

Tasmanian
Irrigation

Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Augmentation

John Wright, Project Manager



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Hi everyone,

It's exciting to report that construction on the \$124.2 million Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Augmentation is underway, with more than five kilometres of pipeline now in the ground.

Shaw Contracting was awarded the construction contract in December and construction commenced in January.

Wynyard-based company Vinidex has now manufactured approximately 25 kilometres of pipeline, which is being transported to the Sassafras area for install (see story below).



The first length of pipe manufactured by Vinidex for SWISA

Shaw Contracting is currently working on the Sassafras spur pipelines, and a crew will be mobilised in the Moriarty area in mid-March to commence installing pipelines in this area. The next stage will be the Sassafras main line.

It was great to celebrate the start of works last Saturday with representatives from the Australian and Tasmanian Governments, Tasmanian Irrigation and local landowners. More detail about this event can be found [here](#).

Thank you to all landowners for their ongoing cooperation as we work together to construct this game-changing augmentation for you.

We will provide regular updates about the progress of the project, but please reach out at any time if you require additional information.

SWISA Launch Celebration

The formal announcement of the start of construction of the augmentation was an opportunity to celebrate that the project will almost triple the amount of water available to farmers in this region.

The importance of the public / private funding model to deliver new and improved irrigation projects, such as this 9,200 megalitre augmentation of the SWIS, was acknowledged by representatives of the Tasmanian and Australian governments.

The augmentation has been funded by the Federal Government (\$62.1 million), the Tasmanian Government (\$31.05 million) and irrigators (\$31.05 million) through the purchase of water entitlements.

More than 60 jobs are expected to be created during the construction phase with a further 210 direct and indirect full-time employment positions once the project is operational, expected to be in 2027.



Project stages

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)



Project Fast Facts

Capital cost	\$124.2 million
Augmentation capacity	9,200 megalitres
Total final scheme capacity	14,860 megalitres
Number of irrigators	94
Kms of pipeline	More than 100
Pump stations	2
Estimated no. jobs created during construction	60
Estimated no. ongoing jobs created	210
Estimated total net economic benefit to Tasmania	\$113.14 million
Estimated first water	2027

The Next Steps

Work is about to start on installation of the rising main pipeline from the Great Bend pump station to the new balance tank. This will occur before the pump station refurbishment, which will commence at the close of the current irrigation season. This work over the winter months is critical, not just for the delivery of the augmentation, but also for security of supply in the interim. During the works throughout the winter months, the existing scheme will not be able to supply water. The project team will continue to work with existing irrigators to assist to ensure other arrangements are in place.



Pipe being laid near Sassafras as part of the augmentation

The works at Great Bend consist of stabilising the rock embankment adjacent to the existing power transformer enclosure, which has been subject to an increasing number of rock impacts over recent months.

Shaw Contracting will also be removing all the existing electrical systems and pumps, modifying the building to improve access and ventilation, and installing two of the four new pumps and associated power supply units, the HV kiosk and switchboard.

External to the building, works will be undertaken to remove the buildup of debris from the river at the pump station intake, as well as the installation of new screens to prevent leaf matter and Australian Grayling (a protected fish species) entering the pump station.

Vinidex Profile - Who is Manufacturing the Pipe?

Wynyard-based pipe manufacturer Vinidex has just completed manufacturing 150km of pipeline for the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme and is now manufacturing more than 100 kilometres of pipe for the Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Augmentation. Learn how Vinidex is upgrading their plant and operating around the clock to meet demand for their products...



Vinidex Factory Manager Richard Parker with pipe ready for transport

A Tribute to Stuart Greenhill



Stuart is joined on his farm in 2021 with Tasmanian Government Members of Parliament Felix Ellis and Guy Barnett, as well as Gavin Pearce (then the Federal Member for Braddon) and former Tasmanian Irrigation CEO Andrew Kneebone (second from right)

Tasmanian Irrigation acknowledges the tireless work, energy and passion of local farmer Stuart Greenhill, who chaired the Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigator Representative Committee.

Stuart's recent sudden death has been felt deeply across the Sassafras, Wesley Vale, Hawley Beach and surrounding communities, and within Tasmanian Irrigation. His practical farming knowledge, progressive outlook and strong commitment to his local community were well recognised.

He was an early adopter of modern irrigation practices and understood better than most the link between reliable water supply, productivity and long-term regional prosperity.

Our thoughts are with Stuart's family and his community.

We will provide an update regarding the Irrigator Representative Committee Chair position in coming weeks.

Safety Around Construction Sites

Now that we have commenced construction, Tasmanian Irrigation requests that for their own safety, landowners and the public do not enter work areas while works are being undertaken.

The Contractor has obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* to secure the health and safety of workers and workplaces by "protecting workers and other persons against harm to their health, safety and welfare through the elimination or minimisation of risks arising from work".

To meet these obligations, the Contractor has provided training, inductions and systems of work to control the risks on the work site, such as the use of high-vis clothing, UHF radios and daily prestart meetings to discuss the works and hazards for each activity.

It is essential that all other people remain clear of the area for their own safety.

If there is something at the site that you would like to advise the project team of or discuss further, please don't hesitate to contact Tasmanian Irrigation via the contact details below.

Farm Water Access Plans

Many of you will already be aware that water supplied by Tasmanian Irrigation may only be applied to land and stored in dams that are covered by an approved Farm Water Access Plan (Farm WAP).

Existing SWIS irrigators already have a Farm WAP in place. These plans will be reviewed and transitioned to an updated template. New Tasmanian Irrigation customers will be

required to develop a Farm WAP. This ensures irrigation water is managed sustainably and in accordance with Australian and Tasmanian Government requirements. Tasmanian Irrigation will provide guidance and support throughout this process.

Please visit www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au/farm-waps to learn more about Farm WAPs, including why they are required, and to review the frequently asked questions.

If you require further information, please contact farmwap@tasirrigation.com.au.

Our Farm WAP Team will provide further information when the rollout is ready to progress.

Remaining Water Available for Sale

The Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Augmentation now has 97 per cent of summer water sold. This leaves only 330 megalitres remaining to purchase.

Water sales for winter water entitlements will be launched at the end of May. Additional detail on winter water, which will be implemented in April 2028, will be shared shortly.

If you are interested in purchasing SWISA water, please contact John Wright on 0475 108 660 or john.wright@tasirrigation.com.au.

Key Project Contact

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