Tasmanian Irrigation
Scottsdale Newsletter - April 2014

Business Case Submission

Following release of the Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme (SIS) Preferred Option in June 2013 a number of detailed feasibility studies have been undertaken to support the SIS Business Case.

Flora and fauna studies were undertaken, which have identified priority species that will need to be managed. Importantly, the studies found that there was no chytrid fungus in the dam catchment, which can cause a disease in frogs, such as the endangered green and gold frog.

Green and gold frog

Helicopter surveys by Forestry Tasmania also concluded that there were no wedge tailed eagle nests in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline.

Aboriginal and European historic heritage field surveys were conducted for key infrastructure sites, including the Camden Rivulet Dam, St Patrick's River Pump Station, the mini-hydro power station at Springfield and the first 7km of the pipeline route from the dam to the mini-hydro. Heritage surveys of the balance of the total 76km of underground pipeline route around Scottsdale and in the Waterhouse area will be conducted following water sales, when the final alignment is known.

Daily stream flow data has been captured on both the St Patrick's River and Camden Rivulet for the period December 2011 to January 2014. This information has been used to improve existing hydrology models to confirm that the scheme can achieve the required 95 per cent reliability of supply. The stream flow data has also been used to assist studies of aquatic ecology and to determine appropriate environmental flows and transmission losses for waterways incorporated in the scheme.

Geotechnical assessments were conducted of the proposed Camden Rivulet dam site, which is located on private land in the Camden Plains approximately 20km south of Scottsdale. Assessment included test-pitting, rock-core drilling and seismic analysis of the proposed dam site. The assessments found that the site was best suited to an earth and rock fill dam, which favours the use of locally won materials, rather than a roller compacted concrete dam as was originally thought.

The dam, which will yield 8,600ML per season to the scheme will have a surface area of approximately 198 hectares at full supply. The dam wall will be approximately 500m long with a maximum height of around 17m. A concept design report has also been developed for the proposed 2 megawatt mini-hydro power station, which will be located immediately above the existing Headquarters Road Dam at Springfield.

Rock-core drilling at the dam site.

Tasmanian Irrigation (TI) identified the need to assess the recreation values of the area impacted by the SIS and what, if any, recreation opportunities and impacts might be associated with the schemes development and operation. A study was completed in which input from key recreation stakeholders was sought and this information will provide valuable input into the Business Case.

At the time of writing, the Business Case report is being prepared to incorporate all of the information gathered in the feasibility studies discussed above, plus also a full socio-economic assessment of the proposal. Key socio-economic inputs include the improved outlook for dairying in the region and potential additional employment generated by the scheme.

The Business Case for the scheme is scheduled to be completed in June this year. At which stage, final approvals will be sought. The current intention is to go to landowner water sales prior to government funding being secured and this approach will be further discussed with the SIS Working Group. Subject to approvals and funding it is possible that construction of the project could commence by mid 2015 and would take approximately 18 months to complete.

TI and the SIS Working Group look forward to working with the local community on this important regional project.

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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.

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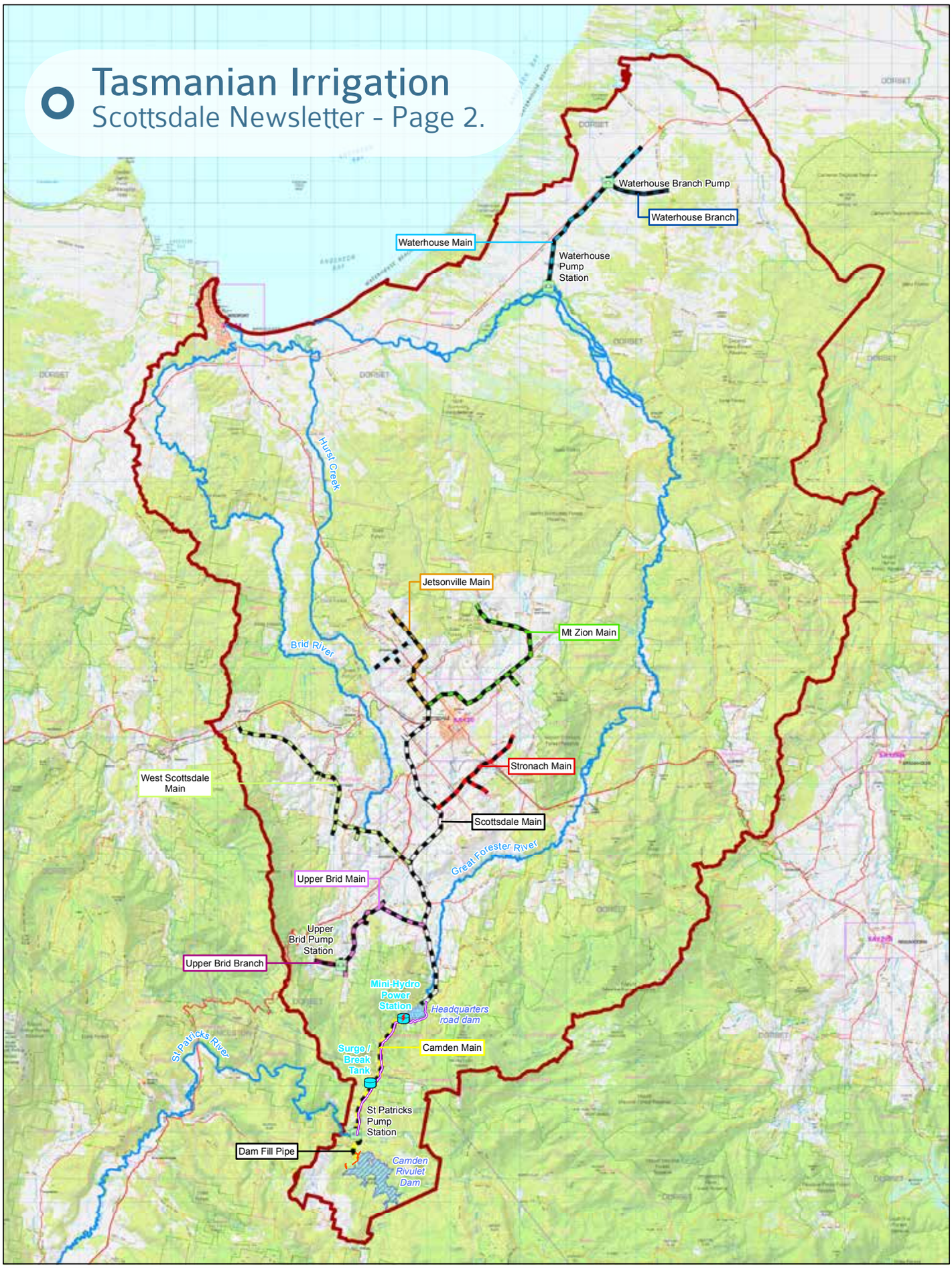

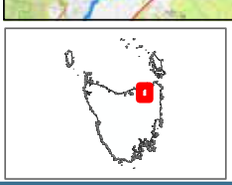

Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme - Business Case

- Proposed Power Transmission Line
- Proposed Camden Rivulet Dam wall footprint
- Existing Headquarters Road Dam
- Camden Rivulet dam (FSL)
- Proposed Draft Irrigation District

Map Scale 1:145,000
When printed at A3
0 1 2 3 Kilometres

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Map Updated by MP
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