

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.

Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme

Jacob Tierney, Project Manager



September 2026

Hi everyone,

We're now in the final stages of commissioning the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme and remain focused on being ready to deliver water from 1 October.

We know how important it is to you for us to deliver the project on time, with the season shaping up to be a dry one. The [Bureau of Meteorology's spring outlook](#) indicates that rainfall is likely to be below average across northern and eastern Tasmania, while daytime and overnight temperatures are very likely to be above average across the state.

Since our last update, the project team has been busy with commissioning activity to ensure that a robust and fully tested scheme is handed over to our operations team. Along with the large infrastructure such as pump stations and balance tanks, each irrigator's outlet is being tested individually to ensure they are ready to deliver water in coming weeks.

We've also been working with our operations team preparing for a successful handover of the scheme. During this transition, the project team will remain available to assist with any trouble shooting.

This update contains important information on contracts, payments and Farm Water Access Plans and what needs to be completed before water can be delivered to you from 1 October. It also introduces the team responsible for operating and maintaining the scheme and how they can be contacted.



All outlets are being tested across the scheme

Poatina outage update

Hydro Tasmania are finalising maintenance works on their infrastructure and preparing to re-energise the Poatina Power Station and tailrace.

Hydro Tasmania are confident that the outage will be completed in time to refill the Poatina Buffer Dam and flow into the NMIS system for our irrigators.



The Poatina tailrace is on track to be operational and filling the dam by the end of the month

Bennett Family Ready for NMIS Water to Flow

With three children keen to return to the family farm, Nina and Will Bennett are counting down the days until the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme delivers high surety water to their Ashby property at Ross. They say access to Tasmanian Irrigation water will create jobs, give farmers the confidence to invest and diversify, and add greater wealth to regional communities. Read the Bennett family's story [here](#).



NMIS water is creating on-farm career opportunities for the Bennett children. Photo: Alex Maisey

Scheme Operations

As the NMIS transitions from construction to operations on 1 October, we are pleased to introduce the team responsible for operating and maintaining the scheme.

Technology integrated into the NMIS supports it being operated and monitored remotely, enabling Tasmanian Irrigation to undertake a trial using a broad operational team to support irrigators through a combination of remote monitoring and field-based activities. This Remote Operations and Field Trial aims to:

- Respond more effectively to operational needs
- Focus increased effort on preventative maintenance
- Continue delivering reliable water services throughout the season.

Scott Williams will supervise operation of the NMIS and the core operating team is completed with Matthew Marston and Rob Stacey. They will draw on broader operational and technical personnel, including instrumentation electricians, as required to support responsive and reliable customer service.

During the early part of the season, the technical engineering team will work closely with operations and the project teams to support the transition and refine system performance. This will include tuning and optimisation to ensure the NMIS operates as effectively and reliably as possible throughout its first season.

We appreciate your support as we commence this inaugural season of operations and look forward to working with you to deliver a safe, reliable and customer-focused irrigation service for the NMIS. The Remote Operations and Field Trial will be evaluated at the end of the season, and we welcome your feedback on your experiences to help inform this review.

appropriate Operations Team member for a prompt response.



Scott Williams



Matthew Marston



Rob Stacey

The NMIS Operations team, led by Scott Williams

Farm Water Access Plans

Our team is working hard to finalise Farm WAPs for the NMIS ahead of the inaugural irrigation season. Consultant reports are being received and reviewed, and Tasmanian Irrigation has increased resourcing to boost our processing capacity.

Your documents will be emailed to you for electronic signing. Please review and sign them as soon as possible to help us complete your Farm WAP before the season begins.

Our staff are available to answer questions, explain your specific plan and guide you through the process. If you would like assistance or prefer to arrange an in-person meeting, please contact farmwap@tasirrigation.com.au. Further information is available on our [Farm WAPs in the Northern Midlands webpage](#).

Thank you for your patience and cooperation. We understand how keen irrigators are to have these compliance documents completed, and we look forward to a successful and prosperous first NMIS season.



Farm WAPs are being finalised ready for season start

Contracts and final payments

You should have received your Water Entitlement Purchase Contract (WEPC) **in the post** and your final invoice for payment **by email** over the past two weeks. The WEPC needs to be signed, and the invoice paid before you can receive water under the scheme.

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 03 6398 8433 if you have not received these documents, would like an electronic version of your contract to be sent for e-signing, or have any questions.

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)



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