

Branch Out

SHARING TASMANIA'S IRRIGATION STORIES

Message from the CEO

By Andrew Kneebone

Changing climate and weather conditions remind us that there's a difference between the price of water and the value of water.

The outlook for summer is for below average rainfall across much of Tasmania and above average temperatures. We are already seeing a variety of outcomes across the State with dry conditions in the south and east and reasonable rainfall in the north and north west. The Bureau of Meteorology is describing temperatures as "unusually high" for much of Australia.

We had relatively wet starts to the irrigation season for the past two years, and demand for irrigation water was low. But climate forecasts for Tasmania suggest there will be significant change in rainfall patterns, more hot days and longer fire seasons.

Our challenge is to build our resilience, and ability to adapt to changing climate conditions. Delivery of high-reliability irrigation water is one way we can do that.

In October, first water was delivered from the Don Irrigation Scheme, the first of the Tranche Three projects. Commissioning of this scheme supports delivery of reliable irrigation water to more than 50 additional farmers.

This month we will open round two water sales for the Tamar Irrigation Scheme, following redesign to better match demand. Developing a strong business case, and a case for State and Commonwealth funding, relies on strong irrigator support for the Scheme, shown by meeting the threshold for water sales.

I believe the revised Scheme size and operating cost structure will better suit the current needs of the area. I look forward to seeing irrigators in the region demonstrate their strong commitment to the Scheme through the water sales process.

Read below a story on Bec and Tim Duffy from Holm Oak Vineyard on the value of irrigation water to their business in the Tamar Valley.



Tasmanian Irrigation is also progressing work on the Northern Midlands and Greater South East schemes, and the Sassafras Wesley Vale augmentation. We are also working through the practical implications of amendments to our governing legislation, regarding both the supply of water for industrial use, and facilitating community involvement in the management of irrigation schemes where feasible.

We are already in a very busy summer season with many of our schemes delivering significant amounts of water. As always, our Scheme Operators and extended Operations team will continue to work to ensure irrigators receive the water they need when they need it.

I also extend my congratulations to the recently-appointed CEO of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association. Nathan Calman will take up the role early in 2024 and we look forward to working together to support the sector.

As we approach the end of 2023, I wish all our customers and friends a safe festive season.

On behalf of the team at Tasmanian Irrigation, thank you for your ongoing collaboration as we continue to support Tasmania's primary industries through developing and managing infrastructure that will underpin the continued prosperity of the rural sector.

Awards Finalist

Energy on Farms Solar Project

Tasmanian Irrigation was thrilled to be declared a finalist in the Tasmanian Water Awards for its Energy on Farms project.

This project, funded by a Tasmanian Government grant, involves solar arrays being installed at Tasmanian Irrigation pump stations to offset the cost of energy.

The solar arrays will generate sufficient energy to partially power the pump stations during the heaviest demand period in summer.

Surplus power will be fed back into the grid, and cost savings will be passed onto irrigators.

Two sites have so far been completed and are already generating savings.

Hosted by the Australian Water Association, the Tasmanian Water Awards showcase innovation, leadership, infrastructure and inspiring positive change to drive a sustainable water future.



Pictured at the Cottons Bridge Pump Station are: (L-R) Project Manager Annalise Rees, Rob Manson and Fabian Martinez from I Want Energy, and Tasmanian Irrigation Engineering Works Coordinator Ben Hughes.

Contents

Message from the Minister > 3

Meet the Irrigator > 4

Project Profile — Tamar > 6

Operations > 8

Program Development and

Delivery > 10

Climate Change Spotlight > 12

Meet the Team > 13

Upcoming Events > 14

Tasmanian
Irrigation

Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme

Tasmanian farmers are invited to apply to the On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme, funded by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments.

The Scheme offers a rebate to primary producers and horticultural farmers to purchase and install new on-farm water infrastructure, or repair and replace damaged infrastructure.

The rebates must address animal welfare needs, permanent planting needs, drought resilience, and / or recovery from natural disasters.

The scheme is open to farmers in the 18 LGAs that were impacted by the October 2022 floods, and those who can demonstrate they are impacted by drought.

Eligible applicants can receive rebates of up to 25 per cent of the costs incurred, to a maximum of \$25,000, for purchasing and installing certain on-farm water infrastructure. Applications are currently open, and close on 31 December.

For more information, please visit: www.nre.tas.gov.au/agriculture/government-and-community-programs/on-farm-emergency-water-infrastructure-rebate-scheme

Message from the Minister

The Hon. Jo Palmer, Primary Industries and Water Minister



I am really proud of Tasmanian Irrigation and the important work it carries out in both the development of new irrigation schemes, and the operation of those schemes across the state.

This unique collaboration between the Tasmanian and Australian Governments and the State's landowners has resulted in the construction of 16 irrigation schemes to date, and planning has commenced on a further five irrigation projects.

These irrigation schemes have profoundly changed the nature of agricultural activity in Tasmania and will continue to support the growth and diversification of the agricultural sector for decades to come.

With the recent addition of the Don scheme, Tasmanian Irrigation now oversees more than 26,000 individual infrastructure assets with a replacement value of approximately \$500 million across 19 operational schemes and has the capacity to deliver more than 133,000 megalitres of irrigation water each year.

Access to high reliability irrigation water is a game changer.

It gives farmers the confidence to expand their businesses, diversify, intensify, increase rotations, employ more people, establish farmgate experiences and enter contracts with processors.

As summer begins, the impact of two key climate drivers is already being felt.

These conditions are a reminder of the importance of irrigation schemes in ensuring the resilience of the agricultural sector in the face of a changing climate.

This is why we are working together to get these important schemes off the ground.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Andrew Kneebone and all at Tasmanian Irrigation for their ongoing commitment to irrigation development and operations in Tasmania.

I would like to acknowledge the work of previous CFO James Hipwood, thank departed Board Directors John Whittington and Abigail Foley for their service, and welcome Directors Hugh McKenzie and Mike Paine to the Tasmanian Irrigation Board.

And I thank Board Chair Kate Vinot for her contribution since taking on the role one year ago. Kate has been great to work with over the year and is an extremely valuable member of the Tasmanian Irrigation team.

In finishing, I look forward to continuing this important work in 2024 and I wish you a safe and happy Christmas.



South East irrigators Andrew Beven and Justin Nichols with Minister Palmer and Andrew Kneebone

Meet the Irrigator

Bec and Tim Duffy



HOLM OAK
TASMANIA



Max, Bec, Will and Tim Duffy

Bec and Tim Duffy are currently waking every morning to check the level of their dam on their Holm Oak Vineyard in the Tamar Valley.

After the dry spring and forecasts of a hot, dry summer, the Duffys are concerned that they could run out of water half way through vintage this year.

"That's why the Tamar Irrigation Scheme is so important to our region," Bec said.

"We aim for 10 tonnes of grapes per hectare, but if we don't have enough water, this could be reduced to only eight tonnes. That's a significant monetary loss, especially when we already have a shortage of wine due to high demand.

"Landowners across the Tamar Valley need to be thinking long term. If they don't get the water now, then they may not be able to secure it in the future."

Bec and Tim purchased Holm Oak Vineyard at Rowella in 2006. About six hectares was planted to Cabernet, Merlot, Pinot Noir and Riesling.

Since then, the Duffys have added a further 12 hectares of vines, with Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Arneis, Cabernet Franc and Shiraz added to the varietal mix.

All vines are under drip irrigation.

They currently produce about 15,000 dozen bottles under the Holm Oak, Duffy and Pig & d'Pooch labels, predominantly sold in the domestic market.

Bec, with 20 years' winemaking experience, and Tim, a third-generation grape grower and agronomist, are committed to growing pristine, high-quality grapes to make flavoursome, natural and balanced wines that authentically reflect the Tamar Valley terroir.

Water is key to their business risk management and success.

They have added a seven megalitre dam and then a 20 megalitre dam to an existing five megalitre water storage capacity on the property.

They have a 70 megalitre water allocation from a creek flowing through the farm, and they also have access to town water.

Meet the Irrigator continued...

However, they applied for an additional 50 megalitres as part of the water sales process for the Tamar Irrigation Scheme – and are considering increasing their entitlement ask.

“Tim comes from northern Victoria, so he knows how important it is to have access to quality and reliable irrigation water,” Bec said.

“While we have had two wet springs in a row, this year we are a bit concerned as the dams are not full.

“Our crops and yields depend on water. The extra yield you get from having adequate water more than pays for the cost of purchasing water from Tasmanian Irrigation schemes.

“We were very excited when talk started about the Tamar Irrigation Scheme and we jumped on board straight away.

“A secure water allocation is a very good way to future proof your business.

“Fifty megalitres is a bit more than we actually need, but we are looking at the future sale of the property and what the value of the water may mean down the track so we may purchase up to 70 megalitres.”

Bec and Tim encouraged Tamar Valley farmers to consider how much water they require today and for future generations to meet the growing demand for Tasmanian food, fibre and beverages.



“Tasmania, as an industry, hasn’t even scratched the surface in terms of wine export markets, purely because we don’t have the volume.

“If we want to attract more investment into viticulture, then we need a quality and secure water supply.”

“We are very fortunate to have Matt Lowe project managing the Tamar Irrigation Scheme project as he has done a lot of vintages, he understands agriculture and he will be great to drive this project forward with landowners.

“Now it’s up to Tamar Valley farmers to get behind Tasmanian Irrigation and this project to ensure it goes ahead as quickly as possible.”



Tamar Irrigation Scheme

Water sales for a revised 13,500-megalitre Tamar Irrigation Scheme are set to re-open this month.

A number of options for a scaled-back Tamar Irrigation Scheme have been examined after water sales for the original design did not achieve the required viability threshold.

The project has been redesigned to meet actual demand, and will deliver significant benefits to irrigators in terms of reducing fixed and variable operational charges.

Tasmanian Irrigation sincerely thanks all Tamar Valley landowners who have taken the time to provide feedback and input into this redesign phase.

The Tasmanian Government has confirmed that the Tamar Irrigation Scheme remains a priority project in the Tranche Three Program, and Tasmanian Irrigation is excited to be releasing new detail about the revised project.

A new smaller scheme has been developed following:

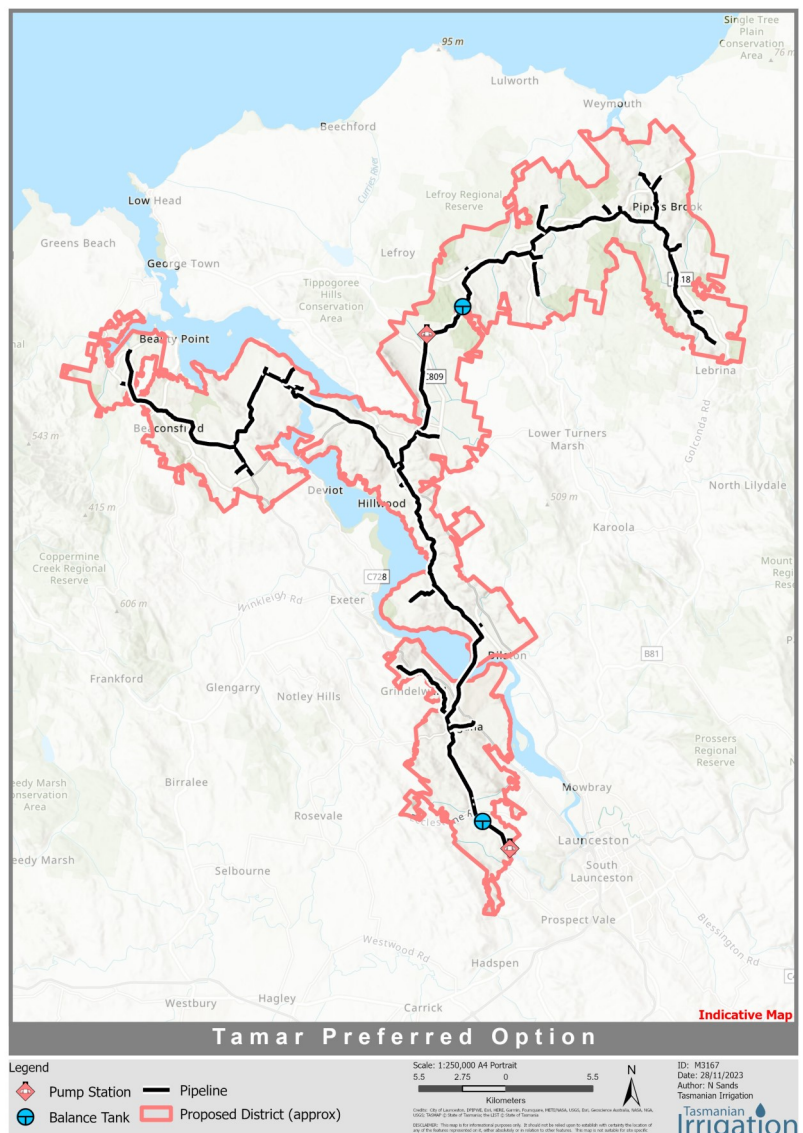
- Completion of some of the background engineering work required to prepare the Scheme design, including:
 - ⇒ refining the preferred pipe alignment and pipe sizes to confirm the most sustainable and economic route to deliver water
 - ⇒ pre-engineering work on pump station options and locations
 - ⇒ surveys of proposed river crossings at Legana and Rowella
 - ⇒ desktop environmental studies
- Completion of an independent project costing to ensure the scheme presented at water sales is commercially viable to proceed. This will also inform development of the business case; and

- Completion of the process of declining and refunding applications for water entitlements that we would not be able to supply under the revised Scheme design.

The independent costing for the Scheme has determined that the cost of water would be higher than under the original design.

However, Tasmanian Irrigation has consulted with the Tamar Irrigator Representative Committee and has undertaken to hold the price at the existing level until the end of round two of water sales.

The current price is \$2,450 per megalitre for summer water and \$1,450 per megalitre for winter water.



Tamar Irrigation Scheme Fast Facts

Capacity	13,500 megalitres
Pipeline (kms)	130
Dams	0
Pump Stations	2
Power Stations	0
Towns Serviced	Legana, Rosevears, Dilston, Swan Bay, Rowella, Beaconsfield, Pipers River, Pipers Brook
Water Sales Open	December 2023
Water Sales Close	Late February 2024

At the close of round two water sales, the summer water price will increase to \$2,920 / ML, reflecting the true cost of delivering water under the revised Scheme design.

This means that those wishing to purchase water entitlements after the water sales process concludes will have to pay an additional \$470 per megalitre.

Detailed packages of information will be emailed to all landowners who originally expressed interest in the scheme, and all detail will be available from the Tasmanian Irrigation website at www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au following the official launch of round two water sales.

For those who already submitted water entitlement applications as part of the first round of water sales, you will receive pre-populated contracts reflecting the lower operating costs to review and sign. If the required level of water sales applications are received, a business case will be developed to seek funding from the Tasmanian and Australian Governments.

"This is your opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to the Tamar Irrigation Scheme and purchase high-surety irrigation water at the existing price."

-Matt Lowe, Tamar Project Manager

While we have endeavored to maintain the original timeframes for delivery of the Tamar Irrigation Scheme, the need to redesign and run an additional water sales process has affected the project timeline.

Tasmanian Irrigation now expects delivery of first irrigation water in 2028.

Tamar Irrigation Scheme Project Manager Matt Lowe is very happy to provide any additional information. Please feel free to contact him on:

Mobile: 0467 745 866

Email: matt.lowe@tasirrigation.com.au



Operations

By David Skipper, Chief Operating Officer



Tasmanian Irrigation's Water Delivery Team is responsible for the operation of 19 irrigation schemes around Tasmania, and the delivery of irrigation water in an efficient, economically viable and environmentally sustainable manner to more than 1,000 irrigators.

Tasmanian Irrigation employs skilled and dedicated Scheme Operators to manage and administer the schemes.

The team also manages a range of inherited infrastructure, including Lake Leake, Rileys Creek Dam, Togari Water Scheme and the Montagu and Welcome River Improvement Schemes.

Regular routine maintenance, compliance and ensuring the schemes are delivering water at the most efficient curve is paramount to a successful scheme and ensuring water costs to irrigators are controlled and appropriate.

For more information about Water Delivery, please contact Tasmanian Irrigation on (03) 6398-8433

or

watertrading@tasmanianirrigation.com.au

Demand for Tasmanian Irrigation water is up 266 per cent, compared to the same time last year.

An additional 8,085 megalitres of irrigation water has already been delivered by Tasmanian Irrigation this year.

Dry conditions across the State have resulted in strong demand across all 19 operational schemes since the start of the season.

Many farmers required little water until late November last year. This year many were flat out irrigating in early to mid October.

The season has rapidly transitioned from a damp and temperate winter and spring in the northern region to a period of intense dryness and wind, resulting in challenges for all types of crops.

The southern area of Tasmania is enduring severe dry conditions with minimal residual soil moisture.

These arid conditions have persisted for several months, especially in the Southern Highlands and South East schemes.

The forecast for the upcoming months suggests a continuation of the current trend, with conditions becoming increasingly dry and warm as we transition into the summer and autumn seasons.

The Bureau of Meteorology has declared an El Nino event, and the long-term forecast for Australia predicts that much of

the northern, western and southern regions of the country are likely to receive below-average rainfall, with warmer days and nights expected almost nationwide.

A lot of farmers are worried about the upcoming summer season, and their fears are heightened by the ongoing decrease in the prices of most commodities and the increase in input costs.

Given the current weather and seasonal conditions, it is highly likely that there will be a high demand for irrigation water for an extended period across the entire State.

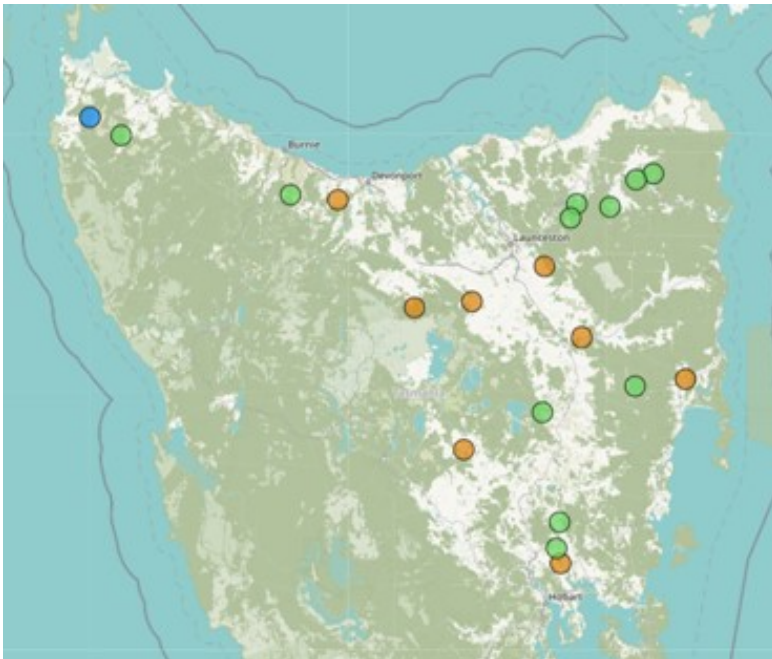
The 2023/24 season stands in stark contrast to the previous few seasons that enjoyed abundant spring rain and mild weather conditions.

In October 2022, most parts of the State were dealing with heavy rainfall and flooding.

This year, although most dams have sufficient water to provide 100 per cent allocations, the Southernfield Dam in the Southern Highlands started the season at only 60 per cent capacity.

The Southern Highlands Scheme does have the ability to purchase additional water from Hydro Tasmania.

The price of this supplementary water is expensive and irrigators have a number of challenging decisions in regards to their irrigated enterprises.



All other Tasmanian Irrigation dam levels remain in good to satisfactory conditions (see graphics on this page).

River systems and water resources may experience strain at various times, but this is precisely why Tasmanian Irrigation was established - to provide an irrigated source during dry periods and droughts.

Our schemes are specifically designed to deliver water over a defined and calculated period (for example, a 120 or 150-day delivery season) to ensure that every irrigator receives their entitlement.

Meander Augmentation

The 11,000-megalitre Greater Meander Irrigation Scheme Augmentation project continues to progress with intake upgrades now complete at Quamby.

The construction of intake screens at Hagley has also been completed.

Thirteen of the 21 kilometres of pipeline have been installed and the remainder will be in place by the end of January.

The project experienced delays over recent months due to the high river heights and wet weather. As conditions have now changed, the previously delayed works are expected to progress.

Irrigators drawing water directly from the Meander River have been given the option of completing their contracts and taking water this irrigation season if they wish, on the provision that Farm Water Access Plans (Farm WAPs) and metering arrangements are in place.

Dam Name	Full Supply Level	Dam Level Latest	+/- from FSL	Total Volume	Current Volume	% Fill
Upper Galeford Dam	53.28	53.28	0.00	109	109	100%
Frome Dam	329.00	328.90	-0.10	2,136	2,106	99%
Camden Rivulet Dam	577.50	577.33	-0.17	9,780	9,470	97%
Lake Leake Dam	571.50	571.28	-0.22	22,076	20,672	94%
Cascade Dam	342.47	341.93	-0.54	3,450	3,195	93%
Dunns Creek Dam	288.00	287.04	-0.96	6,680	6,098	91%
South Riana Dam	299.75	298.89	-0.86	4,069	3,582	88%
Headquarters Rd Dam	283.00	282.21	-0.79	2,330	2,037	87%
Rekuna Dam	165.00	164.65	-0.35	207	180	87%
Upper Floods Creek Dam	307.00	306.40	-0.60	500	432	86%
Mill Creek Dam	58.50	57.33	-1.17	6,275	5,215	83%
Craigbourne Dam	166.20	164.98	-1.22	12,600	10,444	83%
Melrose Dam	62.00	59.88	-2.12	3,440	2,721	79%
Daisy Bank Dam	126.50	125.04	-1.46	186	147	79%
Rocklands Dam	240.40	238.44	-1.96	5,580	4,286	77%
Meander Dam	402.00	398.58	-3.42	43,000	31,628	74%
Milford Dam	203.35	201.42	-1.93	5,996	4,363	73%
Sprent Dam	221.00	220.01	-0.99	259	181	70%
Liffey Holding Dam	195.32	194.32	-1.00	97	65	67%
Southernfield Dam	542.65	537.59	-5.06	8,162	4,541	56%

Scheme Operator Contact During Christmas

Tasmanian Irrigation's Scheme Operators are available to irrigators during the Christmas and New Year period.

However, they too are looking forward to some down time with their loved ones.

If an urgent situation arises, the Operators are available by telephone. Although we do ask that consideration is given to what time and day calls are made.



Program Development and Delivery

By Jacob Gerke



Tasmanian Irrigation's Program Development and Delivery Team is proud to deliver irrigation projects from concept to water delivery, ensuring schemes are designed to be in operation for the next generation of farmers and beyond.

There are a number of important steps incorporated into developing a new irrigation scheme, including:

- Community consultation;
- Expressions of interest;
- Launch of Preferred Option Design;
- Water Sales;
- Contracts with landowners;
- Business case;
- Detailed design;
- Permits and approvals;
- Construction; and
- Commissioning.

Along the way, risks are continually evaluated as the design progresses in terms of environment, social acceptability, cost and economic outcomes.

As these schemes rely on a unique public / private partnership and funding model, all stakeholders are engaged and consulted to ensure key needs are met.

All Tasmanian Irrigation schemes are designed to last at least 100 years and deliver water at an annual average reliability of more than 95 per cent.

Farmers in Tasmania's north west are celebrating their investment in new irrigation infrastructure that will expand and diversify their agricultural businesses, as the first water flowed through the Don Irrigation Scheme on 1 October.

Farmers in the Don, Forth, Barrington and Sheffield districts now have access to almost 5,000 megalitres of high-reliability irrigation water courtesy of the \$54.4 million scheme.

The Don Irrigation Scheme is the first scheme to be delivered under Tasmanian Irrigation's Tranche Three program of works.

Project Updates

Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme

Capacity: 25,500 megalitres
Area serviced: Macquarie, Barton, Conara, Campbell Town, Ross and the Lower Isis Valley

Tasmanian Irrigation is working through the requirements to gain approval for the project under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*.

This will involve acquiring land to offset the impacts of the project on the denning habitat of Tasmanian Devils and Spotted and Easter quolls.

A preferred contractor has been chosen for the pipeline installation works and we expect to award a contract in coming weeks.

A tender for construction of the Poatina buffer dam is currently open and will close this month.

Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Augmentation

Augmentation: 9,200 ML
Total scheme capacity: 14,860 ML

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

The project is progressing through the detailed design and approval processes.

The design is currently under final review and is expected to be complete early in 2024.

Tasmanian Irrigation has submitted the first of two necessary development applications (to Devonport and Latrobe Councils) and has submitted its referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*.



Greater South East Irrigation Scheme

Capacity: 18,600 ML

Area serviced: Jordan River Valley, Brighton, Richmond, Dulcot, Cambridge, Colebrook, Campania, Tea Tree, Orielton, Pawleena, Penna, Sorell, Forcett, Elderslie and Broadmarsh areas.

Tasmanian Irrigation has recently undertaken a series of briefings for stakeholders of the Greater South East Irrigation Scheme, which will integrate and augment the three existing smaller schemes in the south east.

The business case for the scheme has been lodged with the State Government for approval and funding.

Tasmanian Irrigation will open a second round of water sales in the new year.

During October, Andrew Kneebone presented to the Coal River Producers Association. Tasmanian Irrigation also recently hosted a town hall information session at Sorell for irrigators and other stakeholders.

We have also delivered briefings to state and local government representatives and peak bodies.

In terms of the current season, there's concern regarding potentially extended dry conditions in the region, and the supply from TasWater into the Stage Two Scheme following commissioning of the upgraded Bryn Estyn water treatment plant.

TasWater has indicated that supply should be sufficient for the season, although the Daisy Banks Dam will have a reduced supply level until testing is

completed to understand localised settlement / embankment movement near the outlet pipe alignment on the dam crest.

Southern Midlands Irrigation Scheme

EOIs: 31,500-megalitre summer irrigation season

Area serviced: Land across the Central Highlands and Southern Midlands Council regions, with potential to support irrigation activities in the Brighton Council area

The project has been paused following the preparation of a preferred option design, which would have Lake Binney as the water source into the region.

The project will be revisited following progression of the current active projects in the Tranche Three program.



The 4,750-megalitre Don Irrigation Scheme is now operational

Understanding Climate Change Risks

By Jesse Lewis, Tasmanian Irrigation Environmental Specialist — Ecology and Sustainability

Across the globe, 2023 has broken records as the warmest year on record.

This is reflected not only in the aggregate data of average temperatures worldwide, but in increasingly unpredictable and sometimes extreme weather events.

Massive wildfires, catastrophic flooding and intensified storm systems have wreaked havoc worldwide.

As the year winds down and the southern summer comes to Tasmania, what changes in climate can we expect now and in the future?

To better understand these questions, Tasmanian Irrigation Environment team members Sophie Grace (General Manager) and Jesse Lewis (Environmental Specialist) attended a stakeholder consultation meeting for the Tasmanian Risk Assessment for Climate Change.

Delivered by Deloitte in partnership with Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT), the workshop gathered key stakeholders across the Tasmanian Government, industry, private and non-profit sectors.

As part of the workshop, participants came together across industries and sectors to brainstorm and debate climate change threats and opportunities in the natural, social, built and economic value domains.

Through a series of activities, rankings were given to priority areas of climate risk, followed by valuable discussion between stakeholder groups. This workshop is only the first step in the State's climate change risk assessment.

In 2008, the Tasmanian Government established the State's legislative framework for action on climate change, by passing the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*.

The Government amended the Act in 2022, requiring Tasmania to deliver a climate change risk assessment within two years of the commencement of the Act and to update the assessment every five years.

The first risk assessment, formed in part through stakeholder consultation such as this, is slated for delivery in 2024.

In addition to furthering understanding of the potential impacts of climate change and priorities for adaptation, the risk assessment will:

- Increase understanding of how climate is impacting Tasmania now and in the future;
- Identify Tasmania's climate risks and opportunities for consideration in decision making;
- Inform Tasmania's priorities for climate adaptation to increase resilience; and
- Inform other risk assessment activities, and Tasmanian Government policies and strategies relating to emergency management, infrastructure, energy, health and wellbeing, land use planning, young people and impacted industry sectors.

As water stewards of numerous dams, reservoirs and irrigation schemes, Tasmanian Irrigation has a vested interest in better understanding Tasmania's climate change projections and risks for the future.

Tasmanian Irrigation's schemes are built to last 100 years, and in that time Tasmania and its climate are likely to change significantly.

Through collaborative planning now, we can better adapt and ensure continuous and sustainable water delivery to irrigators in a way that is climate smart and built to last.





TASMANIAN IRRIGATION — MEET THE TEAM

Matt Lowe

Tasmanian Irrigation title: Project Manager Tamar.

Snapshot of your work and study history:

I grew up at Rosevears in the Tamar Valley and studied wine marketing at Roseworthy Ag College in South Australia. I worked in Adelaide and Sydney in wine distribution across brands such as Leeuwin Estate, Shaw and Smith, Moss Wood, Heemskerk / Jansz and Louis Roederer Champagne.

I then diversified into commercial cooking for the International Olympic Committee in Japan and a three-hat Sydney restaurant, before moving into winemaking.

I completed vintages in SA and California before returning home to work with the winemaking teams at Tamar Ridge and Josef Chromy. My wife Sally opened and managed the Jansz Wine Room for Yalumba.

I also spent a number of years designing and building winery and food processing equipment, and distilling rum and gin. Most recently, I project managed the expansion of Forager Foods' freeze drying facility at Western Junction, the biggest in southern hemisphere.

Brief description of your current role: I joined Tasmanian Irrigation seven months ago to support the Tamar Valley to develop demand for a business case, secure funding and build the Tamar Irrigation Scheme to enable the region to realise its potential.

What do you enjoy most about working at Tasmanian Irrigation: Being involved in a project that will benefit the region and meeting the people involved in producing world-class produce and products.

What has been your most memorable moment since joining Tasmanian Irrigation: The realisation of all the skill sets that come together to design and build an irrigation scheme and get water out the other end.

Favourite book: Blueback by Tim Winton.

Favourite food: Lamb cutlets, pinkeye potatoes and Tasmanian sea salt and butter.

Favourite movie: The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou, Wes Anderson.

Favourite holiday location: Sailing and diving in south eastern Tasmania.

On the weekends you will often find me: Riding the Tippogoree Hills mountain bike trails at George Town with my trail dog Bonnie the Border Collie, and usually at the Launceston Harvest Market.

If I was Prime Minister for a day, I would: Make outdoor education mandatory in Australian schools, as well as teaching skills to grow and prepare your own food.

The three people you would invite to share dinner with you: Jacinda Ardern, Bernard Moitessier and Ted Lasso.

Upcoming Events



Please visit Tasmanian Irrigation's website at www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au to ensure you stay up to date with the latest information about existing operational irrigation schemes and Tranche Three projects.

And don't forget to follow Tasmanian Irrigation on Facebook.

Forecast upcoming events include:

December 2023

Tamar Irrigation Scheme Water Sales Round Two Open

Late February 2024

Tamar Irrigation Scheme Water Sales Round Two Close

Early 2024

Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme Construction Commences

Sassafras Wesley Vale Augmentation Design Complete

Sassafras Wesley Vale Augmentation Construction Tenders Open



Tasmanian Irrigation

For more information about this newsletter, please contact:

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