

Lower South Esk Irrigation Scheme

Scheme Performance

The 2024/25 season proved to be one of the driest and longest on record for the Lower South Esk Irrigation Scheme. Despite a slower-than-usual start to water deliveries, the scheme performed reliably throughout the season, ensuring irrigators had access to water when it was most needed.

The dam reached 5,440 ML by early September 2024, although filling progress was temporarily slowed by a failure of Submersible Pump 1. This issue was resolved with the installation of a refurbished pump in mid-May. An opportunistic flood take in late November captured an additional 600 ML, supporting delivery capacity through the summer months.

Operationally, a key change was the onboarding of a new scheme operator, Matt, who assumed responsibility for the dam's Visual Inspection Reports (VIRs) midway through the season. His role contributed to strong compliance oversight and asset management during a critical period.



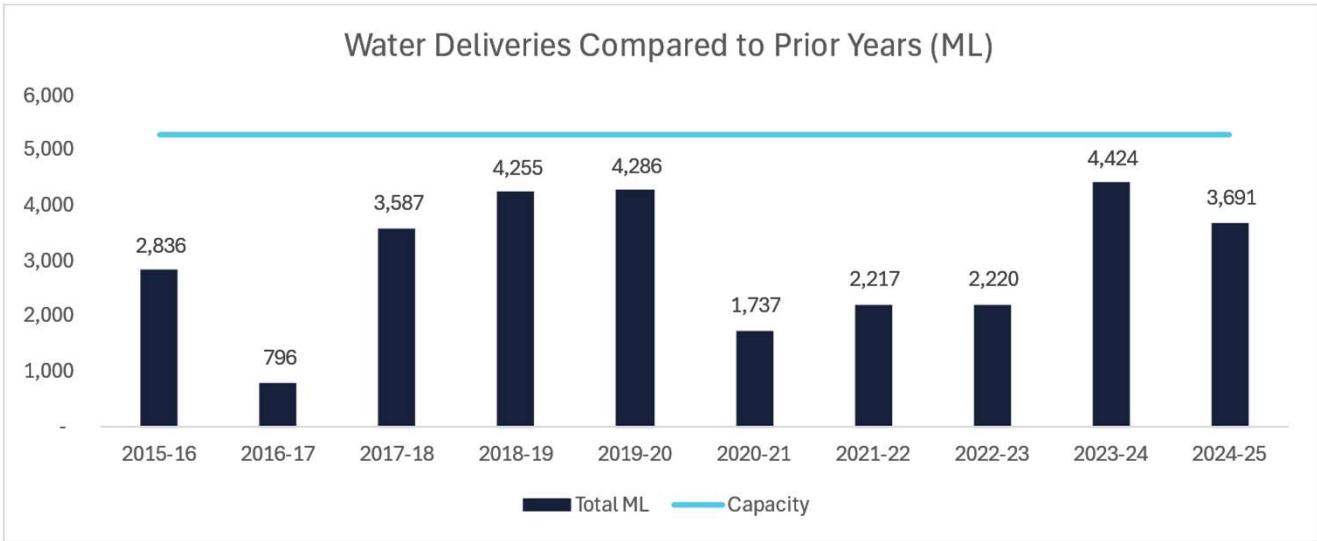
Infrastructure improvements were also a focus, including an extensive weed control program at the pump station and dam site, remedial work on the downstream side of the V-notch weir, and the installation of a new sump pump at the main pit. All water deliveries were completed successfully, and no irrigators exceeded their allocations.

The scheme's performance under prolonged dry conditions highlights the importance of seasonal preparedness, effective maintenance, and operational resilience to ensure continued delivery security for irrigators in future years.

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Water Delivery

The 2024-25 summer irrigation season ran for 242 days, opening on 1 October 2024 and closing on 31 May 2025. 100 per cent of the Scheme’s water allocation was available and approximately 3,691 ML of water was delivered during the season. The volume delivered represents a 70 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme’s 5,298 ML total summer capacity.



Asset Renewal Levy

The ARL makes provisions for major asset repairs and replacements required to ensure the continuing operation of the Scheme. The table below shows the asset renewal works completed or expected to be completed prior to the next season.

Facility Name	ARL Task Description
Milford Dam Pump Station	Replace thermistors on the pump and refurbish
Milford Dam Pump Station	Refurbish the discharge valve

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Repairs and Maintenance

The table below shows the general repairs and maintenance completed or expected to be completed prior to the next season.

Maintenance Task Description
Electrical switchboard periodic maintenance inspections
Weed and vegetation management
Outlet repairs



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