

Sassafras - Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme

Scheme Performance

The 2024/25 irrigation season presented a range of operational challenges and weather-related impacts across the Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme. Early in the season, a major storm event resulted in lightning damage to a key tank, disrupting communications with the pump station. This prompted a shift to a radio-based communication system, which brought its own complications, including an initial failure in transmitting critical alarms to operators.

Heavy early-season rainfall caused damage to grower crops and led to a slower-than-expected start to irrigation demand. However, as the season progressed, conditions turned dry and hot, driving high water use and a significant volume of water movement and trading within the scheme.

Infrastructure-wise, a split in the manifold at Great Bend required in-season repair, with a minor residual leak scheduled for repair during the off-season. Despite these issues, water delivery was maintained effectively throughout the peak period.



Ongoing low flows in the Mersey River added further complexity, with pumping operations carefully managed to avoid triggering cease-to-take conditions. The river remained under extended restriction, requiring close attention to timing and volume of extraction to support compliance and supply continuity.

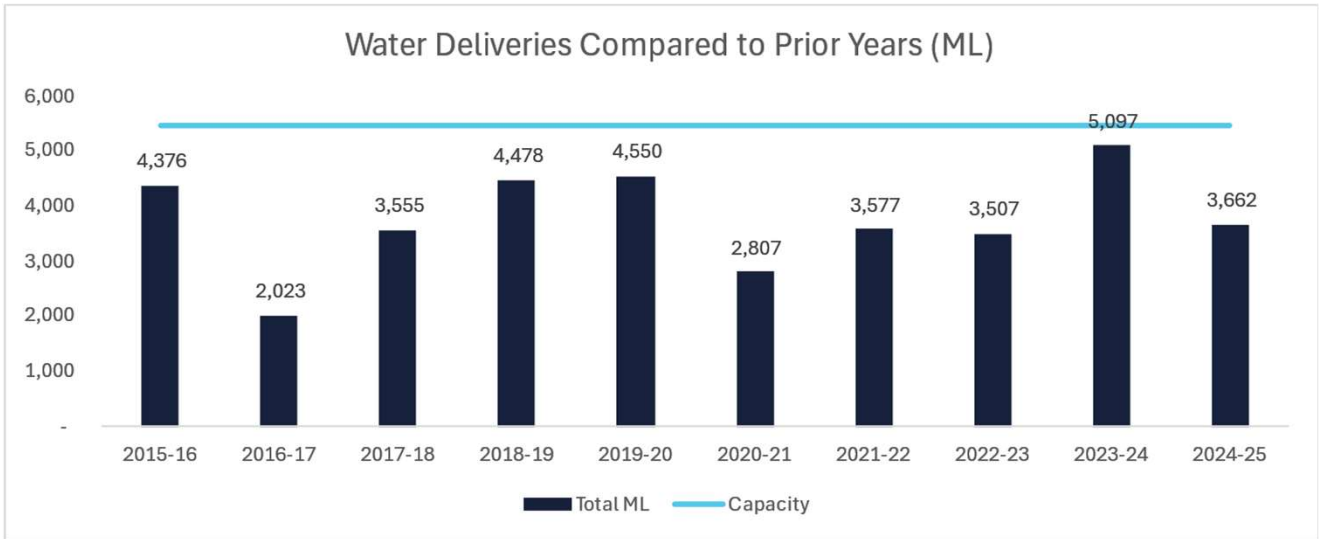
Looking ahead, off-season works will focus on repairing remaining infrastructure issues and further refining system reliability ahead of the next irrigation period.

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Water Delivery

The 2024-25 summer irrigation season ran for 150 days, opening on 1 November 2024 and closing on 31 March 2025. 100 per cent of the Scheme’s water allocation was available and approximately 3,662 ML of water was delivered during the season. The volume delivered represents a 67 per cent utilisation rate of the Scheme’s 5,460 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
Great Bend Pump Station	Manifold leak repairs
Great Bend Pump Station	Pump Station addition to SCADA
Great Bend Pump Station	Switching station UPS battery replacement
Scheme Wide	Flowmeter replacements

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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
Pump station vibration monitoring assessments
Weed and vegetation management
Motor & pump lubrication
High Voltage Periodic Maintenance



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