

Tasmanian Irrigation

Dial Blythe Newsletter - November 2014

Dial Blythe Progress

Since our last newsletter in April there has been significant progress in the construction of the Dial Blythe Irrigation Scheme. Work continued through the winter on both pipe installation and dam construction and means the project is on target for completion by the end of February 2015.

South Riana Dam

The 4000 ML South Riana dam has been substantially completed and really stands out on the west bound trip on South Riana Road. Although the dam was not finished in time to fill in the winter, with the summer water licence available from the Blythe River, there is expected to be water available to irrigators by late January.

Distribution Pipelines

Due to the drier winter, pipeline installation in the northern cropping country has been completed before cropping got into full swing. At the end of October, 26.6 km of the 43.6 km of pipe has been installed and with three pipe installation crews and five welding teams in action, it is hoped that the remaining 16.4 km will be installed by the end of November allowing commissioning to begin in December.

Pump Stations

The two pump stations, one at the Blythe River and the other at the dam, are also well advanced with the dam pump station expected to be completed by mid to late November and the Blythe River pump station to be finished by mid-December.

Completion of construction

With Practical Completion for the project planned for February 2015, and the contract proceeding to plan, if not a little better, scheme participants should consider the implications for the final instalment of their Irrigation Rights Purchase Contract (IRPC).

The commissioning phase of the project is expected to start in December and will require the lines to be flushed and pressure tested then all the various components of the scheme will need to be tested for flow and performance.

"The completion of the testing will see any faults rectified and the infrastructure handed over to Tasmanian Irrigation by February," project manager Ian Smith said. "We aim to deliver water to irrigators in the second half of the 2015 irrigating season."

Commissioning will also trigger the need for irrigators to pay the outstanding amounts on their purchase contracts. Tasmanian Irrigation anticipates that commissioning will be completed by the end of January 2015. If so, payment will be due in March. Some water may be available as early as January 2015, but to access water early irrigators will have to finalise any commercial arrangements with Tasmanian Irrigation and ensure that they have their Farm Water Access Plans completed.

"We appreciate that circumstances may have changed for some people. If you think you will have difficulty with the final payment timeframe, you should contact Tasmanian Irrigation before invoicing in February," Ian said.

"Alternative terms of payment to those in the contract will need to be arranged before invoicing is sent out."



Keyway cleaning during construction of the dam

Scheme Manager

Tasmanian Irrigation will manage the scheme for at least the first 12 months of operations. Project supervisor Charlie Hardman will run the scheme initially in conjunction with the Tasmanian Irrigation operations team. Charlie will be a great asset to the scheme as he has been involved intimately with the design and construction of the scheme and already knows both the district and the community.



New South Riana dam



Australian Government



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About Trading Water

The water entitlements issued in irrigation districts managed by Tasmanian Irrigation are tradable within the district in which they are issued. Because water entitlements are separate from land, a person does not need to own land within a district to receive a transfer of water entitlements. Trades are made by transferring volume (ML) between irrigation rights and flow rate (ML/day) between delivery rights. To take effect, a transfer must be approved by Tasmanian Irrigation and recorded in the water entitlements register for the relevant irrigation district.

Trade types

There are two categories of trades – entitlement trades and allocation trades – and three types of transfers – permanent transfers, limited term transfers and short term transfers.

Entitlement trades include permanent and limited term transfers, while allocation trades refer to short term transfers.

Entitlement trades are transfers of the volume and flow rate entitlements held under irrigation rights and delivery rights. A permanent transfer (sale) will result in an absolute change in the ownership of entitlements, while a limited term transfer (lease) will result in a change in ownership for a defined period of time.

Allocation trades refer to transfers of the volume and flow rate allocations that have been made to irrigation rights and delivery rights for a particular irrigation season of an irrigation district. Because allocations are made on the first day of a season, short term transfers take effect entirely within one season.

Tradability

The tradability of water within an irrigation district is regulated through the zone nomination of delivery rights. A transfer of flow rate will only be approved if:

- in the case of permanent transfers, the zone nomination of the transferor's delivery right is the same as the zone nomination of the transferee's delivery right;
- in the case of limited term or short term transfers, the zone nomination of the transferor's delivery right is the same as or compatible with the zone nomination of the transferee's delivery right; or
- Tasmanian Irrigation approves the transfer on the basis that it does not exceed the capacity limitations of the scheme taking account of all other delivery rights issued.

Your Voice

Tasmanian Irrigation thanks the Irrigator Consultative Group for its efforts. If you are a Dial Blythe irrigator, this group should be your first point of contact.

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Current Project Schedule

Activity	Date
Commissioning of the scheme	December 2014
Potential water available for deliver	January 2015
Practical Completion	February 2015
Final payments due	March 2015
Completion of Construction	February 2015



Pipe installed (red) at the end of October 2014

This newsletter contains information of a general nature and reasonable care has been taken to ensure accuracy at the time of publication. Scheme details and policies may change and individual circumstances may vary. This newsletter should not be relied upon as a basis of individual decision-making.

For more information and details regarding the articles in this issue, please contact:

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