

# New water source on tap

KAROLIN MacGREGOR

EXTRA water has begun flowing into one of the state's most productive agricultural areas after the opening of the Kindred-North Motton Irrigation Scheme.

The \$10.6 million scheme was opened by Minister for Primary Industries and Water Bryan Green this week. More than 40 farmers in the region invested \$3 million buying water from the scheme, which will be sourced from the Forth River.

"Their investment will see 85 on-farm jobs created and 18 indirect jobs, which will help grow the region's economy," Mr Green said.

"The district services highly productive pasture and cropping land around the townships of Kindred, Sprent, Abbotsham, Forth, Gawler, Ulverstone and North Motton."

With a capacity to supply 2500ML of water a year, the scheme will also be underpinned by releases from Lake Palcoona, which is owned by Hydro Tasmania.

Water from the Forth River will be pumped to a holding dam near Sprent.

The water will be pressurised at the Sprent Dam pump station and then a network of pipes will be used to distribute the water to individual farms.

Mr Green said three Tasmanian companies had been involved with the main construction work, which has made the project possible.

"Shaw Contracting built the Sprent dam," he said.

"Zest manufactured and supplied the high density polyethylene pipe and VEC Civil Engineering built the pump stations and distribution network."

It is the sixth project completed under the State's Government's \$400 million irrigation expansion plan.

## \$10.6m scheme begins to flow



ON SITE: Farmer Luke McConnon, left, project manager Ian Smith and engineer Chas Holmes. Picture: CHRIS KIDD