

Working with Farmers to Grow the Wealth of Tasmania

### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

The Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Augmentation could more than double the amount of high-surety irrigation water delivered to farmers in Tasmania’s North-West, create an estimated 120 jobs and underpin \$28.3 million in on-farm investment.

This project will add an additional 9200 ML to the existing 5660ML, increasing the scheme to a total of 14860 ML (99.1 ML/day).

### PROJECT FUNDING SPLIT

**Total Project Cost**

\$124.2 million

**Federal Government Funding Allocation**

\$62.1 million

**State Government Funding Allocation**

\$31.05 million

**Irrigator Funded Portion**

\$31.05 million

### PROJECT UPDATE

It's been some time since we provided an update to all stakeholders in the SWISA project. And we have a lot of news to share!

As you know, the SWISA Business Case was submitted to the Tasmanian and Australian Governments in late 2022 for approval and funding. And in June last year, funding commitments for the scheme were confirmed by both governments. That’s paved the way for work on the project across multiple fronts, as you will read below.

First, some introductions. John Wright has stepped into the role of Project Manager for SWISA. Providing additional support, we’ve welcomed Marty Wilson to the Tasmanian Irrigation team as Senior Project Manager (Northern Projects). Along with our Landowner Liaison Scott O’Halloran, John will be your key contact for the project. You’ll get regular updates from the Project Team as work progresses. Learn a bit more about John and Marty on Page 5.



# Sassafras Wesley Vale Augmentation Newsletter

## ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL PROCESS

The SWISA project is subject to environmental approvals at State and Federal level.

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act), administered by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW), provides a way for the Australian Government to protect nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, habitats and places.

Assessment through field studies found that during construction of the SWISA project potential impacts could occur to the habitat and foraging area of threatened species and communities. These species include the Tasmanian devil, the eastern quoll and spotted-tail quoll, the green and gold frog, the central north burrowing crayfish, the Tasmanian masked owl, native orchids and the swift parrot.

DCCEEW has confirmed that because of these potential impacts, the SWISA project will be assessed as a Controlled Action under the EPBC Act, which means that if the project is approved it will be approved with conditions that avoid, manage and minimise any impacts.

In preparation for the EPBC assessment process, and to ensure that the scheme construction follows environmental best practice, we have already taken action to realign sections of the scheme in order to avoid disturbance to habitats. We're undertaking

further field work to help determine how significant any impacts will be, which may result in further refinement of the pipe alignment to maximise avoidance measures. This work will also help us develop safeguards and mitigation measures.

Our experience is that the rigorous assessment process will take some time. Once the review process is complete, and if the Proposed Action is approved, the Federal Minister will issue an authority to proceed with construction.

In parallel we are also working on state-based permits, including but not limited to: Permit to Take Threatened Species and/or Products of Wildlife; Aboriginal Heritage; local Council permits and approvals; Department of State Growth road crossings; and the Parks and Wildlife Reserve Activity Assessment at the Warrabee Conservation Area, which is where the Great Bend Pump Station is located.

Now that SWISA has reached 100% complete design, we are working closely with key stakeholders on the environmental approvals and state permits needed to keep the project moving forward.

This could mean that the authority to proceed is achieved late 2024, making it possible to start construction by the end of 2024. We will continue to update you as we progress through the permits and approvals processes.



### WOULD YOU LIKE TO REPRESENT YOUR FELLOW IRRIGATORS?

Tasmanian Irrigation are now taking applications for a new Irrigator Representative Committee Member. Irrigators who have a current entitlement on SWIS, or have purchased an entitlement on SWISA, are invited to send a letter of application to David Skipper [david.skipper@tasirrigation.com.au](mailto:david.skipper@tasirrigation.com.au)



# Sassafras Wesley Vale Augmentation Newsletter

## FARM WATER ACCESS PLANS

Ensuring the long-term health of farming land is in everyone’s interests. One of the ways we support this is through Farm Water Access Plans (Farm WAPs).

Properties where Tasmanian Irrigation water is used are required to have a Farm WAP in place to guide sustainable application of water and support long-term viability of the land for agricultural production. Farm WAPs are required by State and Federal approvals for Tasmanian Irrigation to provide water to irrigators for any new schemes that are constructed.

A Farm WAP identifies where TI water is to be applied and sets out actions to manage potential environmental risks from applying it. Our Environment Team works with irrigators to develop a Farm WAP that covers issues specific to an individual property. Over time, the Team supports irrigators to make sure the Farm WAP keeps pace with any changes on the property that could affect how irrigation water is applied.

These plans are developed with each farmer so the

rules around how water must be applied and stored are understood. Each plan identifies relevant management practices to manage the environmental values and risks (soil, water and biodiversity) associated with irrigation on and near the property, as well as highlighting other key guidelines, regulations and codes of practice that exist across Tasmania.

If you have an existing Farm WAP and your irrigation plans have changed since its development, we can provide support to update your Farm WAP. The most common scenario where a Farm WAP needs to be amended is where the irrigation area has changed, or you have new or different dams to store Tasmanian Irrigation water, or where significant drainage improvements have been conducted changing the land suitability.

New Farm WAPs are only required on SWISA where water has been purchased on a property that does not already have one in place.

Project Timeline Update	
<i>Achievements</i>	
Business Case Conditional Approval	April 2023
State and Federal Funding Allocation	May 2023
Design Completed to 100%	February 2024
EPBC Referral Decision – Controlled Action	February 2024
<i>Where to from here (estimated timeframes)</i>	
Tendering Preparation	April to September 2024
Projected EPBC Approval	September to November 2024
Construction Contracts Award	October to December 2024
8% Payment Due	October to December 2024
Construction Start Date	January to March 2025
Commissioning & Decommissioning*	July 2026 to March 2027
Planned First Season	November 2026
Tentative Final Payment Due	November 2026

\*Decommissioning of redundant SWIS above ground infrastructure



# Sassafras Wesley Vale Augmentation Newsletter

## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MORE WATER?

Although the formal water sales period has ended, there's still opportunity to buy additional water entitlements.

The alignment of the pipeline network has been finalised and the design has been submitted in Development Applications to Latrobe Council and Devonport Councils. The design will also be submitted to the Australian Government as part of the environmental approval process, and you can read more about that on Page 2.

If your property is intersected by the alignment, you may be able to purchase additional water. The map on

the last page of this newsletter shows the alignment and the trading zones, and the table below shows which trading zones have volume available to purchase.

Our application for a 7800ML winter water license is also currently being assessed by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.

Winter Water will be available over a 215-day season from 1st April to 31st October, at a cost of \$1500/ML, and the start date for winter water sales will be advised in the near future.

For any questions regarding water sales contact John Wright.

Remaining Summer Water Available for Purchase		
Area	Trading Zone	Availability (ML)
Sassafras	Sassafras 1	370
	Sassafras A	130
	Sassafras B	40
	Sassafras C	20
Trunk Main	Trunk 1	280
	Trunk B	20
Moriarty Loop	Moriarty 1	830
	Moriarty A	50
	Moriarty C	70
	Moriarty D	100
Latrobe	Latrobe 1	60
Wesley Vale Loop	Fully Allocated	
<b>Total Available</b>		<b>1970ML</b>

## OUTLET UPGRADE OPPORTUNITY

Late in 2023, we wrote to irrigators who purchased water on SWISA that entitled them to an outlet, advising the size/s of outlet/s and available upgrade options.

If you have not received this letter, and you want to understand your options for upgrading, please contact John Wright or Scott O'Halloran.

Applications for outlet upgrades will close on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April.



# Sassafras Wesley Vale Augmentation Newsletter

## MEET THE TEAM!

### Project Manager – John Wright

John joined Tasmanian Irrigation in January of 2023 as the Assistant Project Manager for SWISA. John stepped up as Acting Project Manager September 2023 and was successful in the recruitment process for a permanent replacement. John’s background is in the aquaculture and mining industries, and he brings with him a strong appetite and experience for project success, along with deep knowledge of the SWISA project.



### Senior Project Manager (Northern Projects) – Marty Wilson

Marty started with Tasmanian Irrigation in mid-January 2024 and his role provides support and oversight to northern projects. With more than 15 years’ experience in civil construction project management, including delivering several projects for Tasmanian Irrigation, Marty is in a unique position to provide leadership, guidance and coaching to the project teams. Marty is excited to meet the challenges ahead and looks forward to working with his colleagues and stakeholders to deliver high-quality, highly-valued irrigation projects.



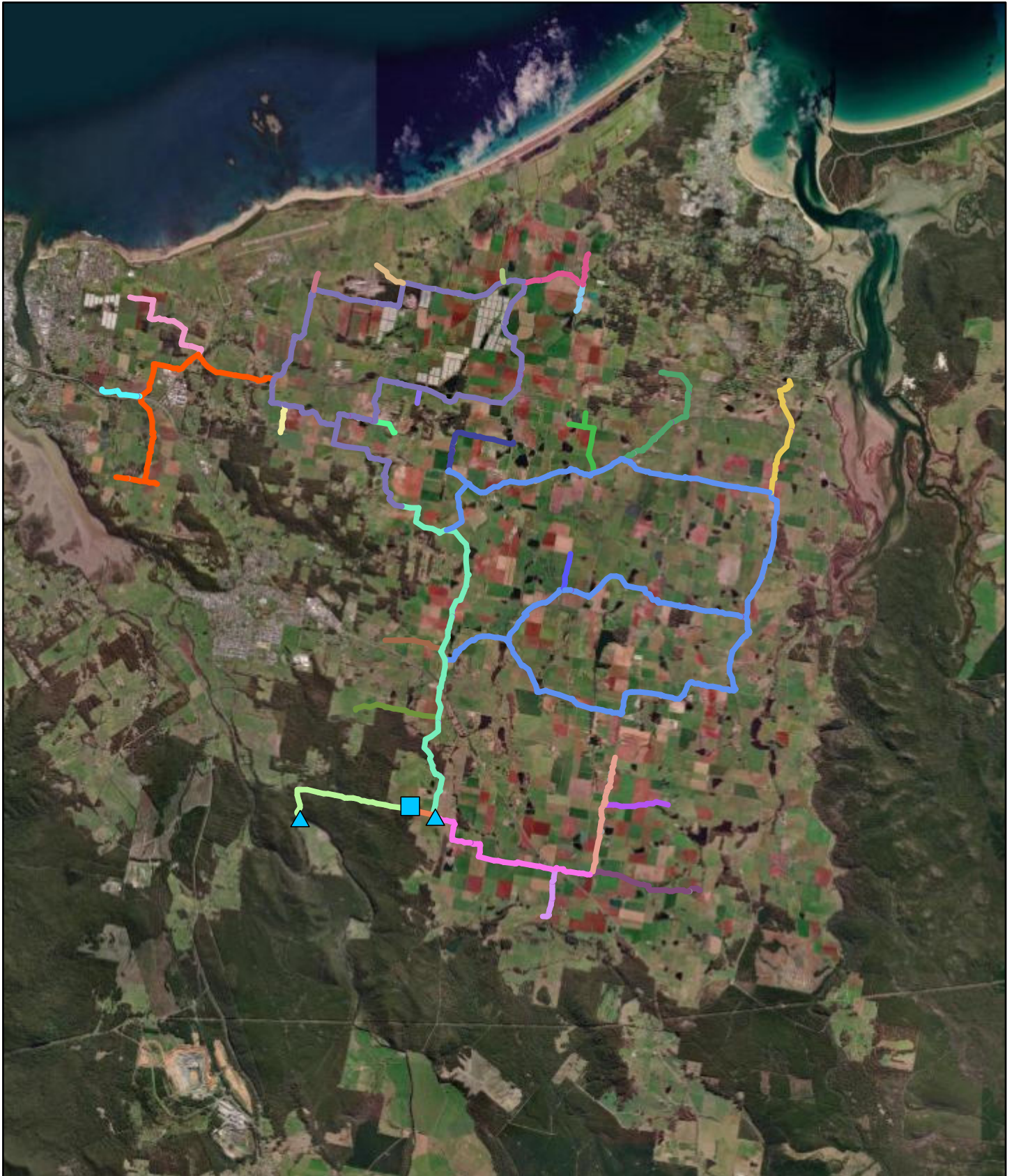
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Tasmanian Irrigation looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively and cooperatively with all Sassafras Wesley Vale area farmers and other key stakeholders to deliver an augmentation designed to last at least 100

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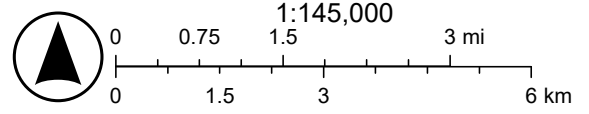
# SWISA Pipeline Alignment (with Trading Zones)



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|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| — D^[\q^1^ Á  | — M[\ iáéC ÁE    | — Tí^)\ \ Á        |
| — D^[\q^1^ ÁE | — M[\ iáéC ÁF    | — Tí^)\ \ ÁB       |
| — Laé[\ á^ Á  | — N[\ íó@[\ ] Á  | — W^*\ í^ Ákæp^ Á  |
| — Laé[\ á^ ÁA | — N[\ íó@[\ ] ÁA | — W^*\ í^ Ákæp^ ÁA |
| — Laé[\ á^ ÁC | — Sæ^æíæ Á       | — W^*\ í^ Ákæp^ ÁB |
| — Laé[\ á^ ÁD | — Sæ^æíæ ÁE      | — W^*\ í^ Ákæp^ ÁC |
| — M[\ iáéC Á  | — Sæ^æíæ ÁA      | — W^*\ í^ Ákæp^ ÁD |
| — M[\ iáéC ÁA | — Sæ^æíæ ÁB      | — W^*\ í^ Ákæp^ ÁE |
| — M[\ iáéC ÁC | — Sæ^æíæ ÁC      | — W^*\ í^ Ákæp^ ÁF |
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 Low Resolution 15m Imagery  
 High Resolution 60cm Imagery  
 High Resolution 30cm Imagery  
 Citations  
 38m Resolution Metadata



Earthstar Geographics