

# NEWSLETTER

## End of Season Wrap



## Swan Valley 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.

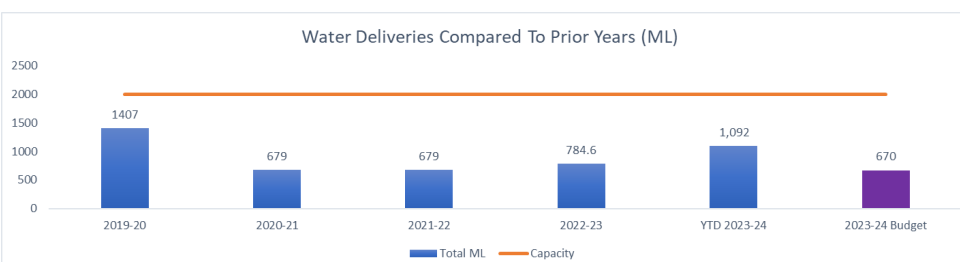
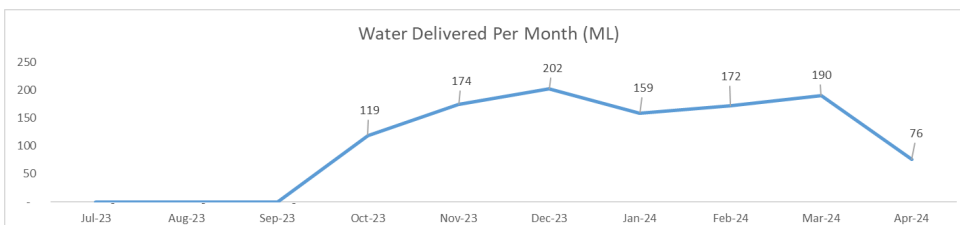
For general information, please visit our website at [www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au](http://www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au), or follow us on Facebook or LinkedIn. If you need specific information telephone us on 03 6398 8433.

### Water Delivery

The 2023-24 summer irrigation season ran for 204 days, opening on 9 October 2023 and closing on 30 April 2024.

100 per cent of the scheme's water allocation was available and approximately 1,092 megalitres (ML) of water was delivered during the season.

The volume delivered represents a 55 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme's 2,000 ML total capacity.



## Fast Facts



**1,092 ML**  
WATER DELIVERED



**100%**  
ALLOCATION



**1**  
TRADE



**2,000 ML**  
SCHEME CAPACITY



**Scheme Operator:**

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## Scheme Performance

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

The season began with approximately 10 irrigators promptly accessing water, and six utilising most of their allocation by the end of the season. Despite the rapid start, the scheme operated smoothly throughout, effectively meeting the needs of our irrigators.

One notable challenge encountered was related to the outstation telemetry, specifically with the scheme's flow meters. However, this issue did not impact the overall operation of the scheme.

To ensure optimal performance, we replaced 3G modems over the course of the season. While a few minor issues arose during this process, they were promptly addressed, allowing the scheme to continue running without interruption.

We are pleased to report that the Swan Irrigation Scheme experienced no shutdowns throughout the season. We extend our thanks to all our irrigators for their cooperation and support throughout the season.

## Trading Summary

Transfer Type	Volume (ML)	Number of Trades
Short term transfer (within season)	3	1
Limited term transfer	-	-
Permanent transfer	-	-

## Dam Summary

Melrose Dam opened the season at 88 per cent capacity with a volume of 3,033 ML and ended the season at 57 per cent capacity with a volume of 1,966 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.

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 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. Note, as some works cannot be carried out while the Scheme is in use, not all works may have been completed at time of writing. Any remaining tasks are anticipated to be carried out prior to the next season.

Facility Name	ARL Task
Swan Pump Station	Deep cycle battery replacements
Scheme wide	3G obsolescence communications upgrades

## Repairs and Maintenance

The table below shows the general repairs and maintenance that has been 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



## Have your Say - Seeking Your Participation

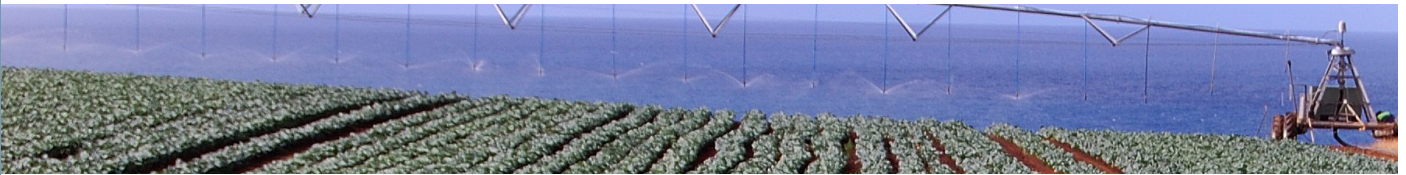
Tasmanian Irrigation is seeking feedback from our customers to better understand your views on our performance, our communication to you, and the issues that matter most to you in your business.

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) audit season. These audits play a crucial role in ensuring the sustainable management of the Scheme's water resources and are also required 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.

Title	Name	Email	Phone
Chairperson	Tim Lyne	tim@springvalewines.com	0401 214 834
Member	Rodney Jones	rodney.jones@stahmannwebster.com.au	0407 843 879
Member	Annie Browning	bobannie@iinet.net.au	0419 897 878
Member	Adam Greenhill	adam@galaestate.com.au	0408 057 163

## 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](mailto:enquiries@tasirrigation.com.au).