

NEWSLETTER

Pre-Season Update

Tasmanian
Irrigation

December 2024



Southern Highlands Irrigation Scheme

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, LinkedIn or telephone us on (03) 6398 8433 for additional information.

Water Delivery

The 2024-25 irrigation season opened on 22 August 2024 with an initial 35 per cent water allocation of the Scheme's 7,215 ML total capacity. The allocation later increased to 100 per cent on 17 October 2024.

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 and the season closing date will be finalised and advertised closer to the time.

Dam Information

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

Entitlements for Sale

The Scheme is currently fully sold with the remaining 60 ML now committed to TasWater supporting the Bothwell town water supply.

Fast Facts



22 Aug 2024
SEASON OPENING



150 days
EST. DURATION



100 %
ALLOCATION



7,215 ML
SCHEME CAPACITY



For more information, please
contact your Scheme
Operator:

Robert Stacey

0438 837 252

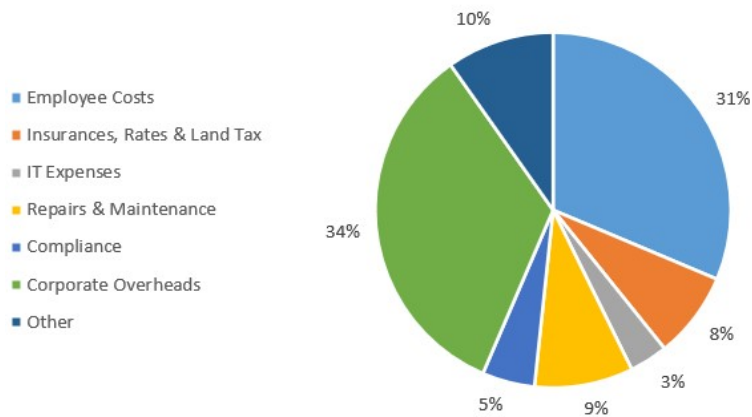
robert.stacey@tasirrigation.com.au

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 \$311,121 by major category and their respective percentage weighting.



The Scheme made a net profit of \$316,094 as at 30 June 2024. This exceeded the budgeted profit, in place to build the working capital of the Scheme, by \$143,326. However, the year end position does not include the expense to refill the dam and therefore, the profit position will be utilised to refill the dam. Other notable variances include repairs and maintenance activities as well as corporate overheads mainly driven by cyber security and internal audit costs being above budget.

A total of \$27,930 was spent on repairs and maintenance activities, while \$77,995 was expended on asset renewal.

The "Other" category is made up of expenses such as the cost of running motor vehicles, depreciation, office and telephone expenses, vermin control and fixed electricity costs. A total of \$30,429 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 process. The 2024-25 season prices are summarised in the table below with explanations of each category detailed below.

	2023-24 (\$/ML)	2024-25 (\$/ML)	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Fixed charges				
Operation & maintenance charge	\$ 42.83	\$ 45.00	\$ 2.17	5.1%
Asset renewal levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Levy to build Scheme Working Capital	\$ 23.47	\$ 30.00	\$ 6.53	27.8%
Storage charge	\$ 2.65	\$ 3.00	\$ 0.35	13.3%
Total	\$ 68.95	\$ 78.00	\$ 9.05	13.1%
Variable charges				
Shannon River Pump Station	\$ 71.07	\$ 72.00	\$ 0.93	1.3%
Bothwell Pump Station	\$ 90.42	\$ 91.00	\$ 0.58	0.6%
Hollow Tree Pump Station	\$ 101.88	\$ 102.00	\$ 0.12	0.1%
Great Lake supply, in-season charges				
Shannon River Pump Station	\$ 307.75	\$ 318.00	\$ 10.25	3.3%
Bothwell Pump Station	\$ 327.10	\$ 337.00	\$ 9.90	3.0%
Hollow Tree Pump Station	\$ 338.56	\$ 348.00	\$ 9.44	2.8%

This year, Tasmanian Irrigation has introduced a rounding mechanism to the prices to round up the 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. Furthermore, the rounding of prices will also assist with preventing large fluctuations in seasonal prices. 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 increasing by \$2.17 per ML (5.1%) driven by general inflationary increases, the introduction of price rounding (as explained above) and the impact of the mandated increase to the Superannuation Guarantee.

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 30th June 2024 is \$761,918. For the financial year 2024-25, the Asset Renewal Levy will be temporarily suspended for a second year, to compensate for the working capital levy explained below.

Levy to Build Scheme Working Capital

The Scheme's working capital is used to cover all the expenses except ARL. This means working capital covers operations & maintenance expenses as well as variable costs (costs of delivery). It does not cover ARL expenses as these are funded from a separate bank account and quarantined until ARL expenditure is needed.

The current working capital balance has been identified as being too low to adequately manage cashflow over the financial year and therefore the working capital levy introduced in 2023/24 will be continued again this year and has been increased by \$6.53 per ML (27.8%) to \$30.00 per ML. The bulk of the increase to the levy this year is due to a \$5 per ML charge to cover a bulk scheme water purchase of 350 ML from Herne Lagoon.

Due to the accounting rules surrounding the treatment of ARL, a direct transfer from the ARL reserve to fund the working capital shortfall cannot be made. Therefore, the ARL suspension is used to offset the impact of this levy on the overall price.

Storage Charge

The storage charge recovers the electricity costs for pumping and water purchase cost incurred by Tasmanian Irrigation in regard to refilling the main water storage following any evaporation or seepage losses. The \$0.35 per ML (13.3%) increase in price this year is mainly due to the new rounding principle explained on page three.

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 increasing this year due to the 3 per cent increase in the Hydro Tasmania water purchase cost as well as the new rounding principle.

Solar installation

The newly installed solar arrays at Shannon River, Bothwell and Hollow Tree pump stations have resulted in electricity cost savings for the Scheme. These savings will be retained in the Scheme's working capital and will greatly assist with managing the Scheme's overall financial sustainability.

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 strongly advise you to consider your trading options.



Contact Details — Tasmanian Irrigation

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

Title	Name	Email	Phone
Scheme Operator	Robert Stacey	robert.stacey@tasirrigation.com.au	0438 837 252
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 Chairperson in the first instance.

Title	Name	Email	Phone
Chairperson	Richard Hallett	richard@llanberispastoral.com.au	0428 863 420
Member	James Downie	jdownie87@gmail.com	0429 196 192
Member	John Ramsay	john@ramsayag.com.au	0414 889 234
Member	Richard Ellis	richardjtellis@gmail.com	0439 595 540
Member	Will Bignell	will.bignell@gmail.com	0409 216 780
Member	Rob Campbell	cheam7120@bigpond.com	0428 122 650
Member	Russell Fowler	russ_fowler@hotmail.com	0438 595 634
Member	Guy Ellis	guyandfi@gmail.com	0459 210 164
Member	Will Bowden	rvbowdenandson@gmail.com	0439 290 464

Your Contact Details

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

enquiries@tasirrigation.com.au.

Southern Highlands Irrigation District

Charge rates: 2024-25



In-season annual charges for water entitlements

	2023-24 (\$/ML)	2024-25 (\$/ML)	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Fixed charges*				
Operation & maintenance charge	\$ 42.83	\$ 45.00	\$ 2.17	5.1%
Asset renewal levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Levy to build Scheme Working Capital (funded by ARL discount above)	\$ 23.47	\$ 30.00	\$ 6.53	27.8%
Storage charge**	\$ 2.65	\$ 3.00	\$ 0.35	13.3%
Total	\$ 68.95	\$ 78.00	\$ 9.05	13.1%
Variable charges***				
Shannon River Pump Station	\$ 71.07	\$ 72.00	\$ 0.93	1.3%
Bothwell Pump Station	\$ 90.42	\$ 91.00	\$ 0.58	0.6%
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Great Lake supply, in-season charges				
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Bothwell Pump Station	\$ 327.10	\$ 337.00	\$ 9.90	3.0%
Hollow Tree Pump Station	\$ 338.56	\$ 348.00	\$ 9.44	2.8%
* Fixed charges: payable on current entitlement holdings on the opening day of the irrigation season.				
** Storage charges: a fixed charge to replenish storage losses in the scheme, such as evaporation.				
*** Variable charge: payable on water that is supplied to you during the irrigation season.				

Excess water charges - for unauthorised use of additional volume

Excess Water Charges*	2024-25
Shannon River Pump Station	\$ 250.00
Bothwell Pump Station	\$ 250.00
Hollow Tree Pump Station	\$ 250.00
* 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**				
Shannon River Pump Station	\$ 105.14	\$ 115.00	\$ 9.86	9.4%
Bothwell Pump Station	\$ 128.28	\$ 138.00	\$ 9.72	7.6%
Hollow Tree Pump Station	\$ 141.98	\$ 152.00	\$ 10.02	7.1%
Excess out of season charges				
Shannon River Pump Station	\$ 215.83	\$ 228.00	\$ 12.17	5.6%
Bothwell Pump Station	\$ 238.96	\$ 251.00	\$ 12.04	5.0%
Hollow Tree Pump Station	\$ 252.67	\$ 265.00	\$ 12.33	4.9%
Great Lake supply, out of season charges***				
Shannon River Pump Station	\$ 339.72	\$ 360.00	\$ 20.28	6.0%
Bothwell Pump Station	\$ 362.85	\$ 383.00	\$ 20.15	5.6%
Hollow Tree Pump Station	\$ 376.56	\$ 397.00	\$ 20.44	5.4%
* 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.				
*** Additional water from Great Lake may be made available on request. This will be confirmed at the time, based on availability of infrastructure, and confirmation from Hydro Tas that the delivery can take place.				

Rates to lease available capacity from Tasmanian Irrigation

If Tasmanian Irrigation holds unsold capacity in your area, you may be able to lease additional water entitlements by arrangement, for delivery during the irrigation season. Where available, you may choose to lease irrigation right volume, delivery right flow rate, or both. Please contact us if you wish to enquire about leasing additional water entitlements.

Annual Fixed Charges and Annual Variable Charges will apply to additional leased volumes.

Lease rates where capacity is available:	2024-25 (\$/ML)
Shannon River Pump Station	\$ 120.00

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.