

# NEWSLETTER

## End of Season Wrap



## North 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.

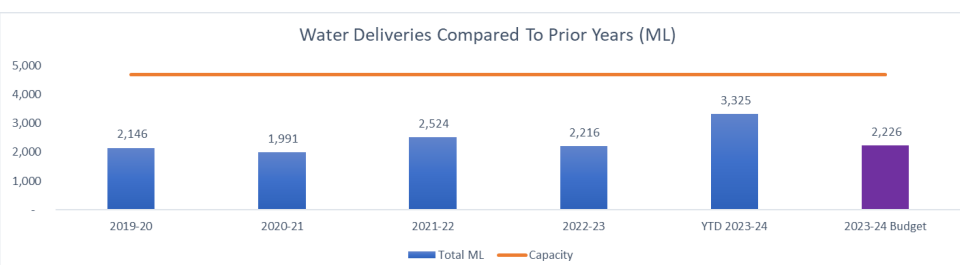
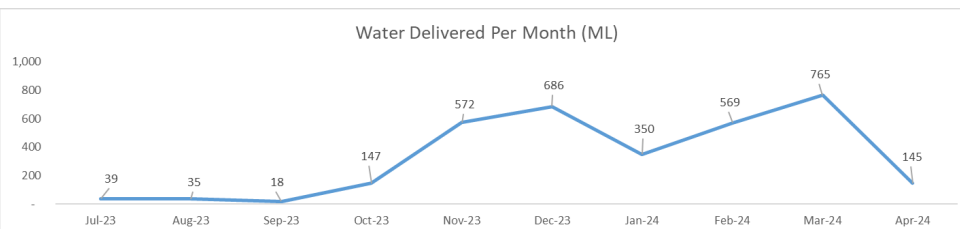
For general information, please visit our website at [www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au](http://www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au), or follow us on Facebook or LinkedIn. If you need specific information telephone us on 03 6398 8433.

### Water Delivery

The 2023-24 summer irrigation season opened on 19 October 2023, and ran for 194 days, concluding on 30 April 2024.

100 per cent of the scheme's water allocation was available, enabling approximately 3,215 megalitres (ML) of water to be delivered during the season, with a total of 3,325 ML delivered in financial year 2023/24.

The volume delivered this season indicates 69 per cent of the scheme's 4,685 ML capacity was utilised.



## Fast Facts



**3,215 ML**  
WATER DELIVERED



**100%**  
ALLOCATION



**11**  
TRADES



**4,685 ML**  
SCHEME CAPACITY



**Scheme Operator:**

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## Scheme Performance

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

This season presented both challenges and new opportunities for irrigators. Persistent algae blocked outlet filters, requiring ongoing maintenance. A notable disturbance occurred when a mainline break caused a three-day interruption on the Evandale line, impacting six irrigators. Tasmanian Irrigation operators promptly addressed the problem to minimise the impact on those affected.

In a positive development, one property outlet was opened for the first time this season, expanding access to irrigation water and supporting additional agricultural activities in our community.

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, demand for water was strong and the total volume delivered this season represents a record high for the scheme's history.

## Trading Summary

Transfer Type	Volume (ML)	Number of Trades
Short term transfer (within season)	477	8
Limited term transfer	50	1
Permanent transfer	265	2

## Dam Summary

The Rocklands Dam opened the season at 90 per cent capacity with a volume of 5,041 ML and ended the season at 25 per cent capacity with a volume of 1,390 ML.

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

The screenshot shows the Tasmanian Irrigation website. A blue arrow points to the 'Dam Levels' link in the navigation menu. Below the navigation is a 'Dam Levels' section with a background image of a dam and a text box stating: 'Tasmanian Irrigation has developed a new system that enables reporting on irrigation scheme water storages. This data is updated daily at 00:15 Hrs AEST.'

Below this is the 'Dam Dashboard' section, 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
North Esk Pump Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Re-cut spoon drain</li><li>• Valve replacements</li></ul>
Scheme Wide	Pipeline leak repair

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

## 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
Outlet repairs
Motor and pump lubrication



## Have your Say - Seeking Your Participation

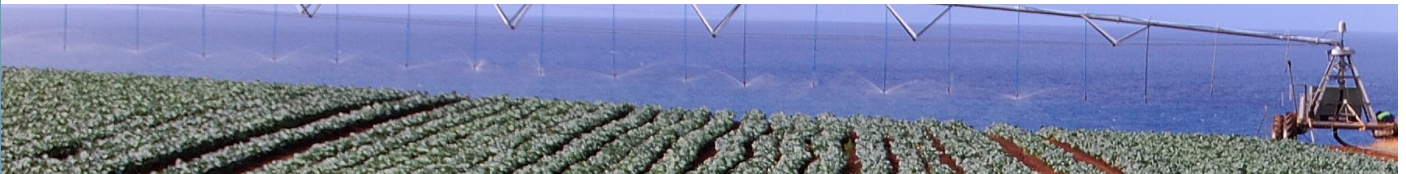
Tasmanian Irrigation is seeking feedback from our customers to better understand your views on our performance, our communication to you, and the issues that matter most to you in your business.

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](mailto: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.

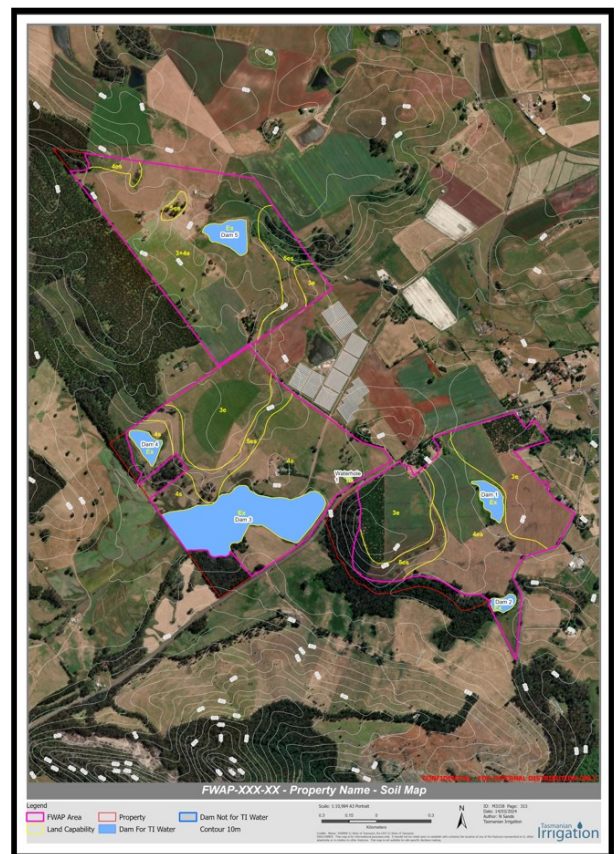
**Organise your documentation:** Audits typically involve farm inspections, interviews, and document reviews. To streamline the process, gather and organise all necessary documentation in advance.

**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](mailto: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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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.

### Your Contact Details

Title	Name	Email	Phone
Chairperson	Charlie Watson	charleswatsonrle@gmail.com	0417 390 848
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If any of your contact details have changed, please advise us as soon as possible via email at [enquiries@tasirrigation.com.au](mailto:enquiries@tasirrigation.com.au).