

NEWSLETTER

End of Season Wrap



Lower South Esk Irrigation Scheme

Tasmanian Irrigation's Water Delivery Team sincerely thanks all irrigators for their ongoing support and cooperation as we celebrate the end of another busy irrigation season.

This newsletter provides general information on how the scheme has performed during the summer season.

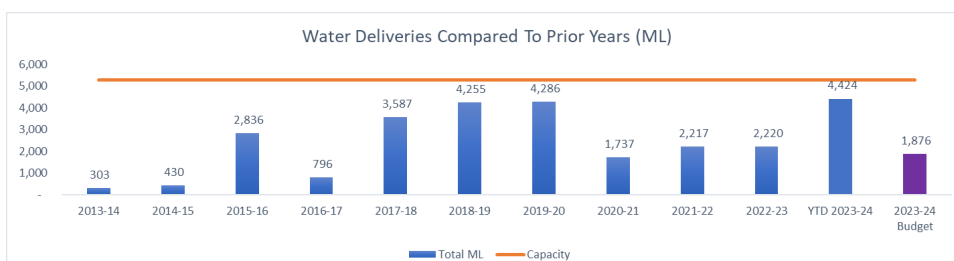
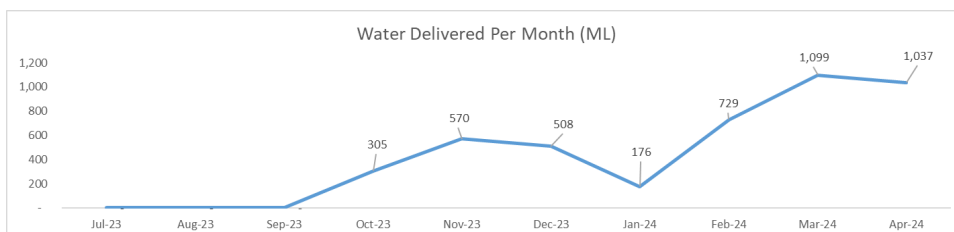
For general information, please visit our website at www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au, or follow us on Facebook or LinkedIn. If you need specific information telephone us on 03 6398 8433.

Water Delivery

The 2023-24 summer irrigation season opened on 2 October 2023, and ran for 211 days, concluding on 30 April 2024.

100 per cent of the scheme's water allocation was available, enabling approximately 4,424 megalitres (ML) of water to be delivered this season.

The volume delivered indicates 83 per cent of the scheme's 5,298 ML total capacity was utilised.



Fast Facts



4,424 ML
WATER DELIVERED



100%
ALLOCATION



13
TRADES



5,298 ML
SCHEME CAPACITY



Scheme Operator:

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Scheme Performance

As we conclude the season for the Lower South Esk Irrigation Scheme, we would like to share some key highlights and updates from the past months.

Tasmania's 2023/24 Spring/Summer brought below-average rainfall across the region, particularly impacting the west coast and northern areas. Temperatures were notably warmer than average, with mean maximum temperatures reaching the fourth highest on record. As a result, we experienced one of the highest periods of demand for water for the scheme to date, yet the scheme operated smoothly throughout the season, with no shutdowns reported.

Irrigators also played a crucial role in the smooth running of the scheme, with all participants proactively communicating leading to efficient water allocation and distribution.

Trading Summary

Transfer Type	Volume (ML)	Number of Trades
Short term transfer (within season)	1,340	12
Limited term transfer	-	-
Permanent transfer	300	1

Dam Summary

Milford Dam opened the season at 93 per cent capacity with a volume of 5,548 ML and ended the season at 15 per cent capacity with a volume of 880 ML.

Tasmanian Irrigation will conduct the dam fill program during the off-season, aiming to restore the dam to full capacity before the start of next season.

Live dam levels are available on the Tasmanian Irrigation website. From the home page, please select 'Dam Levels' from the top menu banner (see below).

The screenshot shows the Tasmanian Irrigation website's top navigation menu. The 'Dam Levels' link is circled in red, and a blue arrow points to it. Below the navigation is a 'Dam Levels' banner with a background image of a dam. Underneath is the 'Dam Dashboard' which includes a map of Tasmania with dam locations marked and a table of dam data.

Dam Name	Full Supply Level	Dam Level Latest	+/- from FSL	Total Volume	Current Volume	% Fill
Rileys Creek Dam	64.65	64.28	-0.37	971	889	92%
Frome Dam	329.00	328.15	-0.85	2,136	1,861	87%
Daisy Bank Dam	126.50	125.43	-1.07	186	157	85%
Upper Floods Creek Dam	307.00	306.07	-0.93	500	397	79%

Entitlements

The scheme is fully sold. Water can only be purchased by trading entitlements.

Asset Renewal Levy (ARL)

The ARL makes provision for major asset repairs and replacements required to ensure the continuing operation of the scheme.

The table below shows the asset renewal works planned for the current financial year.

Facility Name	ARL Task
Milford Pump Station	Motor overhaul
Scheme wide	Pump station filter replacements

Note: Some works cannot be carried out while the scheme is in use. All remaining tasks are expected to be completed before the next season begins.

Repairs and Maintenance

The table below shows the general repairs and maintenance planned for the current financial year. Again, not all works may have been completed at time of writing, as some works cannot be carried out while the scheme is in use.

Maintenance Task
Electrical switchboard periodic maintenance inspections
Weed and vegetation management
Communications / remote terminal units repairs and support
Vermin proofing switchboards



Have your Say - Seeking Your Participation

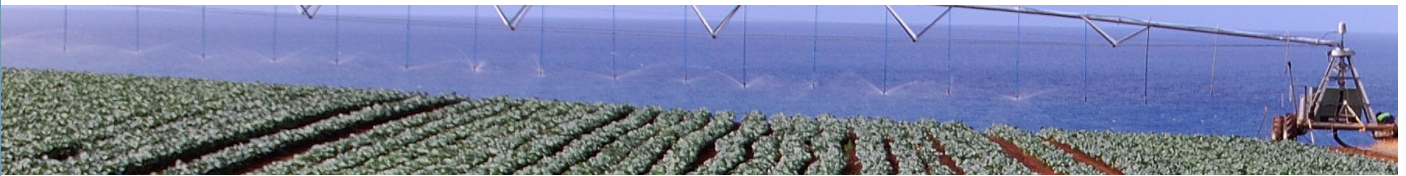
Tasmanian Irrigation is seeking feedback from our customers to better understand your views on our performance, our communication to you, and the issues that matter most to you in your business.

We have engaged independent research firm EMRS to undertake this research on our behalf. What you tell us will help Tasmanian Irrigation improve the way we manage schemes and the way we communicate to you, and help us better understand your needs. It's a chance for you to provide open and honest feedback about what we can do better, and tell us where we are doing well.

We'd like to thank everyone who has supported this work by agreeing to take part in a short phone survey during May. When the research is complete, we will share high-level results with you, giving you an insight into the collective feedback received from customers across our schemes. We expect to receive the research report in August.

All information gathered will be treated in the strictest confidence. No names or personal details are released or stored, and no individuals will be identifiable in the research report provided to us by EMRS.

If you have any questions about the survey, please do not hesitate to contact EMRS' Project Manager, Paul Jamrozik, at pjamrozik@emrs.com.au.



Community management of publicly-owned irrigation schemes

Tasmanian Irrigation would like to thank all irrigators and stakeholders who've attended information and consultation sessions during May regarding community management of irrigation schemes.

In December 2023, the Tasmanian State Parliament passed the *Water Miscellaneous Amendments (Delegation and Industrial Water Supply) ACT 2023* (WMA Act) into law. The WMA Act amends existing legislation relevant to Tasmanian Irrigation, to enable the Government's policy to facilitate community management of publicly owned irrigation schemes, where feasible and appropriate.

In practical terms, the change means that Tasmanian Irrigation can delegate some of our powers and functions to eligible community bodies, with regard to the operation and management of our irrigation schemes. However Tasmanian Irrigation remains the asset owner and the Responsible Water Entity, and not all powers and functions are able to be delegated.

We have drafted documents and processes that would enable irrigator groups to apply for delegation of powers and functions, and which align with the requirements of the WMA Act. During May we've been seeking feedback on the documents and the proposed application process, as part of a two-stage consultation process.

Feedback for the first stage of the consultation process **closes on 21 June**.

Full detail, including draft documents for comment, is available on our website: [Community management of publicly owned irrigation "Community management of schemes" - Tasmanian Irrigation](#)

Tips to prepare for this year's Farm Water Access Plan audit season

Following the end of another irrigation season, it is time to start preparing for the upcoming Farm Water Access Plan (Farm WAP) audits. These audits are essential for ensuring sustainable management of the scheme's water resources and for regulatory compliance.

To help you navigate this process effectively, here are some key tips:

Stay Updated: Between 10 to 15 per cent of irrigators are randomly selected each year to be audited providing they have used over 5 ML. You will be contacted if you are selected.

Know your requirements: Take the time to familiarise yourself with the requirements outlined in your Farm WAP. Review any soil or biodiversity action plans and monitoring schedules to understand your responsibilities.

Organise your documentation: Audits typically involve farm inspections, interviews, and document reviews. To streamline the process, gather and organise all necessary documentation in advance.

Address any discrepancies: Tasmanian Irrigation is tasked with ensuring regulatory compliance, so make sure your plan is up to date. If you come across any discrepancies or issues with your Farm WAP, such as irrigating outside the designated area, it is important to address them. Please contact our Farm WAP Team for assistance, and we can work together to resolve these issues before the auditing season begins.

Protect your farm ecosystem: Remember, deriving an income from the land relies on a healthy and sustainable functioning farm ecosystem. By following the guidelines outlined in your Farm WAP, you're not only ensuring compliance but also safeguarding our natural resources for future generations.

Tasmanian Irrigation is committed to protecting the state's natural resources. By participating in our Farm WAP program, you're contributing to this important goal and ensuring the sustainability of our agricultural practices for years to come.

For any Farm WAP-related inquiries or assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to our dedicated Farm WAP Team at (03) 6398-8433 or email FarmWAP@tasirrigation.com.au.



Example Farm WAP soil map

Contact Details

If you require any additional information about Tasmanian Irrigation or your scheme, please contact:

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Corporate Services Mgr	Usman Ali	usman.ali@tasirrigation.com.au	0467 018 870
Chief Operating Officer	David Skipper	david.skipper@tasirrigation.com.au	0417 279 062

Irrigator Representative Committee

If you are interested in finding out more about the Committee or are interested in joining, please speak to your Scheme Operator or Chairperson in the first instance.

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Member	Jan Hamilton	jan@twosheds.com.au	0418 218 092
Member	Bill Chilvers	billchilvers@gmail.com	0409 186 033
Member	Helen Baille	helen@kelsosheep.com.au	0419 559 119
Member	Will Gibson	admin@nativepointfarm.com.au	0488 982 446
Member	Ben Morrison	bamorrison@outlook.com.au	0400 341 499

Your Contact Details

If any of your contact details have changed, please advise us as soon as possible via email at enquiries@tasirrigation.com.au.