

Tasmanian
Irrigation

Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme

Jacob Tierney, Project Manager



May 2026

Hi everyone,

Construction on the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme continues to progress well, with the recent dry conditions helping crews maintain momentum across the project. With construction now entering the home stretch, the project is steadily moving into pre-commissioning and commissioning activities ahead of delivering water for the 2026/27 irrigation season.

The project team is continuing to work closely with Hydro Tasmania ahead of the planned Poatina maintenance shutdown later this year, with a focus on progressing as much pre-commissioning work as possible beforehand.

As we move closer to completion, will have some opportunities coming up for landowners and community members to catch up with the NMIS team and learn more about the project. First up, we have some of the project team, including some Farm WAP members at the Campbell Town Show this week, so please come by and say hello.



Figure 1 - 147km of the 152km pipeline has been installed.

Construction Update

Of the 152km of pipeline, 147km has now been installed, with sections of pipeline currently being filled, flushed and pressure tested. Valve works and property outlet telemetry installations are also continuing behind the mainline crews.

At Valleyfield, the balance tank has now been completed and is ready for hydrostatic testing. Works at the Valleyfield Pump Station are also nearing completion, now sitting at around 98 per cent complete. Construction continues to progress well at the Epping Forest Pump Station, which is now around 85 per cent complete.

Up at Poatina, works on key scheme infrastructure are also nearing completion, with the balance tank, buffer dam and pump station all now progressing into operational readiness and commissioning activities.



Figure 2 - The 3.45-megalitre Poatina Balance Tank is now almost completed.

Progress Update



Team Member Profile- Mohammed Al-Mohammed

Mohammed Al-Mohammed jokes that, as someone born in 2000, he is Tasmanian Irrigation’s “millennium baby”, but despite being one of the youngest members of the team he has already spent more than three years helping deliver irrigation infrastructure projects across Tasmania.

“One of the best things about working at Tasmanian Irrigation is the people and the opportunity to keep learning and developing professionally,” he said.

As commissioning activities ramp up across the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme, many landowners and stakeholders will meet Mohammed over the coming months as water begins flowing through the scheme’s 152-kilometre pipeline network for the first time.



Figure 3. Mohammed Al-Mohammad at the newly filled Poatina Buffer Dam, where commissioning activities for the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme are underway.

Promoting Career Opportunities to Tasmanian Students

Tasmanian Irrigation is proud to open its workplaces to students to give them a first-hand look at irrigation and civil construction careers.

Students are able to interact directly with project managers, engineers like Mohammed, machinery operators, safety managers and other skilled professionals to learn how multi-million dollar projects – such as the [Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme \(NMIS\)](#) and the

Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Augmentation (SWISA) – will create jobs and benefits for Tasmanian communities.

In collaboration with Beacon Foundation, students from Riverside High School and Cressy District High School recently toured construction works on the NMIS. As well as learning how irrigation water is stored, managed and delivered to farms across the region, students had the opportunity to meet some of the 150 people involved in building the scheme.



Figure 4. NMIS Project Manager, Jacob Tierney with Beacon Students at the Poatina Dam.

Farm WAP Preparation Process is Progressing

Work on Farm Water Access Plans (Farm WAPs) for the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme continues to progress, with Stage 3 field surveys and ecological assessments due to commence in June 2026.

The Farm WAP process is completed in five stages, beginning with information provided by the irrigator and desktop baseline assessments undertaken by Tasmanian Irrigation. Irrigators will be contacted directly by the Farm WAP team as this work progresses to discuss next steps and arrange site visits where required.

These assessments help identify and manage environmental considerations associated with irrigation development and support the long-term sustainability of irrigation across the Northern Midlands region.

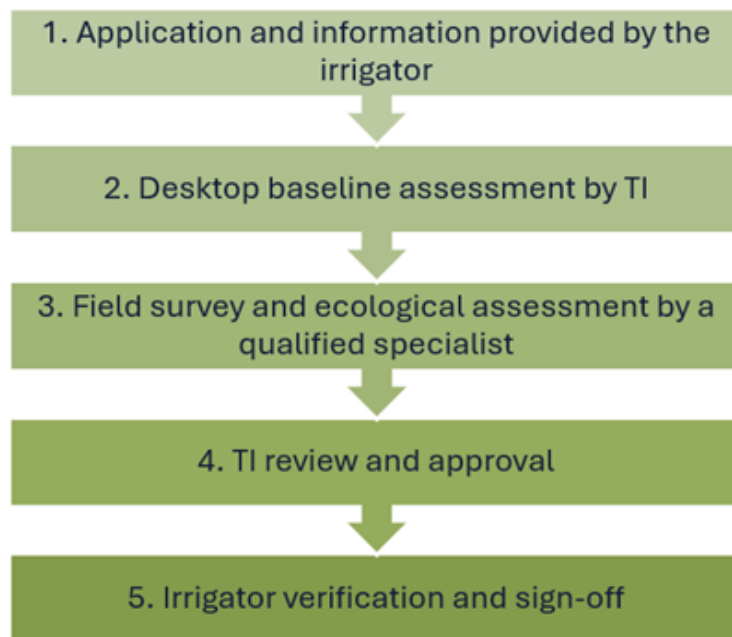


Figure 5. Farm WAPs are prepared in five stages.

Farm WAPs are required for all properties receiving Tasmanian Irrigation water and help ensure irrigation activities are managed sustainably and in accordance with environmental requirements.

Further information on the Farm WAP process, including guidance materials and frequently asked questions, is available on the Tasmanian Irrigation website or by contacting the Farm WAP team at FarmWAP@tasirrigation.com.au

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