experienced across the state over the past couple of weeks didn't bypass the project site. While it's been a damp and muddy start to construction, the team are focused on getting the job done safely and in line with expectations for environmental management and landowner agreements.

Buffer dam

The design of the buffer dam at Poatina is now completed. Tasmanian Irrigation is working closely with a preferred contractor to confirm construction pricing and timeframes with construction expected to commence in November.



Pipeline construction, NM1 Zone, Cressy

Pipelines

Pipe production is well underway, with 45% of the pipe manufacturing now completed at Zezt in Wynyard. Site deliveries have begun, with pipe stringing and welding activities now proceeding on site.

Pump stations

The construction of all three pump stations will be commencing in the coming months.

Balance tanks

Both the Poatina and Valleyfield Balance Tanks are located within eagle management zones. Construction in these areas will be only be able to be completed outside the eagle breeding season to ensure nesting activity is not disrupted.

Landowner engagement

We're continuing to communicate to landowners whose property will be impacted by construction. Our contractor, Hazell Bros will communicate directly with landowners about the timing of construction activities that will have an impact on individual properties.

At the same time, we remain in contact with landowners who have concerns about construction impacts on their property. We're doing everything we can to resolve these concerns so that landowners are fairly dealt with regarding any impact on their property, to ensure any impacts are mitigated as far as practical, and so that construction can continue on schedule.

Tasmanian Irrigation is a signatory to the [Charter for Working on Private Farm Land](#), which is currently being reviewed by the Tasmanian Government. We take our responsibilities under the Charter very seriously. If you have any concerns about how access to your land is being managed, please contact any of the project team listed below.

Key contacts

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Pipe welding - Ashby Road



Topsoil stripping - Barton Road

The Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme project is jointly funded by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments, delivered in partnership with Tasmanian Irrigation. Australian Government funding is provided through the National Water Grid Fund.

