

March 2021

Tasmanian Irrigation

Working with Producers to Grow the Wealth of Tasmania

Fingal Irrigation Scheme

Scheme Update

It's great to see the good rainfall received late last year continued through and helped produce one of the best seasons seen by many in some time. It is also encouraging to still be receiving Eols for the scheme.

Since the time of the last newsletter the scheme has progressed with initial geotechnical investigations being undertaken at the proposed dam site in addition to the flora and fauna survey, flood modelling of the South Esk River at the proposed off take point and also receipt of the transmission loss report.

The current preferred option for the scheme is a larger 12,600ML riparian delivery, South Esk only scheme. This is the design which will be taken through to water sales, expected late April.

Key aspects of the scheme include:

- 12,600ML of entitlements will be sold for \$1,390/ML during the water sales period. However, the price of unsold entitlements will increase annually in accordance with the cost of debt once the scheme is operational;
- A water sales threshold of 50%, representing

6,300ML for the scheme to progress;

- Total annual charges are estimated to be \$107/ML with full uptake of the 12,600ML of entitlements (if the 50% threshold of 6,300ML only is sold then the total annual charges are estimated to be \$169.46/ML); and
- 150-day irrigation season nominally from November through to March annually with water being able to be taken over a 120-day delivery period within this. It is possible that the delivery period can be decreased in order to allow increased flexibility as the scheme progresses through the detailed design phase.

Dam concept design and geotechnical investigations

Works for the concept dam design and preliminary geotechnical investigations were conducted over the 2020 October/November period. The investigation found no major issues at the proposed site and has provided guidance as to the next steps of work required. Additional investigations are underway to confirm quantities of specific construction materials. These works will provide greater clarity around the constructability of the dam with the field work portion scheduled to commence in April.

South Esk River Transmission Losses

The transmission loss assessment for the South Esk River was completed in early 2021. The aim of having an adaptive model which allowed for varying losses dependent on time of year, release volume, base flow and distance from the offtake point will be achieved through a simplified model which is currently being worked through which will likely have set loss rates on a per kilometer basis within each management zone of the river allowing for simplified seasonal variation.

Covid-19 & Tasmanian Irrigation

During these uncertain times we wish to note that we are trying to keep things as normal as we can. We are still working, albeit remotely.

In order to keep our staff and customers safe much of our communication over the next few months will be electronic and ask that you provide email and/or phone contact details if you haven't already so we can keep in touch.

Water sales

It was intended to go to water sales in February however delays around peer reviews and transmission losses, and agreement of these losses, have pushed this date out.

It is now intended to launch water sales in late April 2021.

The key aspects of the scheme remain as per the preferred option noted overleaf

The water sales period will run for four (4) weeks once formally opened. All with access to the South Esk River downstream of the proposed dam site north of Fingal are encouraged to submit an application should they be interested in water from the scheme.

Next steps

Additional geotechnical investigations are underway at the proposed dam site to confirm construction material quantities with seismic and drilling to also occur in the next few months to assist in understanding the below ground conditions.

Relevant surveys will be conducted on the pipeline, pump station and any borrow pit areas once better understood in addition to potential gauging weir site investigations which will monitor flows upstream of the proposed pump station site.

Farm Water Access Plans

Irrigators using water from schemes developed by Tasmanian Irrigation are required to have in place Farm Water Access Plans (Farm WAPs) prior to delivery from a scheme. Farm WAPs are a practical way to address land, water and biodiversity sustainability issues within the Tasmanian farming landscape. They are property-specific plans which demonstrate that the intended application of irrigation water will be sustainable and highlight best management practices for the property. The minimum requirement is to develop a Farm WAP to cover the area of land and dams directly affected by the proposed irrigation, using soil, water and biodiversity planning tools.

Scheme Contacts

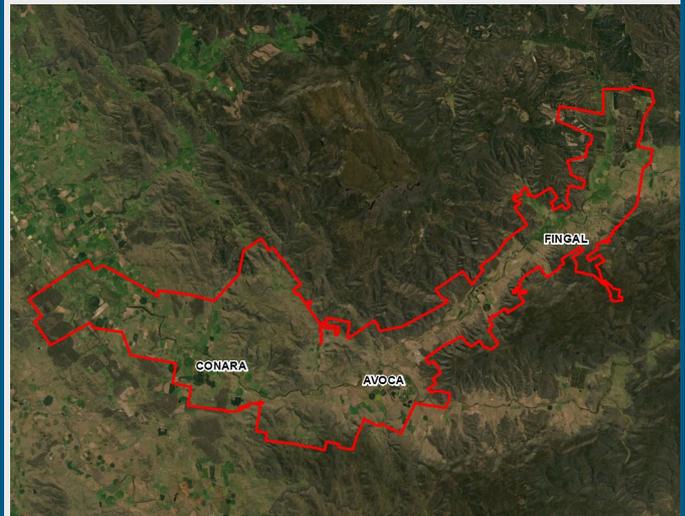
Fingal Irrigator Representative Committee

Humberston McKenzie (Chair)	0428 741 474
Jamie Loane	0419 394 572
Douglas Loane	0408 360 615
Michael Legge	0408 037 989
Rob O'Connor	0417 337 241

TI Project Manager

Tegan Lovell - 0407 678 314
or Tegan.Lovell@tasirrigation.com.au

Fingal Area of Interest



A map and additional information on the Fingal Irrigation Scheme (FIN) can be found on the TI website at:

www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au/schemes/fingal

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:

Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd, PO Box 84 Evandale, TAS, 7212.

Ph: 03 6398 8433 www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via post please contact Tegan Lovell on 0407 678 314 or at Tegan.lovell@tasirrigation.com.au