

Working with Farmers to Grow the Wealth of Tasmania

SWISA BUSINESS CASE SUBMITTED

Tasmanian Irrigation is delighted to share exciting pre-Christmas news with landowners regarding the augmentation of the Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme.

The Business Case for the 9,200 megalitre (ML) augmentation, which will increase the scheme's total water delivery capacity to 14,660 ML, has just been submitted to the Tasmanian Government for review. This is the next step in securing State Government funding.

Once approved, the Business Case and a further funding submission will be provided to the Federal Government to lock in the final component of the public / private funds required to construct this project. We will provide regular updates regarding the assessment and outcome of these vital steps.

The project team is now preparing to start the Detailed Design phase of the project, working alongside GHD and Pinion Advisory. Once the final design is developed (and we have received State and Federal approvals), we remain on track to go to construction tender in late 2023 / early 2024.

Thank you again to all landowners who submitted applications as part of the Water Sales process. The water acceptance process will begin in early 2023.

Landowners will then receive correspondence from the Project Team, which may include a request to confirm outlets and zone changes. Thereafter, the applications for water entitlements will be accepted or rejected via a letter of confirmation.



Water Sales Summary

Approximately 6,000 ML of water was sold during Water Sales, bringing the total summer water sold to circa 11,460 ML.

This means the scheme has a remaining available summer volume of 3,200 ML.

Whilst this appears to be a sizeable amount of surplus water, the dispersion of water within all 31 zones means that within each zone there isn't a large amount of water remaining for purchase.

The majority of the remaining water is placed in the trunk main and two loops. A water availability map will be presented at a public forum early next year and final water sales at the published price will be accepted.

Beyond this point, water will become subject to the purchase of an outlet and potentially indexed pricing.



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Project Timeline Update

The following milestones are expected to be achieved by the following forecast dates, subject to all approvals being confirmed:

January 2023 to December 2023	Approvals Process and Detailed Design
November 2023 to July 2024	Tender Development and Award
July 2024 to August 2026	Construction phase
February 2026 to September 2026	Commissioning and Decommissioning
November 2026	First water delivery

The Next Steps

The following assessments are vitally important to developing the final design. Cooperation by landowners would be greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please speak with the project manager or one of the IRC members:

- **Natural Values Field Assessment.** This assessment will start in mid-January 2023 involving a number of environmental scientists walking the proposed pipeline alignment searching for flora and fauna of significant value. The process is largely non-intrusive and will generally be conducted on foot. Access authority will be requested to all on the pipeline alignment in early January;
- **Eagle Nest search.** In conjunction with the Natural Values Field Assessment, the team will be flying over the alignment to conduct a search for eagle nests;
- **Alignment Walk Throughs.** In addition to the Natural Values walks, the project engineering team will begin field walks to establish the final pipeline alignment early in the new year. Much like the natural values assessment, this is largely non-intrusive and will be conducted by teams on foot. Access authority will be requested prior to the work starting; and
- **Heritage Assessments.** These assessments will also commence in early 2023.

Other activities and works planned for 2023 include:

- All landowners in the district will be invited to attend an Irrigator Forum early in the new year to learn more about the project. Additional detail regarding the date, location and program will be forwarded via email;
- Commencement of Detailed Design;
- Clearing work will be conducted in preparation for monitoring monuments to be installed around the pump station. This will assist with construction;
- Finalising the water supply agreement with Hydro Tasmania; and
- Submitting an application for modification to the Irrigation District and water course authority.



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SWISA FAST FACTS

Capacity

- Existing: 5,460 ML
- Augmentation: 9,200 ML
- Total completed summer capacity: 14,660 ML
- Winter water: 7,880 ML
- No. of irrigators: 135

Augmentation

- Job creation: 200 FTEs
- Pipeline: 98 kms
- Pump stations: 2
- Dams: 0

FARM WATER ACCESS PLANS

All landowners accessing Tasmanian Irrigation water must develop and implement a Farm Water Access Plan. More information can be found here: www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au/farm-waps



Tasmanian Irrigation sincerely thanks all landowners for their support and cooperation to enable the Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Augmentation to progress to Business Case submission.

I wish you, your families and your communities a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and prosperous 2023.

I look forward to working closely with you in the new year to continue to progress this project toward construction and commissioning.

Cheers,

Damien

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