

PROJECT UPDATE

WORKING WITH FARMERS TO GROW THE WEALTH OF TASMANIA

NORTHERN MIDLANDS IRRIGATION SCHEME

Tasmanian
Irrigation

April 2025

Hi everyone — Jacob Tierney here, Project Manager for the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme (NMIS) project.

Construction is now well underway and I'm pleased to report that we've hit a significant construction milestone, with 50 kilometres of pipeline now laid.

We've come a long way since the first community meeting for this now 25,500 megalitre project in March 2019, and it's great to see real progress on the ground after a significant period of development and approval activity.

On behalf of the team at Tasmanian Irrigation, I want to thank farmers for their commitment to the project.

Please find below an update on how construction is proceeding.



The Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme

The first fifty kilometres of pipeline for the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme are in the ground, almost one-third of the full length of the pipeline.

Working in multiple teams across the project footprint, our contractor Hazell Bros is able to install up to 160 metres per crew, per day.

The project remains on track to be operational for the 2026 / 27 summer irrigation season.

Once complete, the NMIS will be the largest irrigation scheme in the state in terms of its capital value and piped summer capacity.

Read our full media release celebrating this milestone [here](#) or find more detailed information on the scheme at the Tasmanian Irrigation [website](#).



Hazell Bros HSE Manager Jason Rak, Tasmanian Irrigation Construction Manager Timothy Denney, Tasmanian Irrigation GM Project Delivery Jake Gerke, Minister for Primary Industries and Water Jane

Howlett, Tasmanian Irrigation CEO Michael Sylvester, and Hazell Bros Large Pipelines Supervisor Eugene Bezuidenhout

Poatina Buffer Dam

Construction of the buffer dam at Poatina is progressing well. Site mobilisation was completed in November 2024 and works on the groundwater interception trench were prioritised.

The dam outlet pipes have been installed and pressure tested. The earthen embankment is also now well underway with 60 per cent complete. Once this is completed the focus will be on the structural components, instrumentation and the Hydro Tasmania interface.



Embankment construction – Poatina Buffer Dam

Pipelines

As we install pipeline, we're also installing the infrastructure that will allow landowners to connect to the scheme once commissioned.

Pipe fittings including air, scour and property valves are being installed progressively. This process can take time, particularly with the large diameter pipes, and we appreciate the impact this can have on farm operations.

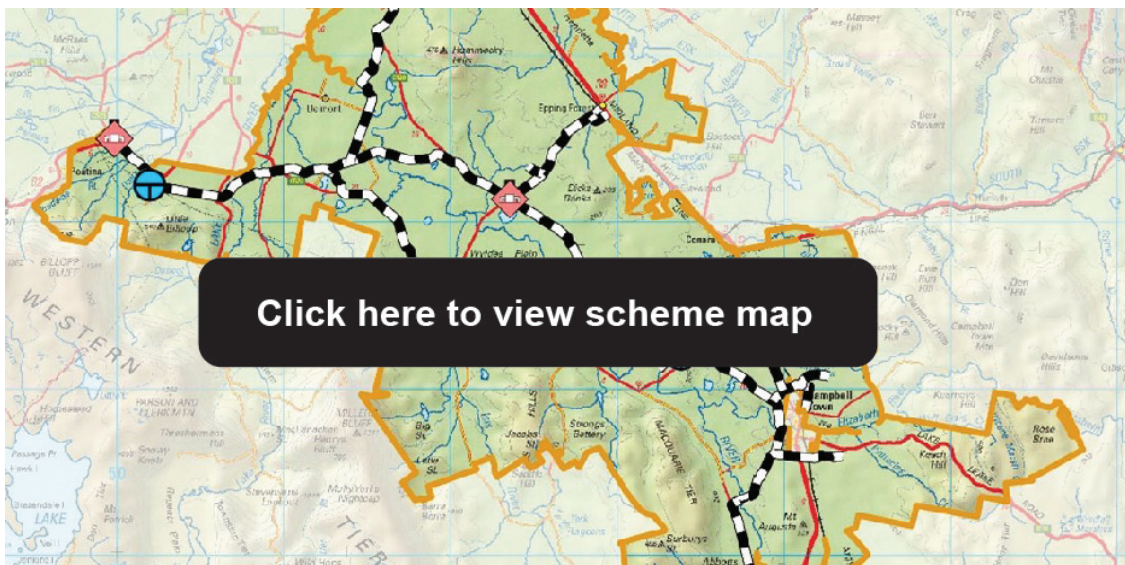
We thank each landowner for their patience while the construction crew works through their property.



Challenging pipeline installation conditions, Valleyfield Road

Pipe manufacturing is also progressing well, meaning a continuous supply is available to the project work crews and there is no delay in installation.

We've been very pleased to be able to source almost all of the pipe from Tasmanian manufacturer Vinidex (formerly Zekt), on the state's north west coast. It's just one more way this project is delivering benefits across the Tasmanian economy.



Pump stations

The construction of the Poatina and Valleyfield Pump Stations has commenced with works on buried pipework and foundations underway.

Balance tanks

Construction on both the Poatina and Valleyfield balance tanks is well underway with bulk earthworks including rock blasting now completed. The foundation works are now progressing. The tanks will hold 3.45 ML and 1.35 ML respectively.



Valleyfield balance tank foundation

Your guide to Farm Water Access Plans

Farm Water Access Plans (Farm WAPs) are a legal requirement for any property accessing water from a Tasmanian Irrigation scheme. They're designed to ensure sustainable use of irrigation water - protecting soil, waterways, and biodiversity. It's your plan for responsible water use and future-proofing your farm.

If you've bought water entitlements in the NMIS, you'll need a Farm WAP before you can use the water and now is a good time to start preparing one. You'll need one application for each property or business entity that's connecting to the NMIS. Farm WAPs must be prepared by a pre-qualified consultant and follow the Farm Water Access Planning Framework approved by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (Tasmania).

There are four key stages from application to approval. Getting started early means you'll be ready when the scheme opens.



A Tasmanian Irrigation representative will be reaching out to all irrigators in the coming months to assist with the process. If you want to get started sooner, you can access the [application form](#) on our website, and you can read more about Farm WAPs [here](#).

Landowner engagement

We're continuing to communicate to landowners whose property will be impacted by construction. Our contractor, Hazell Bros will communicate directly with landowners about the timing of construction activities that will have an impact on individual properties.

At the same time, we remain in contact with landowners who have concerns about construction impacts on their property. We're doing everything we can to resolve these concerns so that landowners are fairly dealt with regarding any impact on their property, to ensure any impacts are mitigated as far as practical, and so that construction can continue on schedule.

Thank you to all landowners who've worked with us in relation to accessing private property.

Tasmanian Irrigation is a signatory to the [Charter for Working on Private Farm Land](#), which is currently being reviewed by the Tasmanian Government. We take our responsibilities under the Charter very seriously. If you have any concerns about how access to your land is being managed, please contact any of the project team listed below.

Key contacts

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