

NEWSLETTER

Pre-Season Update

Tasmanian
Irrigation

December 2024



Greater Meander Irrigation District

Tasmanian Irrigation is looking forward to working with all irrigators during the 2024-25 irrigation season.

This newsletter provides general information on the current season, including the annual charges, trading information and details of the Scheme's financial year performance.

Please visit our website at www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au, follow us on Facebook or LinkedIn or telephone us on (03) 6398 8433 for additional information.

Water Delivery

The 2024-25 irrigation season opened on 1 November 2024 with a 100 per cent water allocation of the Scheme's total capacity.

The Greater Meander Irrigation Scheme Augmentation Project was completed in October 2024, just in time for the start of the summer irrigation season. The project has increased the scheme's capacity by 40 per cent, bringing additional high-reliability water to 240 irrigators.

This project highlights Tasmanian Irrigation's commitment to enhancing the State's agricultural potential and will boost agricultural productivity, strengthen drought resilience, and support diversification into higher-value crops.

Irrigation seasons have nominated lengths to ensure the 95 per cent reliability of the water entitlements based on the Scheme's original design. The Scheme is designed to run for 150 days making the estimated season closing date on 31 March 2025.

The season closing date will be finalised and advertised closer to the time, with an extension possible depending on the outcomes of the season.

Dam Summary

Live dam levels are available on the Tasmanian Irrigation website. From the home page, please select 'Dam Levels' from the top menu banner.

Fast Facts



1 Nov 2024
SEASON OPENING



150 days
EST. DURATION



100%
ALLOCATION

For more information, please contact your Scheme operators:



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brett.bennett@tasirrigation.com.au



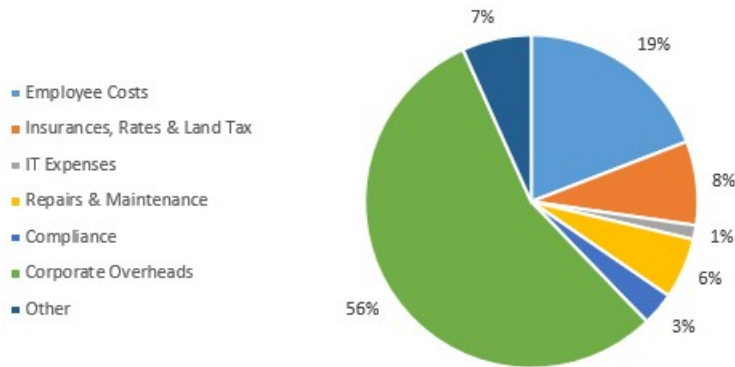
Cameron Walker—0438 020 974
cameron.walker@tasirrigation.com.au

Financial Year 2023-24 Performance

Tasmanian Irrigation funds the operation of each individual irrigation scheme on a cost recovery basis and the finances of each scheme are managed independently of other schemes.

Budgets are set to recover the operating costs of the Scheme only, with a focus on ensuring the Scheme has enough cash flow throughout the financial year to meet its expenses.

The pie chart below shows the Scheme's total Financial Year 2023-24 expenditure of \$1,046,453 by major category and their respective percentage weighting.



The Scheme made a profit of \$56,433 as at 30 June 2024. This is \$105,684 more profitable than the budgeted loss and is primarily attributed to the sale of water entitlements in the Meander River zone.

Other notable variances include additional revenue from the sale of general availability water delivered outside the irrigation season, increased insurance costs due to an increased dam value, and overruns in corporate overheads driven by cyber security and internal audit costs being above budget.

A total of \$67,297 was spent on Repairs and Maintenance activities and a total of \$212,039 was spent on Asset Renewal Levy activities.

The "Other" category is made up of expenses such as motor vehicles expenses, depreciation, office and telephone expenses, vermin control and fixed electricity costs. A total of \$70,297 was spent in the Financial Year in this category.



2024-25 Annual Charges

Tasmanian Irrigation would like to thank the Irrigator Representative Committee for their input and advice through the pricing consultation period. The 2024-25 season prices are summarised in the table below with explanations of each category and the reason for the change detailed overleaf:

	2023-24 (\$/ML)	2024-25 (\$/ML)	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Fixed charges - Meander River delivery				
Operation & maintenance charge	\$ 36.92	\$ 32.00	\$ (4.92)	(13.3%)
Asset renewal levy	\$ 6.63	\$ 7.00	\$ 0.37	5.6%
Total	\$ 43.55	\$ 39.00	\$ (4.55)	(10.4%)
Fixed charge one-off discount	\$ (5.00)	\$ -	\$ 5.00	100.0%
Total fixed charge after one-off discount	\$ 38.55	\$ 39.00	\$ 0.45	1.2%
Fixed charges - Caveside, Hagley, Rubicon, & Quamby delivery				
Operation & maintenance charge	\$ 36.92	\$ 32.00	\$ (4.92)	(13.3%)
Asset renewal levy	\$ 12.78	\$ 14.00	\$ 1.22	9.5%
Total	\$ 49.70	\$ 46.00	\$ (3.70)	(7.4%)
Fixed charge one-off discount	\$ (5.00)	\$ -	\$ 5.00	100.0%
Total Fixed Charge after one-off discount	\$ 44.70	\$ 46.00	\$ 1.30	2.9%
Variable charges				
Type 1 entitlements				
Meander River	\$ 9.01	\$ 9.00	\$ (0.01)	(0.1%)
Hagley Pump Station	\$ 52.68	\$ 51.00	\$ (1.68)	(3.2%)
Caveside Pump Station	\$ 50.75	\$ 50.00	\$ (0.75)	(1.5%)
Rubicon Pump Station	\$ 57.28	\$ 56.00	\$ (1.28)	(2.2%)
Quamby Pump Station	\$ 61.20	\$ 60.00	\$ (1.20)	(2.0%)
Variable charges				
Type 2 entitlements*				
Meander River	\$ -	\$ 36.00	\$ 36.00	100.0%
Hagley Pump Station	\$ -	\$ 78.00	\$ 78.00	100.0%
Caveside Pump Station	\$ -	\$ 76.00	\$ 76.00	100.0%
Rubicon Pump Station	\$ -	\$ 82.00	\$ 82.00	100.0%
Quamby Pump Station	\$ -	\$ 86.00	\$ 86.00	100.0%

* Type 2 entitlements are entitlements purchased in the Greater Meander Irrigation Scheme Augmentation, commissioned in 2024 and incur a Hydro Tasmania water purchase cost.

This year, Tasmanian Irrigation has introduced a mechanism to round up individual charges to the nearest dollar. This change has been introduced across all Tasmanian Irrigation schemes to strengthen their overall financial sustainability. The additional proceeds collected from the rounding will assist with ensuring the adequacy of both the working capital balance and asset renewal levy reserves. Once adequate levels have been met, any additional proceeds will be returned to irrigators through a discount to the fixed charges.

Operations and Maintenance Charge

This charge recovers the costs for running the Scheme that do not materially change with the volume of water supplied during a season. This includes costs relating to employment of scheme operators, motor vehicles, maintenance, telemetry, compliance, administration, finance and insurance.

The Operations and Maintenance charge is decreasing by \$4.92 per ML (13.3%). The decrease is a result of the sale of additional water which allows the total fixed costs of the scheme to be shared across a greater number of entitlement holders.

Asset Renewal Levy (ARL)

The asset renewal levy provides for refurbishment and replacement of Scheme assets and accumulates reserve funds in the unlikely event of a major Scheme failure. Funds collected through the levy are set aside in an asset renewal reserve for the benefit of the irrigation district.

Tasmanian Irrigation uses a risk-based approach to estimate the likely replacement year of all assets owned by the Scheme. This includes various factors such as current asset condition, manufacturer's guidelines, industry data and the criticality of the asset to the Scheme.

The estimated replacement value of the asset is then incorporated into a model to determine the appropriate annual levy required to ensure that there are sufficient funds to meet the next 50 years of commitments. This process is reviewed annually, with any material adjustments accounted for in the price.

The current ARL balance as at 30 June 2024 is \$131,501. For the financial year 2024-25, the Asset Renewal Levy will increase by \$0.37 per ML (5.6%) for river users and increase by \$1.22 per ML (9.5%) for piped users due to the increase in the scheme's overall size and number of assets.

Variable Charge

The variable charge is levied on the volume of water ordered or consumed by each irrigator, to recover electricity costs for pumping and water purchase costs incurred by Tasmanian Irrigation. The variable charge is based on the cost to deliver water to the various charge zones.

The variable charge is decreasing this year due to a reduction in price in the underlying electricity contract.

All Other Charges

All other charges for the upcoming season are shown in the pricing sheets at the end of this newsletter.

Trading Information

Irrigation rights and delivery rights are tradable within the irrigation district in accordance with the *Irrigation Clauses Act 1973* and the Trading Rules for the irrigation district. Trades are made by transferring volume between irrigation rights and flow rate between delivery rights. To take effect, a transfer must be approved by Tasmanian Irrigation and recorded in the Water Entitlements Register for the irrigation district.

For more details on how to trade, please refer to the *Quick Reference Guide to Water Trading* available on the Tasmanian Irrigation website under the *Buy / Trade Existing Entitlements* page.

If you are not intending to use all of your current entitlement this coming season, Tasmanian Irrigation encourages you to consider your trading options.

To ensure the sustainability of Tasmanian Irrigation Schemes and fairness to all irrigators, trades must be submitted within two weeks after the irrigation season ends. Retrospective trades for excess usage beyond this deadline will not be accepted. This is especially important for irrigators who are arranging trades to cover for excess usage at the end of a season.

Contact Details — Tasmanian Irrigation

If you require any additional information about Tasmanian Irrigation or the Scheme, please contact:

Title	Name	Email	Phone
Scheme Operator	Brett Bennett	brett.bennett@tasirrigation.com.au	0457 700 590
Scheme Operator	Cameron Walker	cameron.walker@tasirrigation.com.au	0438 020 974
Mgr Ops & Assets	Anne-Marie du Plessis	annemarie.duplessis@tasirrigation.com.au	0488 153 346
Sales & Trading	Fiona Buckingham	fiona.buckingham@tasirrigation.com.au	0438 465 338
Billing & Invoicing	Brendan Harris	accountsreceivable@tasirrigation.com.au	(03) 6398 8433
Corporate Services Mgr	Cody Townend	cody.townend@tasirrigation.com.au	0429 532 016
Chief Operating Officer	David Skipper	david.skipper@tasirrigation.com.au	0417 279 062

Irrigator Representative Committee

If you are interested in finding out more about the Committee or are interested in joining, please speak to your Scheme Operator or a committee member in the first instance.

Title	Name	Email	Phone
Chairperson	Michael Cresswell	quambyview@bigpond.com	0419 034 525
Member	Tim Schmidt	tim@woodlandsfarm.com.au	0427 325 946
Member	Nigel Brock	montanais@bigpond.com	0438 685 164
Member	David Cresswell	daamcresswell@activ8.net.au	0418 133 610
Member	Marcus Crowden	marcuscrowden@gmail.com	0417 552 991
Member	Ken Lawrence	fermeradmin@fermer.com.au	0417 931 649
Member	Greg Gibson	gibsonag@bigpond.com	0419 528 165
Member	Damian Atkins	mossvalefarms@gmail.com	0408 636 198
Member	Mark Griffin	mgriffin3140@hotmail.com	0437 111 636

Your Contact Details

If any of your contact details have changed, please advise us as soon as possible via email:

enquiries@tasirrigation.com.au.

Greater Meander Irrigation District

Charge rates: 2024-25



In-season annual charges for water entitlements

	2023-24 (\$/ML)	2024-25 (\$/ML)	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Fixed charges* - Meander River delivery				
Operation & maintenance charge	\$ 36.92	\$ 32.00	\$ (4.92)	(13.3%)
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Caveside Pump Station	\$ 50.75	\$ 50.00	\$ (0.75)	(1.5%)
Rubicon Pump Station	\$ 57.28	\$ 56.00	\$ (1.28)	(2.2%)
Quamby Pump Station	\$ 61.20	\$ 60.00	\$ (1.20)	(2.0%)
Type 2 entitlements***				
Meander River	\$ -	\$ 36.00	\$ 36.00	100.0%
Hagley Pump Station	\$ -	\$ 78.00	\$ 78.00	100.0%
Caveside Pump Station	\$ -	\$ 76.00	\$ 76.00	100.0%
Rubicon Pump Station	\$ -	\$ 82.00	\$ 82.00	100.0%
Quamby Pump Station	\$ -	\$ 86.00	\$ 86.00	100.0%
* Fixed charges: payable on current entitlement holdings on the opening day of the irrigation season.				
** Variable charge: payable on water that is supplied to you during the irrigation season.				
*** Type 2 Variable charges incur a Hydro Tas water purchase cost.				

Excess water charges - for unauthorised use of additional volume

Excess Water Charges*	2024-25 (\$/ML)
Meander River	\$ 200.00
Hagley Pump Station	\$ 200.00
Caveside Pump Station	\$ 200.00
Rubicon Pump Station	\$ 200.00
Quamby Pump Station	\$ 200.00
* Excess water charges: payable for each additional megalitre (or part of a megalitre) of water taken, in addition to your authorised volume under your water entitlement, during the irrigation season. These rates have been set within the By-Laws for your scheme.	

Out of season (general availability) water charges

Out of season water charges*	2023-24 (\$/ML)	2024-25 (\$/ML)	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Normal out of season charges**				
Meander River	\$ 38.55	\$ 39.00	\$ 0.45	1.17%
Hagley Pump Station	\$ 107.58	\$ 110.00	\$ 2.42	2.25%
Caveside Pump Station	\$ 105.36	\$ 107.00	\$ 1.64	1.56%
Rubicon Pump Station	\$ 113.16	\$ 115.00	\$ 1.84	1.63%
Quamby Pump Station	\$ 117.84	\$ 120.00	\$ 2.16	1.83%
Excess out of season charges				
Meander River	\$ 132.74	\$ 129.00	\$ (3.74)	(2.8%)
Hagley Pump Station	\$ 201.78	\$ 200.00	\$ (1.78)	(0.9%)
Caveside Pump Station	\$ 199.56	\$ 197.00	\$ (2.56)	(1.3%)
Rubicon Pump Station	\$ 207.36	\$ 205.00	\$ (2.36)	(1.1%)
Quamby Pump Station	\$ 212.04	\$ 210.00	\$ (2.04)	(1.0%)

* Out of season water charges: payable on water supplied outside the irrigation season by agreement with Tasmanian Irrigation.

** Normal out of season charges: available to irrigators who hold current entitlement in the irrigation district and only up to the level of their respective holdings.

Interest for late payments

In accordance with the by-laws for the district, Tasmanian Irrigation may issue interest charges when payment is not received within the standard terms of each invoice (30 days). This will be charged at the rate two per cent (2%) per annum above the 3 month Australian Bank Bill Swap Bid Rate (BBSY).

You will be unable to trade your water entitlements if your account is in arrears.

Tasmanian Irrigation understands that on some occasions our customers may experience times of financial hardship due to circumstances outside of their control. As such, you may choose to apply for a payment plan under our Financial Hardship Policy.

Other charges

Permanent transfer application fee	\$ 88.00	Including GST
Limited term transfer application fee	\$ 88.00	Including GST
Short term transfer application fee	\$ -	Including GST
Registration, transfer, variation, or discharge of security interest	\$ 88.00	Including GST
Copy of water entitlement extract	\$ 44.00	Including GST

Further information:

Water charges are levied by Tasmanian Irrigation to recover the costs of operating, maintaining and administering irrigation districts.

In all irrigation districts, a **Fixed Charge** is levied on the volume of your irrigation right holdings on the first day of the irrigation season and is payable regardless of whether water has been consumed.

The Fixed Charge can have up to three components:

- > **Operation & Maintenance** charge recovers the costs for running the scheme which don't normally change materially with the volume of water supplied during a season. This includes costs relating to employment of scheme operators, motor vehicle costs, maintenance, telemetry, compliance, administration, finance and insurance.
- > **Asset Renewal Levy** makes provision for major asset repairs and replacements required to ensure the continuing operation of the district.
- > **Storage Charge** (some districts): recovers costs of pumping any evaporation or seepage losses into the main water storage.

Most irrigation districts also include a **Variable Charge** which is levied on the volume of water ordered or consumed by each irrigator, to recover electricity costs for pumping and water purchase costs incurred by Tasmanian Irrigation. The variable charge is based on the cost to deliver water to the various charge zones. Variable Charges are invoiced following the end of the irrigation season or delivery period.

Excess Water Charges can be avoided entirely by ensuring you have sufficient allocation:

- > Monitor your usage (contact your Scheme Operator if you require assistance).
- > Contact us if you have any questions about your allocation, trading or usage.
- > Trade any required additional allocation. We are unable to accept retrospective trades.

To assist buyers and sellers of water entitlements with establishing trading connections, Tasmanian Irrigation provides a free **Water Trading Notice Board** on our website. This allows parties to advertise their interest in buying, selling or leasing water entitlements. You can access the Notice Board via Tasmanian Irrigation's website: www.tasirrigation.com.au.

All annual water charges are retained within the separate irrigation schemes to be used for the benefit of the irrigators.

If you have any questions, please contact our office on 03 6398 8433 or enquiries@tasirrigation.com.au.