

# NEWSLETTER

## End of Season Wrap



## Midlands 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.

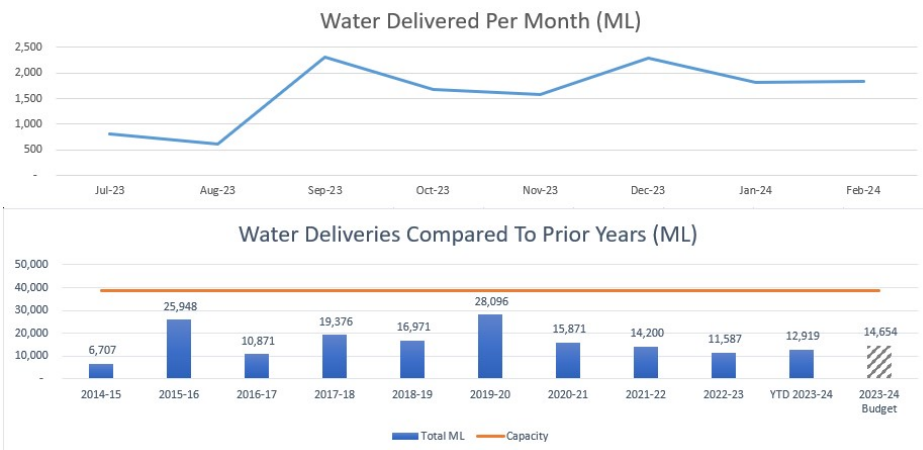
Please visit our website at [www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au](http://www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au), follow us on Facebook or telephone us on 03 6398 8433 if you require additional information.

### Water Delivery

The 2023-24 summer irrigation season ran for 150 days, opening on 1 October 2023 and closing on 29 February 2024.

100 per cent of the Scheme's water allocation was available and approximately 9,193 megalitres (ML) of water was delivered during the summer season and 12,919 ML has been delivered for the financial year to date.

The 9,193 ML delivered represents a 58 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme's 15,812 ML total summer season capacity.



## Fast Facts



**12,919 ML**  
WATER DELIVERED



**100%**  
ALLOCATION



**14**  
TRADES



**38,500 ML**  
SCHEME CAPACITY



**Scheme Operator:**

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## Scheme Performance

Following three relatively wet irrigation seasons, water delivery in the 2023/24 summer irrigation season was 68 per cent above the forecasted volumes. At the commencement of the season demand for water was high in anticipation of forecast low rainfall. Occasional steady rainfall in November and December provided some relief, while January saw considerable precipitation over a three-week period, alleviating conditions and prompting a reduction in irrigation activities. The latter part of summer proved to be busy, as irrigators endeavoured to utilise as much of their entitlements as possible before the onset of a dry start to the winter irrigation season.

Overall, the scheme performed well, with no significant issues arising at any of the three pump stations, thus avoiding major shutdowns.

The mini-hydro power station functioned efficiently throughout the busy five-month period, experiencing only occasional disruptions due to bad weather.

## Trading Summary

Transfer type	Volume (ML)	Number of trades
Short term transfer (within season)	862	12
Limited term transfer	-	-
Permanent transfer	399	2

## Dam Summary

The Upper Floods Creek Dam opened the season with a volume of 414 ML and ended the season with 419 ML.

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



## Asset Renewal Levy (ARL)

The ARL makes provision for major asset repairs and replacements required to ensure the continuing operation of the district. The table below shows the asset renewal works completed or still planned for the financial year.

	Midlands Water Scheme
Facility Name	ARL Task Completed or expected to be completed this Financial Year
Midlands Highway Pump Station (PSTN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pump overhaul program</li> <li>• Fibre Optic Upgrade year 2, 3</li> <li>• Replacement variable speed drives (VSD) set-up, including ventilation modifications</li> </ul>
Floods Creek PSTN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pump 103 refurbish</li> </ul>
Scheme Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep cycle battery replacements</li> <li>• 3G Obsolescence communications upgrades</li> </ul>
Floods Creek Dam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive Surveillance Report (CSR)</li> <li>• Reinstate road crossing— repair to spillway and downstream crossing</li> </ul>

	Midlands Power Station
Facility Name	ARL Task Completed or expected to be completed this Financial Year
Floods Creek Mini Hydro Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nozzle Repairs</li> <li>• Servo valve replacement</li> </ul>
Hydro Plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed loop cooling water system</li> </ul>
Arthurs Lake Supply Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cathodic Protection Anodes inspection</li> </ul>
Floods Creek PSTN to Midlands Highway PSTN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aerial High Voltage (HV) pole inspection</li> </ul>
Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Runner repairs (FY23 carry over)</li> </ul>

## Repairs and Maintenance

The tables below shows the general repairs and maintenance completed or still planned for the financial year.

Midlands Water Scheme
Electrical switchboard periodic maintenance inspections
Pump station vibration monitoring assessments
Weed and vegetation management
Motor & pump lubrication
Outlet repairs
Communications system testing & repairs
Alarm Management

Midlands Power Station
Annual HV (high voltage) inspection & testing
Turbine and HPU (hydraulic power units) mechanical and electrical inspection
Communications system and fibre network repairs
Cathodic protection system testing
Cooling water pump maintenance
Annual Statcom service

Floods Creek Dam
Weed Spray and slashing



## 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.

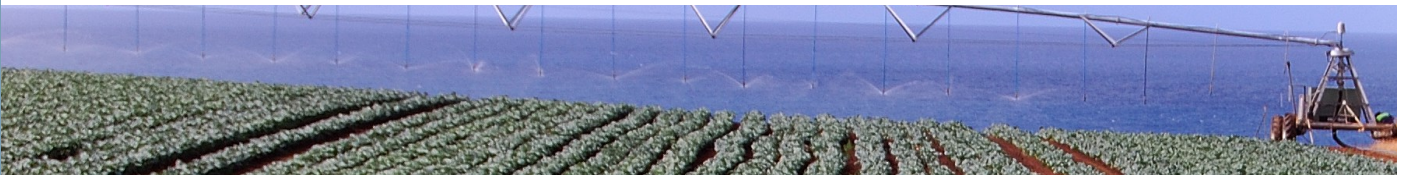
What you tell us will help Tasmanian Irrigation improve the way we manage schemes and the way we communicate to you, and help us better understand your needs. It's a chance for you to provide open and honest feedback about what we can do better, and tell us where we are doing well. When the research is complete, we will share high-level results with you, giving you an insight into the collective feedback received from customers across our schemes.

If you agree to take part in this study, a researcher from EMRS will contact you in May to undertake a short telephone survey.

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.

We will be writing to all our customers in the coming month to provide more detail.

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

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 are in the process of developing the robust guidelines, processes and conditions required by the WMA Act for delegation of powers and functions that will ensure the interests of the State, Tasmanian Irrigation, irrigation scheme participants, local communities and the environment are safeguarded.

We will be consulting with our irrigators and other parties with an interest in community management between May and August this year. We will share more detail in coming weeks.

## 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% 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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Corporate Services Manager	Usman Ali	usman.ali@tasirrigation.com.au	0467 018 870

## 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
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## Your Contact Details

Please advise us as soon as possible via email at [enquiries@tasirrigation.com.au](mailto:enquiries@tasirrigation.com.au) if any of your contact details have changed.