

Benefits are set to flow from irrigation scheme

Pipeline to deliver a bounty to Coast farmers

By MARK ACHESON

THE \$14.4 million Dial Blythe Irrigation Scheme unearthed South Riana's rich soil yesterday.

A 4000-megalitre dam is taking shape, with 42 kilometres of pipe set to wind its way back towards Penguin.

The scheme will deliver reliable irrigation water to an agricultural district including South Riana, Riana, Cuprona, West Pine, Sulphur Creek and Penguin.

Water will be drawn from the Blythe River above the South Riana road bridge during



RELIABILITY: Checking progress on the Dial Blythe Irrigation Scheme dam are Shaw Contracting chief executive Hugh Maslin, Braddon MHR Brett Whiteley, Tasmanian Irrigation chief executive Chris Oldfield and Bob Dunk, of pipeline manufacturer Zest. Picture: Grant Wells.

the winter and stored in the dam.

More than \$9 million in federal funding and \$1.96 million in state government funding was secured.

Forty landowners have signed up to the scheme so far.

A construction tender was awarded to Shaw Contracting, with Burnie-based CCB contracting and Wynyard manufacturer Zest Pty Ltd being picked up along the way.

Shaw Contracting Australia chief executive Hugh Maslin said irrigation in Tasmania

was providing jobs for the region, and more companies over time were investing in the industry.

He said a third of Shaw's work this year was in Tasmanian irrigation.

"This is a significant contract for us as a Tasmanian company and provides job security for many of our current workforce, who are locals from the North-West Coast," Mr Maslin said.

Tasmanian Irrigation chief executive Chris Oldfield said the company prided itself on

supporting Tasmanian-owned companies.

"While this is known as the pyrethrum capital of the world, dairy in this part and heading further west has a very strong future," he said.

Wynyard manufacturer Zest Pty Ltd will supply density polyethylene pipe for the job.

"This is the eighth TI project Zest Pty Ltd has been involved with and it will supply 42 kilometres of pipe up to 630mm diameter for the scheme," Zest Pty Ltd director David Kenworthy said.

'Security for the future'

WITH water comes security for future generations, says Central Coast councillor Garry Carpenter.

"The next generation will benefit a lot more out of this scheme than what I will," Cr Carpenter said.

"You cannot farm without water."

Cr Carpenter said one dry year in every four or five was enough to put any farmer in a state of financial crisis.

"Our dry year might only be sustainable for two or four months, if you've got to dry cows months earlier, that could cost you half a million dollars in milk sales on a reasonably big herd," he said.

"With all the ducks lining up in a row, this could be the biggest growth area along the North-West Coast in terms agricultural production."

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