

NEWSLETTER

End of Season Wrap



Upper Ringarooma 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.

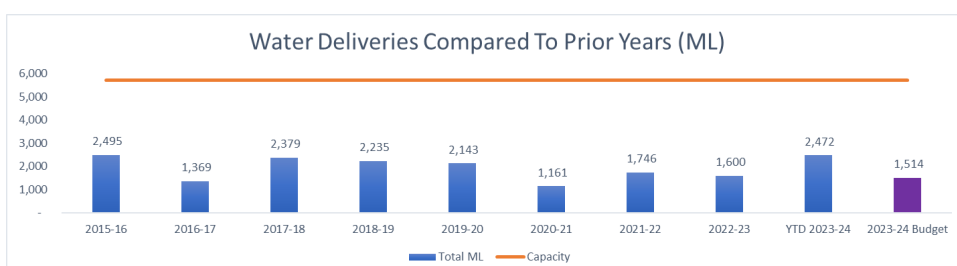
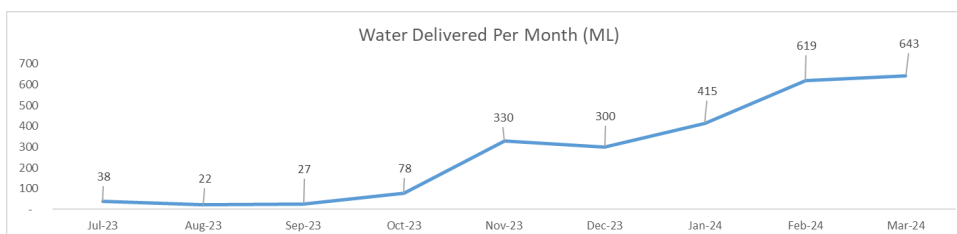
For general information, please visit our website at www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au, or follow us on Facebook or LinkedIn. If you need specific information telephone us on 03 6398 8433.

Water Delivery

The 2023-24 summer irrigation season ran for 165 days, opening on 18 October 2023 and closing on 31 March 2024.

100 per cent of the Scheme's water allocation was available and approximately 2,353 megalitres (ML) of water was delivered during the season, with an additional 119 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 41 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme's 5,700 ML total capacity.



Fast Facts



2,353 ML
WATER DELIVERED



100%
ALLOCATION



4
TRADES



5,700 ML
SCHEME CAPACITY



Scheme Operator:

Troy Bowen

0418 388 596

troy.bowen@tasirrigation.com.au

Scheme Performance

The recently concluded 2023/2024 irrigation season experienced a range of conditions and challenges, yet the scheme performed outstandingly.

The irrigation season opened with cautious optimism given the dry start and the Scheme was then buoyed by reasonable spring rain. It wasn't until November that demand for irrigation water truly surged.

Throughout the summer months, demand remained strong, punctuated only by sporadic rains that offered brief respite. Despite these challenges, the overall performance of the Scheme remained robust.

The new solar array performed reliably throughout the season, and contributed to the cost efficiency of the Scheme. Read more about the solar array on page 4.

The Scheme encountered a single significant disruption due to a power outage. The issue was responded to swiftly to restore service and minimise downtime for irrigators.

Trading Summary

Transfer Type	Volume (ML)	Number of Trades
Short term transfer (within season)	100	2
Limited term transfer	-	-
Permanent transfer	305	2

Dam Summary

After a successful dam fill program Dunns Creek Dam opened the season at 96 per cent capacity with a volume of 6,410 ML and ended the season at 59 per cent capacity with a volume of 3,920 ML.

Tasmanian Irrigation will conduct the dam fill program during the off-season to return the dam to full capacity before the start of next season.

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

Entitlements

There are 1,140 ML of unsold water entitlements remaining for sale across the Scheme as shown in the table below. The current price is \$1,470.00 per ML but please note the price is set to increase on 1 July 2024.

Areas With Unsold Water*	Unsold Water (ML)
Alberton Zone 2	260.00
Alberton Zone 3	280.00
Alberton Zone 4	30.00
Legerwood Zone 2	95.00
Ringarooma River Zone	180.00
Supply Line Zone 1	225.00
Talawa Zone 1	70.00
Total	1,140.00

**Volumes are correct at time of writing.*

Please view the Water Entitlements For Sale section on our website or contact us on (03) 6398 8433 for more information.

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
Cottons Bridge PSTN	Solar array installation
Scheme wide	Deep cycle battery replacements
Outlets	Property outlet telemetry mapping

Repairs and Maintenance

The table below shows the general repairs and maintenance that has been planned for the 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
Pipe failure repair



Solar Installation - Cottons Bridge Pump Station

The Cottons Bridge Pump Station solar installation, a 92 kW solar system, became operational in September 2023, just in time for the Upper Ringarooma Irrigation season 2023/24.

Throughout the season, the solar system generated an average of 12,026 kWh per month.

During this period, only 5 per cent of the solar produced electricity was exported to the grid, with the balance 95 per cent utilised to power the pump station, representing 11 per cent of the pump station's total electricity consumption during the season.

The primary benefit of the solar system lies in its ability to directly power the pump station and reduce reliance on grid electricity, leading to estimated cost savings of \$8,000 for the Irrigation Scheme.

Carbon emissions

reduction

10,223 kg CO₂-e

(12%)

Cost reduction using

solar power

\$8,000

Feed in to grid income

\$180.00



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](#)

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.



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	Troy Bowen	troy.bowen@tasirrigation.com.au	0418 388 596
Mgr Ops & Assets	Anne-Marie du Plessis	annemarie.duplessis@tasirrigation.com.au	0488 153 346
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

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
Chairperson	Stan Cox	stan.carol2@bigpond.com	0428 579 226
Member	Ian Edwards	branhops@bigpond.com	0417 589 425
Member	Ron Berwick	ronaldberwick@gmail.com	0419 117 440
Member	Tim Branch	tpsbranch@activ8.net.au	0428 136 259

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.