

Towards URIS construction

The Upper Ringarooma Irrigation Scheme (URIS) is in its pre-construction phase. If the project continues to move smoothly through this final design and approvals phase, a start to construction is expected in spring. The project's size and layout have been determined, environmental approvals are being sought and tender preparations are well advanced.

Scheme details

The URIS will be based on a 6,500 ML earth-fill dam on Dunns Creek in the upper catchment of the Ringarooma River.

The scheme is designed to yield 5,700 ML per season at 95% average reliability.

Tasmanian Irrigation's URIS Project Manager, Andy Corbould, said the scheme will incorporate two pump stations.

"There'll be a smaller one just below the dam and a larger, main pump station at Cottons Bridge," he said.

"Delivery of water to properties will be via 38 km of buried pipeline and a section of the Ringarooma River." See map, overleaf.

Water sales

Sale of water entitlements to the URIS totals 3,745 ML, which is two-thirds of the scheme's capacity.

"It was good to exceed the 60% take-up threshold by a reasonably healthy margin," Andy said.

A recent public water auction held in Launceston heralded the start of open class sales for the remaining unsold URIS water. If interested contact Nick Mainwaring at Landmark Harcourts on 0419 372 793.

Dam preparations

Launceston-based engineering firm Pitt & Sherry has completed a preliminary design of the proposed Dunns Creek dam. Geotechnical studies done as part of this design have confirmed that, due to the



Near Ringarooma: a productive combination of dairy cows, pasture and water.

availability of clay soils on site, which is used for the core of the dam wall, the proposed 6,500 ML dam is the largest which could be feasibly built.

Tasmanian Irrigation has applied to DPIPW for a Dam Works Permit and a Water Licence for the scheme. These are likely to be publicly notified in the newspapers during April.

Tender & construction timeline

Tenders for construction of URIS were released in late March 2013.

"Two separate tenders were released. One is for the Dunns Creek dam and the other for the pipeline and pump stations," Andy said.

"TI's preference is for both to be awarded to the one contractor. However, we also have made it clear that separate contractors will be considered."

Tender documents for both the dam and the pipeline works have been released to Fulton Hogan, Hazell Bros, Shaw Contracting and VEC. Three contractors, Lean Field Developments, Leed Engineering and Zinfra have received tender documents for the pipeline work only.

He said that the tender will run for 6-weeks, closing in early May. TI expects to be able to notify the successful tenderer/s in June 2013.

"If construction starts as scheduled in spring 2013, then the project will be on track for completion by June 2015.

"This would enable the dam to fill in time for the scheme to commence operation in December 2015."

Field days

Two field days are planned as part of the tender process so that the scheme's potential builders can

inspect the sites first hand.

On Tuesday 9 April, all tenderers will meet at Legerwood to travel to the Dunns Creek dam site.

It is planned that on the following day, they will meet at Branxholm to be taken on a tour of district.

"They will view the pipeline route and pump stations sites from the roadside," Andy said.

Local business

TI is seeking to open pathways for local goods and services to be used in the project wherever practicable.

Soon after tender awarding, the successful contractor/s will hold a public meeting at Ringarooma to brief the community on how it is intended to deliver the project.

This meeting will cover:

- liaison with landholders;

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- potential opportunities for the use of local goods and services; and,
- contractor requirements for the acquisition of local goods and services.

Regulatory approvals

Andy said that TI is at an advanced stage of securing the required permits and licences for the URIS.

“All environmental and heritage studies planned for the project have now been completed,” he said.

“Many of these approval processes have public notification and comment processes. So you are likely to see such notices in the press.”

TI has applied to the Australian Government for approval for URIS under the Commonwealth’s principal environmental legislation, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

The Tasmanian Government indicated in March that it had approved establishment of the Upper Ringarooma Irrigation District. This will soon be formally gazetted and notified in newspapers.

“Preparation of a Development Application for the URIS is well

advanced and is scheduled to be submitted to the Dorset Council in April,” Andy said.

Staying in touch

TI has worked to build understanding in the wider Tasmanian community on the nature and purpose of the irrigation development underway.

To continue this effort, TI now has established Facebook and Twitter pages to enable Tasmanians generally to stay up-to-date.

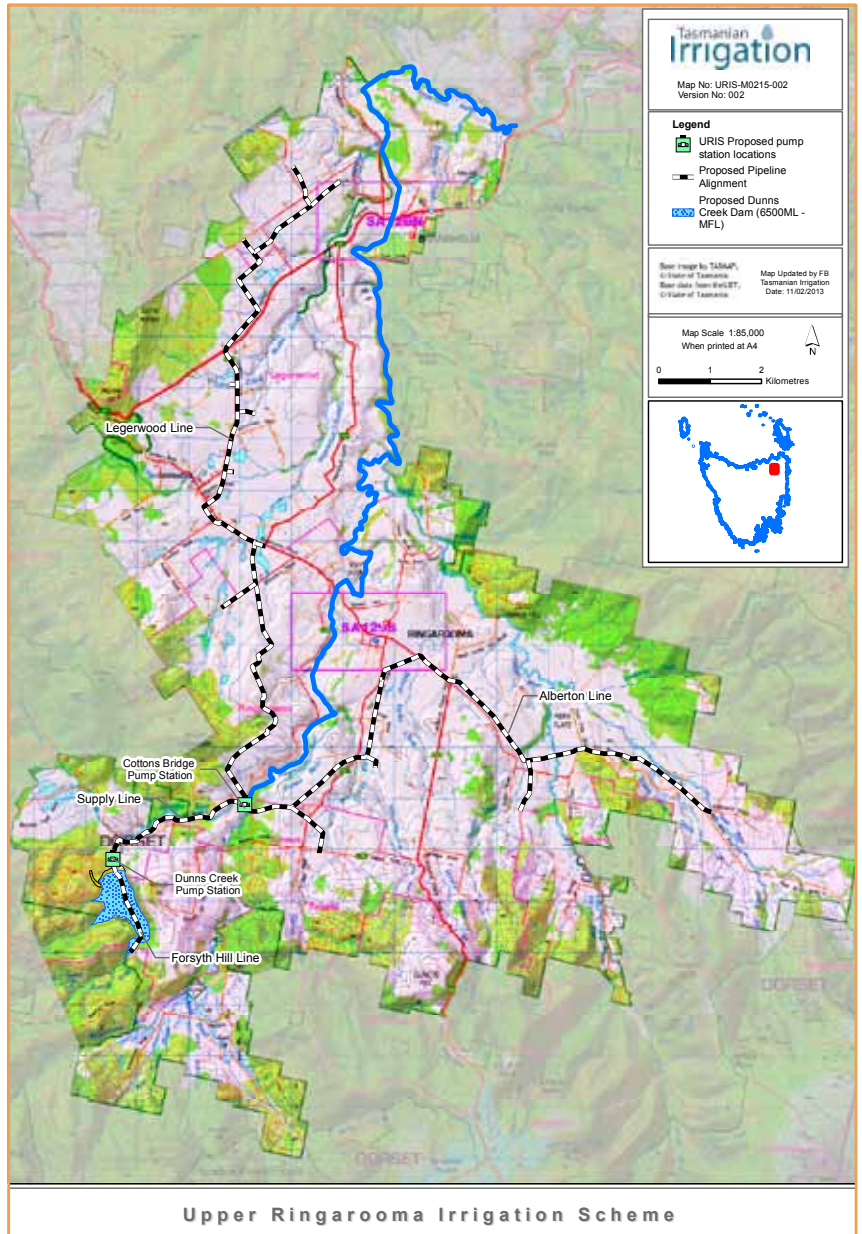
Communications with landholders and irrigators continues to be based on visits, meetings, letters, telephone calls, newsletters and the all important representative Upper Ringarooma Working Group. However, if you use Facebook or Twitter, then please also go to the Tasmanian Irrigation pages at these sites. You can ‘like’ the Facebook page or ‘follow’ the Twitter page to stay in touch with the wider discussion in the Tasmanian community on the irrigation development of which the URIS is a vital part.



www.facebook.com/TasmanianIrrigation



www.twitter.com/TasIrrigation



Your Voice

Tasmanian Irrigation thanks the members of the Upper Ringarooma Working Group their efforts. If you are an irrigator, this group is your direct voice into the irrigation arrangements being developed.

The chairman of the proposed Upper Ringarooma Irrigation Scheme is Stan Cox 0428 579 226 or stan.carol2@bigpond.com

The TI is supported with communications in the northeast through Dorset EDG Executive Officer, Howard Nichol, who can be contacted on 6352 6544 or edg@dorset.tas.gov.au

The TFGA contact for landowners is Ian Herbert, who can be contacted on 0400 006 095 or Ian.Herbert@tfga.com.au

TI’s URIS Project Manager is Andy Corbould who can be contacted on 0417 341 141 or andy.corbould@tasmanianirrigation.com.au

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This newsletter contains information of a general nature and reasonable care has been taken to ensure accuracy at the time of publication. Because scheme details and policies may change, and individual circumstances vary, this newsletter should not be relied upon as a basis of individual decision-making.

For more information and details regarding the articles in this issue, please contact -

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