

NEWSLETTER

End of Season Wrap



Southern Highlands 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.

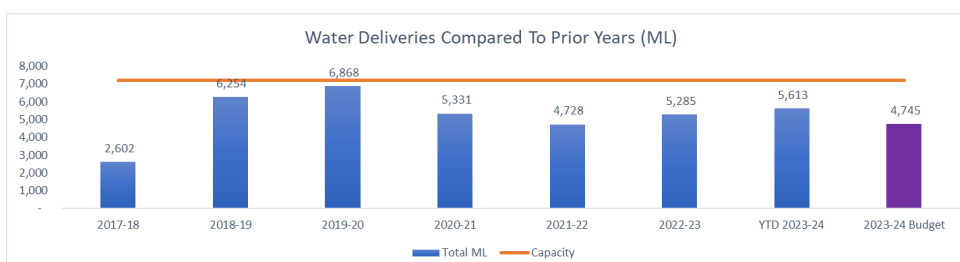
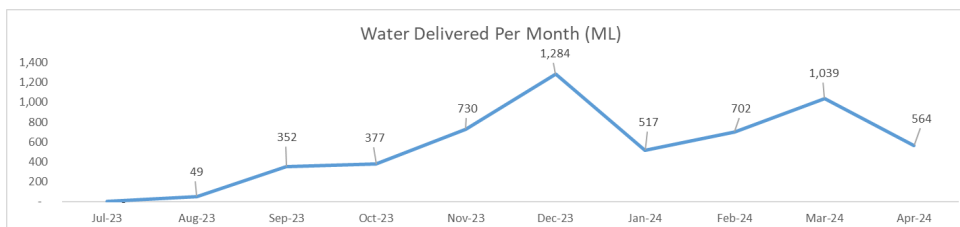
This newsletter provides general information on how the Scheme has performed during the summer season.

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 18 September 2023, running for 225 days and closing on 30 April 2024.

Although 65 per cent of the scheme's water allocation was available, approximately 5,446 megalitres (ML) of water was delivered during the season, representing a 75 per cent utilisation rate. The high utilisation is due to some irrigators exercising the option to buy additional Great Lake water from Hydro Tasmania.



Fast Facts



5,446 ML
WATER DELIVERED



65%
ALLOCATION



4
TRADES



7,215 ML
SCHEME CAPACITY



Scheme Operator:

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Scheme Performance

This season presented some unique challenges. Following a dry winter, irrigation commenced earlier than expected on 18 September, with the dam capacity at just 50 per cent.

To meet the demand, Tasmanian Irrigation harvested water from the Shannon River with assistance from Hydro Tasmania. Throughout the season, we conducted several strainer and filter cleans to maintain water quality from this river source. The Shannon River Pump Station required regular maintenance and servicing, but there were no significant disruptions to operations.

Midway through the season, we experienced some relief with one significant rainfall event, easing the pressure for several days and allowing us to harvest additional water from the Shannon River. As a result, we increased irrigator water allocation to 65 per cent of the total Irrigation Right, providing much-needed support to our agricultural community.

We thank you for your ongoing partnership and trust in the Southern Highlands Irrigation scheme.

Trading Summary

Transfer Type	Volume (ML)	Number of Trades
Short term transfer (within season)	222	4
Limited term transfer	-	-
Permanent transfer	-	-

Dam Summary

Southernfield Dam opened the season at 61 per cent capacity with a volume of 4,967 ML and ended the season at 8 per cent capacity with a volume of 667 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.

Entitlements

The Scheme is currently fully sold. The remaining 60 ML has been committed to TasWater, supporting the Bothwell town water supply.

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
Shannon River Pump Station	River pump overhaul
Scheme wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Control system upgrades• Deep cycle battery replacements• 3G obsolescence communications upgrades

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 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
Pump station vibration monitoring assessments
Motor and pump lubrication



Solar Installations - Bothwell Boost Pump Station, Hollow Tree Boost Pump Station and Shannon River Pump Station

As part of the Tasmanian Government's Energy on Farms grant, the Southern Highlands Irrigation Scheme has been selected for three solar array installations.

The Bothwell Boost Pump Station solar installation, a 50 kW solar system, became operational in December 2023 and generated 36,644 kwh of electricity between December 2023 and April 2024.

During this period, 65 per cent of the solar-produced electricity was exported to the grid, with the balance utilised to power the pump station. This offsets 35 per cent of the pump station's total electricity throughout the season.

The Hollow Tree Boost Pump Station solar installation, also a 50kW solar system, became operational in January 2024 and generated 28,670 kwh of electricity between January and April 2024.

During this period, 75 per cent of the solar-produced electricity was exported to the grid, with the balance used to power the pump station, representing 25 per cent of the pump station's total electricity consumption during the season.

The Shannon River Pump Station solar installation was operational in May and is currently generating electricity to the grid.

The primary benefit of the solar system is its ability to directly power the pump station and reduce reliance on grid electricity. In addition, electricity that can not be utilised by the pump station is fed into the electricity grid to generate income for the scheme. The total estimated cost savings for the solar installations from December to April is \$5,252.

**Carbon emissions
reduction**

11,103 kg CO2-e

**Cost reduction using
solar power**

\$2,730

Feed in to grid income

\$2,522



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.

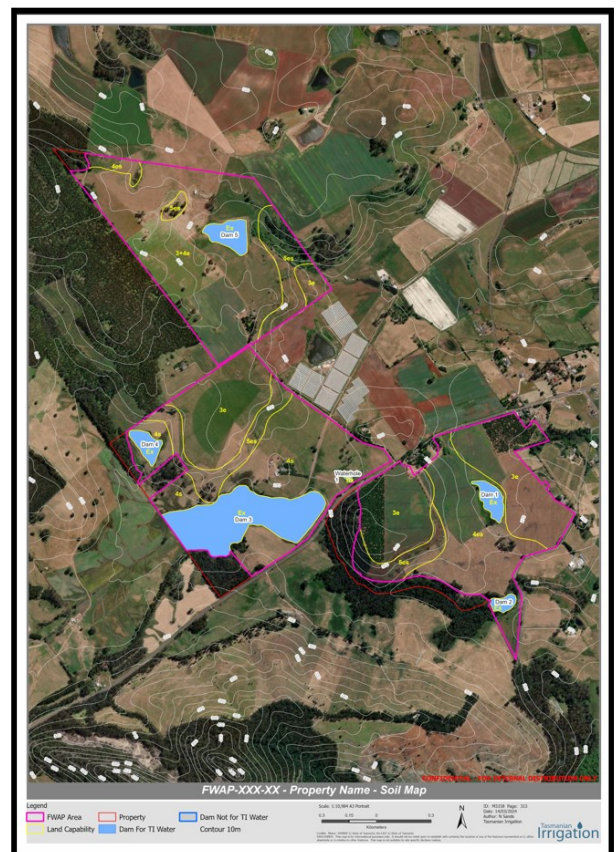
Organise your documentation: Audits typically involve farm inspections, interviews, and document reviews. To streamline the process, gather and organise all necessary documentation in advance.

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:

Title	Name	Email	Phone
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Billing & Invoicing	Jess Hendley	accountsreceivable@tasirrigation.com.au	(03) 6398 8433
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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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.