

The logo for Tasmanian Irrigation, featuring the word "Tasmanian" in a small font above "Irrigation" in a larger font, with a stylized water drop icon above the letter 'i' in "Irrigation".

Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme

Jacob Tierney, Project Manager



August 2026

Hi everyone,

The Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme has entered the final stretch of construction, with the last section of pipe now in the ground. This is a great milestone for the project as we are now just weeks away from delivering first water. The project team will now be focusing on transitioning into full commissioning including pressure testing, commissioning outlets and carrying out the detailed checks needed to ensure the entire system is ready.

It was great to meet many of our irrigators for a tour of the Poatina pump station and buffer dam recently. Along with learning from the project team and engineers about how this infrastructure supports water delivery, irrigators were also able to discuss their Farm Water Access Plans (Farm WAPs) and what they need to do to prepare for the upcoming irrigation season.

As the largest irrigation scheme ever built by Tasmanian Irrigation, commissioning is both an exciting and complex phase of the project. The scheme also showcases some of the most advanced technology used across our schemes, with every outlet able to be remotely monitored and controlled to deliver water efficiently and reliably to irrigators across the network.

With first water now firmly in sight, we will soon be sending you updates on your water contracts and the progress of your Farm WAP. We look forward to keeping you informed as we count down towards October 1.



Figure 1 - We were pleased to welcome irrigators to our recent field day.

Final Pipe in Place

The final section of pipe is now in the ground for the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme (NMIS), completing the scheme's 152.4-kilometre underground pipeline network.

Project Manager Jacob Tierney was onsite with members of the project team to witness the milestone. "Seeing the final pipe go into the ground was a very special moment for the project team," Jacob said.

"It is the culmination of an enormous amount of planning, problem-solving and hard work by our staff, partners, contractors, suppliers and landowners. Everyone involved should be incredibly proud of what we have achieved together."

"We're looking forward to delivering water from 1 October and supporting irrigators through the scheme's first irrigation season," Jacob said.



Figure 2 - TI staff witnessed the NMIS last pipe milestone

[Read more...](#)

Commissioning Update

With construction now largely complete, the focus has shifted to commissioning the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme ahead of first water delivery from 1 October.

Water has been flowing through sections of the network as the project team undertakes a comprehensive commissioning program. This includes pressure and integrity testing of the pipeline, scour valves, property outlets, pump stations and balance tanks to ensure every part of the system performs as designed.

The pipeline is also being flushed to remove any remaining debris before operation, while the final property outlets continue to be installed, tested and commissioned across the scheme.

Our commissioning team, supported by specialist contractors, is working systematically across the network to complete the testing and verification required before the scheme becomes operational. Although much of this work happens behind the scenes, it is a critical step in ensuring a safe, reliable and efficient water supply for irrigators from day one.



Figure 3 - The final few property outlets are being installed across NMIS.

What you need to do next to receive your water...

Before you can access water, your Water Entitlement Purchase Contract (WEPC) must be signed and all payments made.

To complete your WEPC you will need to:

- Sign the Irrigation Right, Zoned Flow Delivery Right, and Connection Agreement Contracts where indicated;
- Return each of these contracts to TI; and
- Pay the balance of the purchase price.

On completion, TI will countersign the contracts and send confirmation that your water entitlements have been issued, together with a copy of your water entitlement contracts and connection agreement.

Reach out to the team at watertrading@tasirrigation.com.au or call 03 6398 8433 for information or assistance.



Figure 4. Our team is working on Water Entitlement Purchase Contracts ready for the season start.

Farm Water Access Plans (Farm WAPs)

Significant progress is being made on the preparation of Farm WAPs across the NMIS. A total of 46 Farm WAPs are required and these are being delivered in seven batches, enabling consultants to undertake multiple farm visits within each area and minimise costs for irrigators.

In order to complete your Farm WAP:

- Look out for and sign your Engagement Agreement when it is emailed to you via Adobe Sign which enables the Stage 3 field assessments to commence.
- Once your agreement has been signed, your nominated consultant will contact you to arrange a suitable time to undertake the required on-ground assessment.
- Review and sign your completed Farm WAP once you receive it.

Development of the NMIS Farm WAPs has taken longer than anticipated due to the need to review historic Farm WAPs where we have scheme overlap, update them to meet current legislative and policy requirements and complete additional spring/summer grassland assessments.

For any questions about your Farm WAP, please contact Amy.Madsen@tasirrigation.com.au, or you can visit us at FarmX.



Figure 5. Irrigators had the chance to discuss their Farm WAPs at the recent field day.

[Find out more...](#)

Let's Talk at FarmX

Tasmanian Irrigation CEO Mike Sylvester and staff members, including the Farm WAP team, will be at FarmX 2026 at the Deloraine Showground on Thursday, 20 August.

The event provides an opportunity for irrigators to meet the TI team and have your questions answered about irrigation development and operations across Tasmania.



We deliver the water that cultivates productive farms, vibrant communities and a prosperous Tasmania.

Figure 6. We are looking forward to seeing farmers at FarmX this year.

[Find out more...](#)

Progress Update

Phase 1 - Prefeasibility

(12 to 18 months)



Phase 2 - Feasibility

(12 to 18 months)



Phase 3 - Approvals & Design

(24 to 30 months)



Phase 4 - Construction & Commissioning

(18 to 30 months)



Award contracts and begin construction



Implement land rehabilitation plans



Develop Farm Water Access Plans



Commission scheme



Practical completion

Phase 5 - Close-out

(6 to 18 months)



Tasmanian
Irrigation

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