

Tasmanian Irrigation Pre-Season Newsletter Winnaleah - October 2026

A message from Cher Bartlett, General Manager, Customer and Operations

Hi everyone, I'm pleased to introduce myself as Tasmanian Irrigation's new General Manager, Customer and Operations. I've joined at an important time as we prepare for the 2026–27 irrigation season and continue working with irrigators to deliver safe, reliable and customer-focused water services.

I lead the people at Tasmanian Irrigation who are responsible for water delivery, customer service, asset management, dam safety, hydrology, engineering and environmental compliance.



My focus is simple: reliable water delivery, responsible scheme management and clear communication with customers.

I look forward to building strong relationships with customers, Irrigator Representative Committees and scheme communities, and to hearing directly about the issues that matter most to you.

Thank you for the welcome I have already received from those of you I've met so far. I look forward to meeting more of you and working with you through the season ahead.

Preparing for the 2026–27 irrigation season

Our operational schemes are ready for another busy irrigation season, with maintenance, inspections, commissioning and operational planning undertaken through winter and early spring.

These works have included targeted maintenance, critical spares replacement, telemetry upgrades, pump station works, flow meter replacements, dam surveillance and other planned improvements. This work supports reliability, manages risk and helps ensure assets are maintained responsibly over their operating life. The Asset

Some schemes are already operating, while others will open progressively depending on seasonal conditions, storage levels, scheme rules and customer demand. The Winnaleah Irrigation Scheme will open on 12 October 2026.

Please check scheme-specific information, including confirmed opening dates, charge rates and operational notices, on the [scheme pages on the Tasmanian Irrigation website](#).



Seasonal outlook and dam storage levels

While rainfall deficiencies eased in some parts of the State over winter, warmer conditions and pressure on water resources remain possible in northern, eastern and southern regions as we start a new summer irrigation season.

Recent rainfall has enabled opportunistic harvesting, leaving most major dams with strong storage levels. Current information on water levels for Tasmanian Irrigation dams is available on the [Dam Dashboard](#).

With each scheme operating under different catchment, storage and supply conditions, irrigators are encouraged to plan early, review expected demand, understand available entitlements and consider [water trades](#) ahead of the peak of the season to meet your needs. Read more below about water trading.

please see our latest [Operations Quarterly Report](#).



Financial sustainability and annual charges

Tasmanian Irrigation operates as a cost-recovery business, focused on providing reliable water delivery at the lowest sustainable cost of service.

Cost pressures continue across labour, materials, energy, insurance, compliance and asset renewal, while the business continues to strengthen long-term financial self-sustainability.

Annual charge information for 2026–27 is available through individual [scheme pages on the Tasmanian Irrigation website](#). Charges may include operations and maintenance, the Asset Renewal Levy, storage, variable water use and excess or out-of-season charges, depending on scheme rules and by-laws.

We understand that pricing information can be complex. Tasmanian Irrigation is continuing to improve how financial and operational information is presented, with the aim of making it clearer, more transparent and easier for irrigators to understand.

Water trading and efficient use

[Water trading](#) can help irrigators manage seasonal demand and make better use of available water within schemes. If you expect to need more water, or have water available, please consider trade options early and submit trades for approval before water is taken where possible.

Trading early helps reduce excess water use, supports efficient scheme utilisation and gives irrigators more flexibility as conditions change. Fixed charges apply to the holder of the irrigation right on the first day of the season, and any private agreement for another party to pay these charges must be managed between the parties.

Trades must be completed no later than 30 days before the end of the season. Later trades may not be approved, as they can affect end-of-season billing and

Please monitor your water use, plan ahead, consider trading before peak demand periods, contact us if you need help with trading, and keep your account up to date.



Your voice matters

Tasmanian Irrigation will soon be inviting customers to take part in our annual customer research survey.

Now in its third year, the survey helps us understand what we're doing well, where we can improve, and the issues that matter most to your business. Your feedback provides valuable insights that help us enhance our services, improve communication, and better meet the needs of irrigators across our schemes.

We appreciate the time customers take to participate and look forward to sharing the results with irrigators once the research is complete.

More information will be available soon.

Supporting sustainable irrigation with Farm WAPs

Farm Water Access Plans (Farm WAPs) help ensure Tasmanian Irrigation water is used in the right areas and in a way that supports sustainable irrigation and protects soil, waterways, water quality and biodiversity.

approved irrigation areas, infrastructure, water use or storage.

Thank you for following your Farm WAP, keeping records up to date and working with us on any audits, reviews or updates to support responsible irrigation.



Self management update

Tasmanian Irrigation and Winnaleah Irrigation Scheme Limited (WISL) have continued to progress a trial of the self management application and assessment process.

An important milestone has now been reached, with an application to amend the boundary of the Winnaleah Irrigation District approved by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water. This boundary amendment is an important precursor to WISL undertaking a poll of Irrigation District participants, as it ensures that eligibility to participate in the poll is consistent with the intent of the enabling legislation.

The next step is for WISL to undertake polling of Irrigation District participants to determine whether there is support from at least 80% of participants for WISL to take on responsibility for managing the scheme. The upcoming poll will give participants the opportunity to have their say on the future management of the scheme.

Tasmanian Irrigation looks forward to continuing to work closely with WISL and scheme participants as this important process progresses.

establish an appropriate contribution from WISL towards the maintenance and operating costs of the scheme infrastructure that supports the mini-hydro operations, helping ensure these costs are shared fairly and transparently.

Staying informed

Scheme-specific newsletters, pricing information, dam levels and operational updates are available on individual [scheme pages on the Tasmanian Irrigation website](#).

For questions about your scheme, water delivery, trading, Farm WAPs, invoices or operations, please contact Tasmanian Irrigation.

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Thank you

Thank you to irrigators, members of Irrigator Representative Committees and our operational staff for helping prepare for the season ahead.

We look forward to working with you throughout the 2026–27 irrigation season.



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