

Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme construction update August 2025

The Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme (NMIS) is hitting construction milestones and is on track to deliver first water for the summer 2026/27 irrigation season.

Progress on construction of the scheme is only possible with the support and cooperation of landowners, and we thank all landowners on whose property construction has taken place, or continues to take place.

Poatina Buffer Dam



Poatina Buffer Dam and inlet structure in the foreground

Construction of the buffer dam at Poatina is now nearing completion. Since site mobilisation was completed in November 2024, the dam outlet pipes have been installed and pressure tested. The earthen embankment is nearing completion with 95 per cent complete. The inlet structure from the Poatina tailrace is installed and backfill has commenced. Hydro Tasmania have been working closely with Tasmanian Irrigation to provide a shutdown of the Poatina Power Station to allow a new drop structure within the Poatina tailrace. This drop structure is similar to existing drop structure weirs within the existing tailrace, which slow the water velocity as it travels down the tailrace to prevent scouring and erosion. This new drop structure at the Poatina Buffer Dam inlet will allow water to be diverted into the dam through the new inlet structure. The site team is now halfway through a 16-day shutdown where the new drop structure and rock lining of the tailrace in the vicinity of the new structure. These works are shown in the above and below photos.



Pipelines

The pipeline progress has now reached 90km of pipe in the ground. As we progressively install the pipeline, we're also installing infrastructure that will allow landowners to connect to the scheme once commissioned. Pipe fittings including air, scour and property outlet valves are being installed progressively behind the dig, lay and backfill crews. This process can take time, particularly with the large diameter pipes, and we appreciate the impact this can have on farm operations.

We thank each landowner for their patience while the construction crew works through their property, particularly during the wetter months when any construction work can be more cumbersome.

Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme

A total of 136km of pipe has now been manufactured for this project. We've been very pleased to be able to source almost all the pipe from Tasmanian manufacturer Vinidex (formally Zest), on the State's northwest coast. It's just one more way this project is delivering benefit across the Tasmanian economy.



Valve Installation works

Pump stations and balance

tanks

The construction of the Poatina and Valleyfield pump stations has commenced, with works on buried pipework complete. The slab has been poured at Poatina and the structural columns, beams and roof components along with cladding have now been installed.

Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme

Construction on both the Poatina and Valleyfield balance tanks is well underway with both foundation slabs poured. Both tanks sit within an eagle nest exclusion zone, so work is paused during the nesting period. The tanks will hold 3.45 ML and 1.35 ML respectively.



Poatina Pump Station



The Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme project is jointly funded by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments, delivered in partnership with Tasmanian Irrigation. Australian Government funding is provided through the National Water Grid Fund.