

NEWSLETTER

Pre-Season Update



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

Water Delivery

The 2024-25 irrigation season opened on 9 October 2024 and will run until 5 May 2025.

The season opened with a 100 per cent water allocation of the Scheme's 6,948 ML total capacity.

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.

Entitlements for Sale

The Scheme is fully sold. Water can only be purchased by trading entitlements.

Fast Facts



9 Oct 2024
SEASON OPENING



5 May 2025
CLOSING



100%
ALLOCATION



6,948 ML



For more information, please
contact your Scheme
Operator:

Brett James

0428 623 956

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2024-25 Annual Charges

Tasmanian Irrigation would like to thank the Irrigator Representative Committee (IRC) 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 overleaf.

	2023-24 (\$/ML)	2024-25 (\$/ML)	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Fixed charges				
Operation & maintenance charge	\$ 65.63	\$ 50.00	\$ (15.63)	(23.8%)
Asset renewal levy	\$ 13.61	\$ 15.00	\$ 1.39	10.2%
Total	\$ 79.24	\$ 65.00	\$ (14.24)	(18.0%)
Other charges				
Excess irrigation water	\$ 130.00	\$ 130.00	\$ -	0.0%
Out of season (general availability) water	\$ 21.00	\$ 21.00	\$ -	0.0%
Stock and domestic water	\$ 152.25	\$ 156.00	\$ 3.75	2.5%

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 \$15.63 per ML (23.8%). This is due to a change in the management model for the scheme and results in a reduction to the overall cost to irrigators.

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 \$976,819. For the financial year 2024-25, the Asset Renewal Levy is increasing by \$1.39 per ML (10.2%) to ensure sufficient funds are available to meet the current asset management plan. For more information on some of the current work planned, please refer to the Asset Condition section later in this newsletter.

Furthermore, please note that work is currently underway assessing the longer term costs for the Scheme, including the two dams, to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the Scheme's assets.

Other Charges

Excess irrigation water—this charge is applicable for every one ML taken above the annual entitlement volume.

Out of season (general availability) water—this charge is payable on water supplied outside the irrigation season by agreement with Tasmanian Irrigation.

Stock and domestic water—this is an annual fixed charge for irrigators who hold stock and domestic water entitlements.

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 encourage 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.



Community Management Update

Tasmanian Irrigation has commenced the final stage of consultation with irrigators and key stakeholders regarding the potential for community management of publicly owned irrigation schemes.

Legislative changes passed by the Tasmanian Parliament in late 2023 now allow for community management of these schemes, where it is deemed feasible and appropriate. Since then, Tasmanian Irrigation has been collaborating with irrigators, other stakeholders, and the Tasmanian Government to establish processes that enable irrigators to apply for a greater role in the management of irrigation schemes.

In practical terms, these legislative changes allow Tasmanian Irrigation to delegate certain powers and functions to irrigator groups that can demonstrate the necessary backing and capacity to undertake the role.

Tasmanian Irrigation supports community management of publicly owned irrigation schemes where it is beneficial. We are always seeking ways to improve the efficiency of how we operate schemes, and if there is a more efficient method for irrigators to access the schemes, we support that approach.

It's important to note that the legislation does not permit the transfer of state-owned irrigation assets, meaning that all assets will remain under the ownership of Tasmanian Irrigation on behalf of the State.

You can access more information about this process on the Tasmanian Irrigation website: [Community management of publicly owned irrigation "Community management of schemes" - Tasmanian Irrigation](#)

Trial of Community Management Application Process

Tasmanian Irrigation is working with the Tasmanian Government and the Winnaleah Irrigation Scheme Limited (WISL) Board to establish a trial of the application process for community management.

Draft Terms of Reference for the trial have been provided by Minister Jane Howlett's office to TI and WISL. Once these have been confirmed by all parties, a committee will be set up to oversee the trial and work will begin.

The intention is for the trial to 'road test' the application process and documents to make sure they are effective for all parties, and at the same time ensure that WISL has all the necessary documentation that would be required to support an application.

The trial does not guarantee that an application for community management by WISL would be successful, but all parties are committed to working together to enable WISL to develop an application that is capable of being assessed for delegation.



Asset Condition

At the Winnaleah IRC meeting the IRC members were informed that the inlet control valve to the Winnaleah Mini-hydro (Derby) is experiencing severe corrosion. While the valve does not leak excessively when in the open position, the stuffing box and hold-down bolts are also corroded, preventing the re-packing of gland packing and making it impossible to perform necessary maintenance. The main valve, which isolates the Mini-hydro from the Scheme, is affected by this corrosion. It is believed that electrically induced corrosion is the most likely cause of the damage.

To address the corrosion issue, a replacement valve has been ordered, with an expected delivery time of 38-40 weeks. The estimated cost for the new valve is \$160,000, and the installation would require approximately two weeks of downtime. Additionally, the concrete thrust block will need to be removed and renewed.



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 James	brett.james@tasirrigation.com.au	0428 623 956
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 Committee Member in the first instance.

Title	Name	Email	Phone
Member	Andrew Lester	aalester@bigpond.com	0417 162 394
Member	Gavin Steele	ggsteel@bigpond.com	0407 095 970
Member	Alex Muirhead	alexmuirhead1@outlook.com	0429 785 646
Member	Phillip Rattray	philliprattrat61@gmail.com	0448 029 463



Your Contact Details

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

enquiries@tasirrigation.com.au.

Winnaleah Irrigation Scheme

Charge rates: 2024-25



In-season annual charges for water entitlements

	2023-24 (\$/ML)	2024-25 (\$/ML)	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Fixed charges				
Operation & maintenance charge	\$ 65.63	\$ 50.00	\$ (15.63)	(23.8%)
Asset renewal levy	\$ 13.61	\$ 15.00	\$ 1.39	10.2%
Total	\$ 79.24	\$ 65.00	\$ (14.24)	(18.0%)
Other charges				
Excess Irrigation water ¹	\$ 130.00	\$ 130.00	\$ -	0.0%
Out of season water ² (winter water)	\$ 21.00	\$ 21.00	\$ -	0.0%
Stock and Domestic Water	\$ 152.25	\$ 156.00	\$ 3.75	2.5%

¹ 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.

² Out of season water charges: payable on water supplied outside the irrigation season by agreement with Tasmanian Irrigation. 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.