

Fingal Irrigation Scheme

Demonstrated support for the Fingal Irrigation Scheme

The Fingal Irrigation Scheme (FIN) forms one of Tasmanian Irrigations (TI) Tranche Three suite of irrigation schemes. A public meeting was held in Avoca in early 2019 to gauge community support and to elect an irrigator representative committee (IRC). The meeting was well received with over 20 people in attendance, demonstrating stronger than expected support for the scheme.

Irrigator Representative Group (IRC)

The IRC is a volunteer group which represent the various areas of the district and works with the TI project team through-

out the schemes development. The IRC members are locals who anybody can speak to regarding information on the FIN and were elected from the floor at the public meeting in February with one member joining later.

The IRC consists of seven members comprising of Richard Gee, Jamie Loane, Douglas Loane, Michael Legge, Alistair Crisp and Rob O'Connor and is chaired by Humberston McKenzie. Contact details for the IRC can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Once the scheme is operational the IRC works with the TI Water Delivery Team throughout the life of the scheme This committee is re-elected by, and at the discretion of, scheme participants.

Pipeline to Prosperity Snapshot

Tasmanian Irrigation has successfully constructed 10 irrigation schemes as part of a Tranche One and delivered a further four under Tranche Two with the fifth currently in construction. Combined these schemes have the capacity to deliver in excess of 150,000ML of high reliability irrigation water.

The Australian and Tasmanian Governments have committed \$170 million towards the company's Tranche Three suite of schemes known as Pipeline to Prosperity. Pipeline to Prosperity consists of 10 schemes with the committed funds allowing for the construction of five projects and planning of the remaining five.

The five projects currently being progressed under phase one of the Tranche Three suite of schemes are Don, Northern Midlands, Tamar, Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Augmentation and Fingal.

Preliminary Design

The initial expressions of interest (Eoi) process for the FIN was conducted in early 2018 and resulted in 4,825ML of interest along the South Esk River around Fingal and Avoca and along the St. Pauls River through Royal George. As a result of this the initial scheme design propose two separate dams, one near Evercreech which would utilise water from the South Esk River, and a second near the head of the Royal George valley which would utilise water from the St. Pauls River. Both proposed to pump water during the winter month and release the stored water back into the respective rivers during the summer irrigation season with all scheme participants taking their allocations directly from the rivers.

Expressions of Interest and next steps

Following the initial public meeting the IRC was then tasked to assist in the Eol finalisation process. This involved spreading word around the district to ensure everybody who may be interested in purchasing water had submitted an Eol. Understanding the likely volume and distribution of demand in the district is vital in assisting TI to design and develop the scheme.

This process resulted in new interest along the Break O'Day River in the St. Mary's valley, with some interest received as far east as Falmouth on the east coast. The total Eol volume for the scheme has now grown to 9,425ML.

Works are now focused on understanding the engineering solutions to ascertain the most effective way of feasibly supplying as much of the demonstrated demand as possible. This work will assist with determining a preferred option which will seek community feedback in early 2020.

Climate Change

It is essential that any scheme considers the potential of climate change and its impact on future water availability .

TI, in conjunction with CSIRO, models the reliability of TI schemes under a range of climate scenarios.

The CSIRO's Tasmanian Sustainable Yields project looks at both future climate and future developments in addition to an assumed increase in groundwater extractions to 25pc of recharge. The scheme will need to supply water at a minimum reliability of 95pc, even under a "dry future" scenario.

Scheme Contacts

Fingal Irrigator Representative Committee

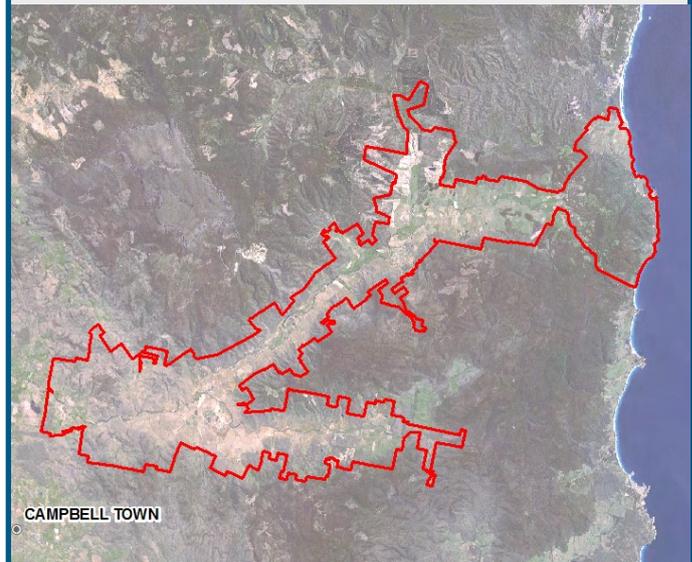
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Fingal Area of Interest



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

www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au

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:

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