

NEWSLETTER

End of Season Wrap



Greater Meander Irrigation District

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.

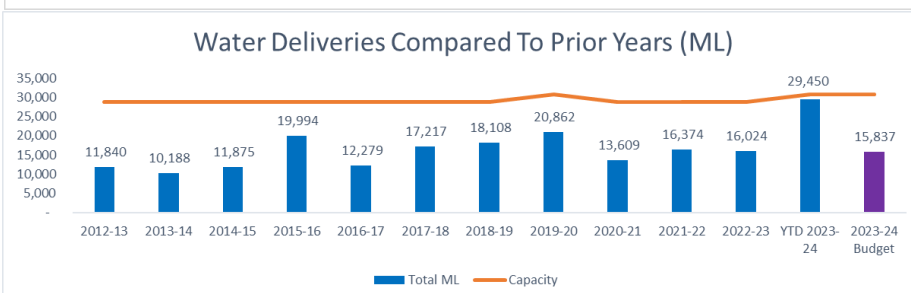
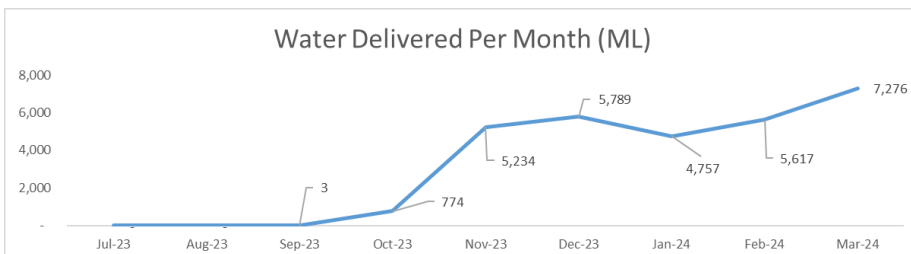
For general information, please visit our website at www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au, or follow us on Facebook or LinkedIn. If you need specific information telephone us on 03 6398 8433.

Water Delivery

The 2023-24 summer irrigation season ran for 151 days, opening on 1 November 2023 and closing on 31 March 2024.

100 per cent of the Scheme’s water allocation was available and approximately 28,673 megalitres (ML) of water was delivered during the season, with an additional 777 ML delivered (as General Availability water) before the start of the season in financial year 2023/24.

The volume delivered during the irrigation season represents a 93 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme’s 30,851 ML total capacity.



Fast Facts



28,673 ML
WATER DELIVERED



100%
ALLOCATION



16
TRADES



30,851 ML*
SCHEME CAPACITY

*Project underway to further increase capacity.

Scheme Operators:



Brett Bennett—0457 700 590
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Cameron Walker—0438 020 974
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Scheme Performance

The Meander Scheme experienced high demand for irrigation water during the summer season as evidenced by the delivery and usage data. The year to date volume delivered represents the highest on scheme record.

The installation of new intake screens at Hagley and Quamby has significantly improved water capture, providing the pumps with a consistent head of water. Additionally, the screen design has reduced cleaning frequency from nearly daily to once a week, streamlining maintenance efforts.

Accurate water usage volumes and efficient ordering by irrigators have enabled scheme operators to deliver water with precision, particularly amidst the dry conditions. Furthermore, power supply and pump reliability have remained excellent throughout the season.

The implementation of a new Meander Dam storage model has enhanced confidence and accuracy in managing storage levels.

However, challenges persist during dry conditions, especially regarding watercourse deliveries when natural flows are low. Balancing the needs of water users with the maintenance of regulated environmental flows is crucial for optimising aquatic life conditions.

Trading Summary

Transfer Type	Volume (ML)	Number of Trades
Short term transfer (within season)	596	11
Limited term transfer	150	2
Permanent transfer	813	3

Dam Summary

The Meander Dam opened the season at 86 per cent capacity with a volume of 36,878 ML and ended the season at 28 per cent capacity with a volume of 11,819 ML.

Live dam levels are available on the Tasmania Irrigation website. From the home page, please select 'Dam Levels' from the top menu banner.

The screenshot shows the Tasmania Irrigation website interface. A blue arrow points to the 'Dam Levels' menu item, which is circled in red. Below the navigation bar is a 'Dam Levels' banner with a background image of a dam. Underneath is the 'Dam Dashboard' 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%

Project Update

The Greater Meander Augmentation project is nearing completion and is on track to be completed prior to the start of the next irrigation season.

Poly Welding Solutions, a local Tasmanian contractor that specialises in pipeline installations, has completed the main pipeline works. In April, work started on the pipeline interconnections, along with finalising the installation of property outlets.

Pump station upgrade designs for Caveside and Quamby have been completed and these two pump stations will have significant rebuild works, including installing upgraded pump sets and associated electrical equipment along with the civil works required to accommodate the new gear.

Erosion on sections of the Cheshunt drains is being addressed by applying rock armouring to areas of concern. Suitable material has been obtained from a local quarry and will be stockpiled ready for placement in coming months.

Unfortunately, these remaining works have and will continue to result in interruptions to the supply of General Availability water. It is expected that Caveside and Quamby will remain out of service from late April until 1 October 2024 while pump station upgrade works are undertaken. Hagley and Rubicon pump stations will have short outages later in the year as their works are conducted.

Tasmanian Irrigation has been working closely with affected irrigators to minimise disruption to farm operations. Every effort has been made to adjust the work schedule, accelerate or delay critical tasks, or seek other contingency measures. Unfortunately, the work cannot be delayed into the winter as access onto farmland would become an issue in wet conditions.

If you have any questions or require any additional information about the Greater Meander Augmentation Project, please contact:

Title	Name	Email	Phone
Project Manager	Tony Ciffo	tony.ciffo@tasirrigation.com.au	0492 415 806
Landholder Liaison	James McMahon	james.mcmahon@tasirrigation.com.au	0477 520 817
Senior Project Manager	Marty Wilson	marty.wilson@tasirrigation.com.au	0476 385 066

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
Cheshunt Drains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gate upgrade
Scheme Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deep cycle battery replacements• Property outlet water meter replacement program• Remote terminal units upgrades• 3G obsolescence communications upgrades
Meander Dam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuation of right abutment rock stabilisation (works started in FY23)• Migration of local CITECT to GeoSCADA

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
Pump station vibration monitoring assessments
Weed and vegetation management
Outlet repairs
Motor & pump lubrication
Cheshunt drain cleaning
Pipe leak repairs



Have your Say - Seeking Your Participation

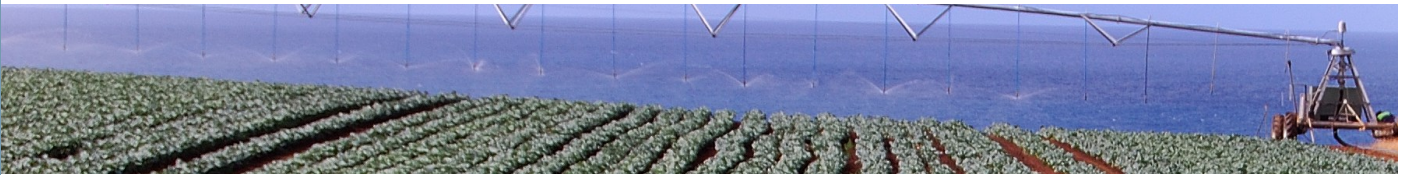
Tasmanian Irrigation is seeking feedback from our customers to better understand your views on our performance, our communication to you, and the issues that matter most to you in your business.

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.



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](#)

Farm Water Access Plans (Farm WAPs) for Greater Meander Irrigation District

Farm WAPs are essential for sustainable agriculture, enabling farmers to responsibly manage the environmental impacts associated with irrigation, and ensuring the long-term viability of water resources. These plans address the environmental risks linked to irrigated farming, including impacts on soil health, waterways, and biodiversity.

Development

For augmentation Greater Meander water entitlement holders, the development of Farm WAPs is now complete, pending a few verification forms which are still to be submitted.

Existing entitlement holders will be approached by Tasmanian Irrigation over the coming years to commence the Farm WAP process. Development involves collaboration with prequalified consultants who specialise in water, soil, and biodiversity.

Obtaining a Farm WAP involves four stages, facilitated by Tasmanian Irrigation, which includes a property visit to assess your farms water resources, land capability/suitability and natural values, preparing property maps and a report. The cost of preparing a Farm WAP can vary based on property size, ecological characteristics, and Tasmanian Irrigation's budget arrangements.

Audit Season Preparation

As the irrigation season concludes, it's crucial for those that already hold Farm WAPs to prepare for the Farm WAP audit season.

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.

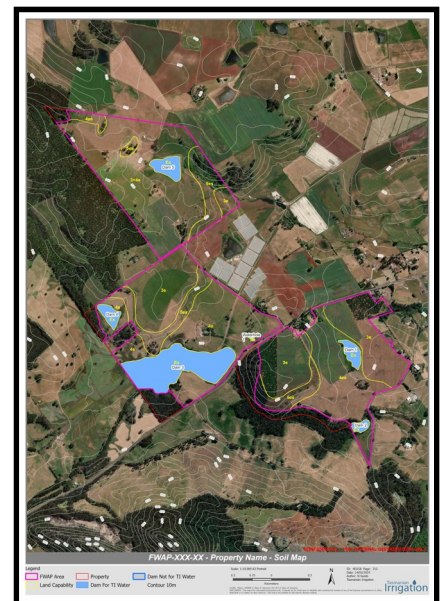
Organise your documentation: Audits typically involve farm inspections, interviews, and document reviews. To streamline the process, gather and organise all necessary documentation in advance.

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
Scheme Operator	Brett Bennett	brett.bennett@tasirrigation.com.au	0457 700 590
Scheme Operator	Cameron Walker	cameron.walker@tasirrigation.com.au	0438 020 974
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Sales & Trading	Fiona Buckingham	fiona.buckingham@tasirrigation.com.au	0438 465 338
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

Please note that Scheme Operator Dean Anyon has transitioned into a different internal role within Tasmanian Irrigation and Tasmanian Irrigation's relief operator, Cameron Walker, has taken on Dean's role.

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 area member in the first instance.

Title	Name	Email	Phone
Member	Michael Cresswell	quambyview@bigpond.com	0419 034 525
Member	Tim Schmidt	tim@woodlandsfarm.com.au	0427 325 946
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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.