

# Branch Out

SHARING TASMANIA'S IRRIGATION STORIES

## Message from the CEO

By Andrew Kneebone

**Tasmanian Irrigation's Water Delivery Team is busily preparing for the upcoming 2021/22 irrigation season.**

With almost all dams at capacity, the majority of pumps now serviced, all Irrigator Representative Committee meetings complete and repairs and maintenance ahead of schedule, Tasmanian Irrigation's 18 operational schemes are ideally placed for the upcoming season.

The 3,380 megalitre Melrose Dam on the East Coast's Swan Valley Irrigation Scheme is at capacity for the first time, and the Craighourne Dam, servicing the South East region, is also spilling. Ongoing strong rainfall across most areas of the State will ensure all Tasmanian Irrigation dams are at or close to capacity prior to season commencement.

Tasmanian Irrigation team members from a range of business units have participated in the recent Irrigation Representative Committee meetings, providing

detailed information about budgets, fixed and variable water pricing, asset management, repairs and maintenance, dam safety, electricity pricing and much more.

I am very pleased by the positive feedback received from irrigators, many of whom shared their gratitude at having detailed models for each of their scheme's assets, analysing risk, failure and performance for the first time.

**"Tasmanian Irrigation now oversees 25,000 individual infrastructure assets, with a replacement value of approximately \$500 million."**

With our new asset management tool that forecasts future asset maintenance and renewals, we are able to share with irrigators a four-year schedule for repairs and maintenance and asset renewals on pumps, outlets, pressure reduction valves, motors and other resources.



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## Message from the CEO continued...

All above-ground assets have been inspected and condition reports will be shared with irrigators each year moving forward, providing greater transparency around planning and the spending of Asset Renewal Levy funds.

More than \$1 million has recently been invested into asset replacement and repairs and maintenance across operational schemes, ensuring Tasmanian Irrigation continues to deliver irrigation water as cost effectively and efficiently as possible.

Additional detail around the reasons behind any upcoming price rises and falls has also received widespread support, with price reductions due to favourable electricity pricing especially welcomed!

Tasmanian Irrigation's dam expert Josh Clark has discussed in-depth reports on dam maintenance and ongoing inspections, providing timelines and budget estimates for dam safety mitigation and compliance costs.

The Water Delivery Team will read meters prior to the season start, and continue to communicate directly with the IRCs and all irrigators via telephone, email, our just-revamped website,

Facebook and newsletters.

In other exciting news, Tasmanian Irrigation welcomes the Australian Government's recent commitment of \$5 million in funding for the Greater Meander Irrigation Scheme's augmentation and optimisation project.

We applied for a grant through the National Water Grid Authority in June this year for funding to upgrade pump stations, river intake screens and convert open supply channels to new and extended pipelines, as well as provide up to an additional 11,000 megalitres of water to irrigators.

I also encourage farmers from Fingal, Avoca, Conara and through to Perth to commit to the 12,600-megalitre Fingal Irrigation Scheme by offering to purchase water entitlements as part of the Water Sales process. Water Sales are open until 2pm on Friday 10 September, and application forms can be downloaded from [www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au](http://www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au). This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

Thank you again to all of Tasmanian Irrigation's customers for their ongoing support and we look forward to collaborating with you to deliver another outstanding irrigation season in Tasmania.

*Andrew*



## New Board Members for Tasmanian Irrigation

Tasmanian Irrigation is delighted to welcome two new Non-Executive Directors to its Board — Campbell Town farmer and Tasmanian Wool Centre Director Judith Lyne and former Managing Director of Bellamy's Australia and Maggie Beer Holdings Laura McBain.

Judith and Laura bring a shared passion for the ongoing sustainable development of Tasmania's agricultural industries and look forward to setting future strategic direction for the Company's important water delivery and project development operations.

Mrs Lyne brings more than 40 years of practical experience in the agricultural sector, working with her family on their diversified sheep, cattle and irrigated cropping farm Riccarton in the Midlands, as well as extensive knowledge from sitting on numerous community boards, councils and committees.

Ms McBain was instrumental in increasing annual revenues of Bellamy's Australia from \$3 million to \$240 million, and was named the 2013 Telstra Australian Business Woman of the Year (Private and Corporate).

She has worked as an accountant in Sydney and Launceston, is a current Non-Executive Director of Lark Distilling Ltd and Capitol Health Ltd, and an independent consultant to Australian infant formula and food companies.

## Welcome Judith and Laura

# Message from the Minister

Hon. Guy Barnett, Primary Industries and Water



**As a young boy born and raised on a farm who attended Hagley Farm Primary School, like others, I know the importance of Tasmania's agricultural industries, but I had little concept of the magnitude of change ahead for our State's farmers.**

This was a time when farm labour requirements were decreasing as machinery replaced workers, the first poppy crops were sown, the first vineyard was established and a decent living could be made from a relatively small area of farm land.

Tractors were commonplace, export markets were limited, and significant areas of land were planted to apples and hops. Now, more than 50 years later, when I ponder the advances in technology, biosecurity, genetics and production, I marvel about how we farm today and what is ahead.

Many farmers are talking about the wise use of water, technology including blockchain technology, gene editing, nanomaterials, robotics, drones, satellites, artificial intelligence and synthetic biology as part of their every-day operations.

While the language has changed, there remains one clear underlying thread that gives our farmers the confidence to invest, expand and employ - access to reliable water.

I am extremely proud to be part of the Tasmanian Government team, in conjunction with our Federal counterparts and landowners, that has invested record level of funds in irrigation infrastructure around the State.

**"Every Tasmanian should be extremely proud that 15 new schemes have been planned, designed, constructed and commissioned by Tasmanian Irrigation since 2008, and a further 10 are being progressed."**

Tasmanian Irrigation now has the capacity to deliver more than 133,000 megalitres of high-surety irrigation water to farmers around the State. And this is expected to double when the 10 Tranche Three projects are operational.

From my many discussions with farmers and agribusinesses, I know they understand and appreciate how fortunate they are to be the recipients of this infrastructure that allows them to lock in contracts with confidence, realise higher capital values, increase rotations, boost

production, employ more people and expand their operations.

They are the envy of many farmers across Australia and overseas.

For example, it was my pleasure to recently receive the Business Case for the 25,500-megalitre Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme, which is more than triple the capacity originally planned. I look forward to the Don, Sassafras Wesley Vale Augmentation and the Tamar Irrigation Scheme Preferred Design Options being launched in the months to come.

With Water Sales now open for the Fingal Irrigation Scheme (closing on 10 September) and opportunities for farmers to purchase water entitlements for the Sassafras Wesley Vale Augmentation, South East Integration Project and Tamar Irrigation Scheme opening later this year and in early 2022, now is the time to act.

Team Tasmania is the way to go and I look forward to working in partnership with Tasmanian irrigation, farmers, agribusinesses and the agricultural sector.



## Rob and Jane Dent — Oaks

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### Let's take a step back in time.

Tasmanian Irrigation had just been formed. The first Tranche One schemes were about to be built. Farmers with little irrigation experience were facing momentous financial and business decisions.

To invest or not to invest? This was a question that Rob and Jane Dent at Oaks pondered for a very short time in 2010 as Tasmanian Irrigation revealed plans to construct the Whitemore Irrigation Scheme to deliver high-surety water to farmers around Liffey, Bracknell, Oaks, Whitemore and Glenore.

"We went up to visit a farmer at Numurka in northern Victoria that we had contracted to grow pearl millet, a robust annual grass," Rob recalled.

"He was paying \$3,000 a megalitre then for irrigation water with only 30 per cent surety and that year had received a 20 per cent allocation.

"When we told him we had an opportunity to purchase irrigation water at \$1,100 a megalitre at 95 per cent surety, he told us we were mad not to commit.

"So, we returned home, invested almost half a million dollars into 400 megalitres, ordered pivots and underground pipes – and never looked back."

Rob and Jane now grow more than 30 varieties of seed crops across 240 hectares of their own land, as well as on an additional 150 hectares of contracted farms in New Zealand. They have exclusive rights to 21 varieties, including Uplands Cocksfoot, Rubitas Red Clover and Benatas Vetch.

Irrigation has enabled the couple to double production, with perennial ryegrass crops now yielding more than two tonnes to the hectare, compared to about one tonne per hectare prior to accessing Tasmanian Irrigation water.

"Before irrigation, we had three concurrent seasons without full dams, so we were effectively dryland cropping," Rob said.

"When they announced the Meander Scheme, some farmers were reluctant to commit so a few farmers from around here approached Tasmanian Irrigation to see if they would divert a Meander pipeline to Whitemore as we were prepared to purchase the remaining water.

"Tasmanian Irrigation then conducted a feasibility study on supply from the tailrace of the Poatina Power Station via the Cressy Longford Main Channel to our area, and concluded there was sufficient demand for our own scheme.

"Previously we didn't know what the season would deliver so we could get no yield, an OK yield or an outstanding yield. Now, we know exactly what we can produce and have the luxury of making last-minute and delayed sowing decisions as we know we have the water to finish our crops later in the season."

Rob, regarded as Tasmania's seed industry pioneer, continues to work tirelessly on developing and trialling new cultivars, especially hardier and drought-tolerant varieties in high demand across the mainland.

A huge grin extends across his face as he revels in the range of clover seed now produced on his farms, such as Persian and Alsike, replacing one of the pre-irrigation dryland focuses of linseed.

Grass seed under the Dent's Ardent Seeds and Tasglobal Seeds labels are now being trialled in South Africa, and a new dryland perennial clover called Talish, originating from the Talish Mountains in Azerbaijan north of Iran that has never been commercially produced, has just been grown by Rob for seed for the first time.

Rob is now chair of the Whitemore Irrigation Scheme Irrigator Representative Committee and is working closely with Tasmanian Irrigation on pump and channel upgrades to allow additional water to be sold from the Liffey River.

As a longer-term option, farmers are also keen to explore an increase in capacity of the Whitemore Scheme from 5,500 ML to 7,500 ML.

A feasibility study would be needed to examine the scope for a new pipeline, as well as a 3,000 ML dam for winter takes from the Liffey River,



minimising irrigators' exposure to fluctuating power prices and generating additional irrigation water for existing and new irrigators.

If this augmentation proceeds, Rob and Jane are planning to purchase an additional 100 megalitres of water, opening future additional land use opportunities, such as berries or dairy.

"One of the greatest challenges for farmers is crystal ball gazing to know how much water they will need in the future. When we sat down a decade ago to decide how many megalitres we needed, we took into account our long-held dream of buying 150 acres next door. That only happened last year but thank goodness we purchased enough water 10 years ago to cover our needs for this additional block.

"My advice to any Tasmanian farmer fortunate enough to be able to commit to Water Sales as part of one of Tasmanian Irrigation's Tranche Three projects is go high, get more than you need today. People looking to buy farms don't look at your house or sheds, they only ask how much land and how much water.

"It was a big gamble to spend half a million dollars on water when we hadn't done much irrigation, but there's not a single day that we regret it."



## Whitemore Irrigation Scheme Snapshot

<b>Area serviced</b>	Whitemore, Oaks, Bracknell, Liffey, Glenore
<b>Capacity</b>	5,500 ML
<b>Project cost</b>	\$11.3 million
<b>Commissioned</b>	November 2012
<b>No. of irrigators</b>	49
<b>Pipeline</b>	38 km
<b>Pump stations</b>	2
<b>Dams</b>	1

# Water Delivery

By David Skipper



**Tasmanian Irrigation's Water Delivery Team is responsible for the operation of 18 irrigation schemes around Tasmania, and the delivery of irrigation water in an efficient, economically viable and environmentally sustainable manner to more than 1,000 irrigators.**

Tasmanian Irrigation employs 14 skilled and dedicated Scheme Operators to manage and administer each scheme.

The team also manages a range of inherited infrastructure, including Lake Leake, Rileys Creek Dam, Togari Water Scheme and the Montagu and Welcome River Improvement Schemes.

Regular routine maintenance, compliance and ensuring the schemes are delivering water at the most efficient curve is paramount to a successful scheme and ensuring water costs to irrigators are controlled and appropriate.

**For more information about Water Delivery, please contact Tasmanian Irrigation on (03) 6398-8433**

or

[watertrading@tasmanianirrigation.com.au](mailto:watertrading@tasmanianirrigation.com.au)

## **What makes Tasmanian Irrigation different to any other irrigation provider?**

This is a question we are asked many times.

Tasmanian Irrigation is unique from our mainland counterparts, and the answer is not one, but a multiple of reasons:

### **Our schemes are highly reliable**

We have designed a majority of our schemes to a 95 per cent average annual reliability on the basis of the conditions applying at the time reliability was assessed and that the scheme continues to operate as it was originally designed.

The warranty does not cover reductions to reliability arising from climate changes or other natural causes. 95 per cent average annual reliability means that, during 100 consecutive irrigation seasons, the sum of the allocations made to irrigation rights will be equal to or higher than 95 per cent of the sum of the entitlements on issue over that same period without the allocation percentage exceeding 100 per cent of entitlements in any season.

### **Our schemes have zoned flow delivery rights**

Delivery rights confer entitlements to a share of the capacity of the scheme to deliver water within a zone during the summer delivery period and/or winter delivery period of each irrigation season.

The entitlement arising under delivery rights is defined as a

flow rate and denominated in megalitre per day (ML / day) units. Because the delivery capacity of the scheme is not subject to seasonal variation, the allocation made to delivery rights for each delivery period of a season will equal 100 per cent of the summer and / or winter entitlement held under delivery rights on the opening day of the season.

**Importantly**, delivery rights provide assurance that capacity is available to deliver water at a set rate, when and to where it is required.

Flow rate entitlements give certainty over the timing of supply and introduce a tradable product through which irrigators can plan water deliveries, manage seasonal risks and maximise the benefit of their entitlements.

In many of our schemes, Tasmanian Irrigation's design flow rate is based on delivering water 24 hours a day over a 150-day season.

### *Calculating Flow rate*

An example of a 150 ML allocation over a 150-day season on working out the litres per second (LPS) flow rate:

$$\text{ML / day} \times 1000,000 / (24 \times 3600) = \text{LPS}$$

$$150 / 150 \times 1,000,000 / (24 \times 3600) = 11.6 \text{ L/s}$$

## Water Delivery continued...

### Our schemes have nominated delivery seasons.

The allocations made to delivery rights are valid for use or trade during the whole of the summer and / or winter delivery period.

**Please Note:** longer seasons may adversely impact on other irrigators to trade their entitlements or delivery rights to other irrigators on their scheme. TI schemes are schemes for all irrigators. What may be a good idea to a small group, may impact others in ways that may not be considered when requesting a change in season length from the design or contractual obligations.



## Guidelines for Setting Irrigation Season Dates

Tasmanian Irrigation is responsible for setting the irrigation season dates.

Water entitlement contracts set the nominal dates for an irrigation season, however in some schemes the actual dates will be set each year in consultation with the Irrigator Representative Committee (IRC).

If the IRC is regularly requesting a season significantly longer than that which is specified in the water entitlement contract, then a higher cost of resourcing (scheme operator and associated costs) will be attributed to the scheme to service the longer season.

### **1. Considerations for opening an irrigation season:**

a. Compliance — the time periods which Tasmanian Irrigation can deliver water

under the licencing or regulatory framework.

b. Maintenance — any winter maintenance which would interrupt full supply must be completed.

c. Dam fill — if the scheme is supplied from a primary dam storage, then the dam must be sufficiently full to supply the annual allocation before the season will be opened. This is to fulfil Tasmanian Irrigation's contractual obligation of 95 per cent reliability.

d. Dual mode — season might be opened earlier if a dam can be filled while also delivering into the scheme. This would only take place if direct supply and remaining dam fill will be sufficient to supply a full annual allocation.

2. **Resourcing:** the Scheme Operator must have had opportunity to take any leave and undertake any required training.

### **3. Considerations for closing an irrigation season:**

a. Compliance — the time periods which Tasmanian Irrigation can deliver water under the licencing or regulatory framework.

b. Maintenance — any winter maintenance which would interrupt full supply or dam fill programs.

c. Dam fill — where licence conditions allow, dam fill programs may need to begin immediately to ensure lowest cost reliable supply for the following season.

## Pinata Farms — Orielton

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**When Australia's largest pineapple and leading mango grower purchases a property in South East Tasmania, eyebrows are always going to be raised!**

Pinata Farms, founded by Geoff Scurr on the Sunshine Coast in South East Queensland in the 1960s, is nationally recognised for its commitment to excellence, quality and safety across fruit-growing enterprises along Australia's East Coast from Mareeba in northern Queensland to Coffs Harbour in New South Wales, as well as farms in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Victoria.

The family-owned company cultivates more than 1,010 hectares to annually produce 800,000 trays of pineapples, two million kilograms of pineapples for juicing and seven million punnets of strawberries.

Pinata also manages more than 170,000 mango trees to grow the highly-sought-after Honey Gold variety, which attracts a 30 per cent market premium.

With large-scale berry operations at Caboolture and Stanthorpe in South East Queensland, the Scurr family decided to search for additional land to plant 40-hectares of premium raspberry and strawberry varieties.

Access to secure irrigation water, a reliable workforce, a more temperate climate for extended seasonal supply opportunities and reduced biosecurity risk were the non-negotiable items on Gavin Scurr's farm shopping list.

Orielton, located 10 kilometres north-west of Sorell in southern Tasmania, with a population of 355 recorded in the 2016 Census, ticked all boxes.

So, in 2018, Pinata Farms purchased 40 hectares as their first Tasmanian investment, followed by a further 50 neighbouring hectares the following year. They have already planted eight hectares of raspberries and two hectares of strawberries under polytunnels, constructed a high-tech packing shed, built a dam, planted windbreaks, employed four full-time staff and engaged up to 60 seasonal workers during picking season extending from early November to early June.



Raspberries are grown inside the tunnels in coconut coir medium and the first Tasmanian harvest in 2020 doubled production of Pinata's speciality BerryWorld raspberries.

With plans to expand their Tasmanian-based berry operations to 40 hectares by 2026, Gavin anticipates more than 400 casual workers will be needed at Orielton.

"Reliable irrigation water has to be a given for berry operations," Gavin said. "When we arrived in Tasmania, one property was running sheep, the other cattle, and there was no access to irrigation water.

"A 3km pipeline was constructed from our farms to tap into Tasmanian Irrigation's South East Stage Three Irrigation Scheme, and we purchased a licence for 50 megalitres of water. We are also able to trade with other water entitlement holders, but ultimately we like to own the water that we need.

"We will require 180 megalitres by the time we reach full berry capacity, so Pinata Farms is very supportive of Tasmanian Irrigation's South East Integration Project that will enable additional water to be secured by farmers in the region."

Gavin describes the Orielton climate and access to water as exceptional for growing perfectly sized and tasting berries over a longer season.

"There was already a thriving berry industry in northern Tasmania, but we decided to invest in the south of the State due to the more temperate climate, access to labour in Hobart and through the university, and being located in a different biosecurity region to minimise potential disruptions to our business.

"We start harvest about 10 days earlier than some of the northern farms, allowing us to build a labour force before others. We also utilise pickers from our farms in Queensland and Northern Territory that can then travel to Tasmania.

"But access to reliable irrigation water is absolutely key to the success of our operations.

"In Stanthorpe we have on-farm water storages but when it didn't rain for three years, we had to scale back production. We are one of five farms up there that has access to a recycled effluent scheme, but in dry years we can be back to a quarter of the expected volume.

"Tasmanian farmers are so fortunate to be able to invest into Tasmanian Irrigation's schemes and attract such high levels of funding from the State and Federal Governments."

When asked if Pinata has further expansion plans in Tasmania, Gavin says: "We have a very capable leadership team, the fourth generation of the Scurr family is now working in the Pinata business with my brother Stephen and I, we know the challenges of operating on remote sites and we are very happy with the Tasmanian berry operations to date.

"If we can find a good blackberry variety and can get it through quarantine, then we would look at new opportunities in Tasmania.

**"We have the irrigation water, the capacity to lock in more water for expansion with the South East Integration Project, the climate and the people so Tasmania is ideal for premium berry production for our company."**



### South East Stage Three Scheme Snapshot

<b>Area serviced</b>	Tea Tree, Campania, Orielton, Pawleena, Penna, Sorell and Forcett
<b>Capacity</b>	3,000 ML
<b>Project cost</b>	\$33 million
<b>Commissioned</b>	2015
<b>No. of irrigators</b>	77
<b>Pipeline</b>	134km
<b>Pump stations</b>	2
<b>Dams</b>	1

# Program Development and Delivery

By Stacey Woods



**Tasmanian Irrigation's Program Development and Delivery Team is proud to deliver irrigation projects from concept to water delivery, ensuring schemes are designed to be in operation for the next generation of farmers and beyond.**

There are a number of important steps incorporated into developing a new irrigation scheme, including:

- Community consultation;
- Expressions of interest;
- Launch of preferred design option;
- Water sales;
- Contracts with landowners;
- Final design;
- Business case;
- Permits and approvals;
- Construction; and
- Commissioning.

Along the way, risks are continually evaluated as the design progresses in terms of environment, social acceptability, cost and economic outcomes.

As these schemes rely on a unique public / private partnership and funding model, all stakeholders are engaged and consulted to ensure key needs are met.

**All Tasmanian Irrigation schemes are designed to last at least 100 years and deliver water at an annual average reliability of more than 95 per cent.**

**Tasmanian Irrigation sincerely thanks landowners for continuing to lodge Expressions of Interest and Water Sales applications for the first five Tranche Three irrigation projects.**

Following the two successful Tamar information days in July, new interest is being recorded for the Tamar Irrigation Scheme, Water Sales are now open for the Fingal Irrigation Scheme and the Business Case for Northern Midlands is being assessed by the Tasmanian Government.

The following summarises recent progress on each of the Tranche Three phase one projects:

## Don

**Area serviced:** Don, Lillico, Forth, Forthside, Melrose, Lower Barrington, Barrington, Sheffield and West Kentish

- Detailed design progressing and discussions to finalise water supply agreements underway
- Development Applications submitted to local councils and Business Case approved by Government

## Fingal

**Area serviced:** Fingal, Avoca and Conara through to Perth

- Transmission losses have been agreed with DPIPWE
- Water Sales open until 2pm on 10 September

## Northern Midlands

**Area serviced:** South of Cressy including Macquarie, Barton, Isis, Conara, Campbell Town and Ross

- Business Case submitted to Tasmanian Government
- Water Sales applications accepted and additional megalitres still in demand
- Commencing detailed design, permits and approvals, and progressing pipe supply tender and design partner

## Sassafras Wesley Vale Augmentation

**Area serviced:** Sassafras, Harford, Thirlstane, Moriarty, Wesley Vale, Northdown, Pardoe and East Devonport

- Prefeasibility progressed and independent capital cost estimation review completed
- Targeting Preferred Design Option for public consultation by November 2021

## Tamar

**Area serviced:** Beaconsfield, Selbourne, Westwood, Hillwood, Lilydale and Pipers River

- Prefeasibility continuing and preferred design alignment reviewed
- Expressions of Interest continuing to rise due to new interest

## Tranche Three Phase One Projects Under Development

Scheme	Capacity (ML)	Pump Stations	Pipeline (km)	Forecast commissioning
Don	4,750	3	67	2024/25
Fingal	12,600	1	2.3	202/26
Northern Midlands	25,500	3	157	2024/25
Sassafras Wesley Vale Augmentation	5,745	5	95	2024/25
Tamar	12,800	6	240	2025/26

Notes: i. The existing Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme has a 5,660 ML capacity so total scheme capacity after the augmentation project is completed will be 13,686 ML

ii. Tamar Expressions of Interest are continuing to be lodged so it is anticipated that this scheme will be larger than the current capacity listed



### Fingal Irrigation Scheme — Apply for Water Sales Now

Water Sales for the Fingal Irrigation Scheme close on 10 September, so Tasmanian Irrigation encourages landowners to submit applications to purchase water entitlements as quickly as possible.

This important 12,600 megalitre project has been designed to deliver much-needed reliable irrigation water to properties located along the South Esk River from Fingal, Avoca and Conara through to Perth.

If sufficient irrigator interest is lodged, then this important Tranche Three project will progress to business case, final design, approvals and construction.

Although Expressions of Interest were launched in 2019, the project had to be re-designed to meet increased demand. The Preferred Design Option launched to the community in September 2020 is based on a 14,000 ML dam located approximately 12km north of Fingal, a pump station on the South Esk River and 2.3km of dual supply pipeline.

The forecast season is from early November to late March and the water entitlement price is \$1,390 per ML. It is anticipated water delivery to irrigators would commence in November 2025, following a three-year construction timeframe.

For more information on the Fingal Irrigation Scheme, please visit our website <https://www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au/schemes/fingal> or contact:

#### Fingal Project Contacts

##### Tegan Lovell

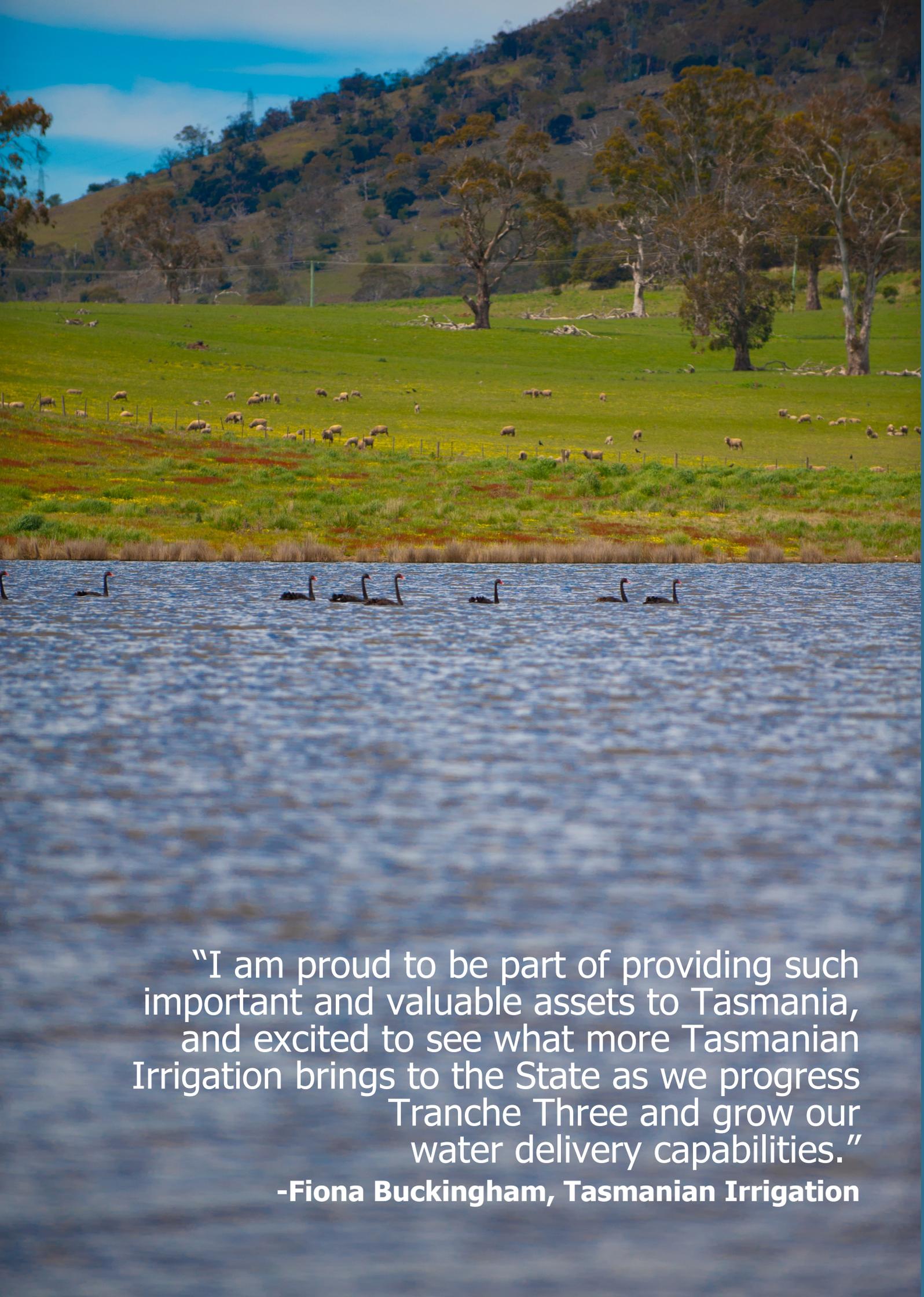
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“I am proud to be part of providing such important and valuable assets to Tasmania, and excited to see what more Tasmanian Irrigation brings to the State as we progress Tranche Three and grow our water delivery capabilities.”

**-Fiona Buckingham, Tasmanian Irrigation**



## TASMANIAN IRRIGATION — MEET THE TEAM

# Fiona Buckingham

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**Tasmanian Irrigation title?** Water Trading and Document Administrator.

**Snapshot of your work and study history:** I have mostly worked in customer service and administration including at the Australian Electoral Commission, and at Telstra as a Technical Service Specialist. I have worked at Tasmanian Irrigation since 2009 in various roles, including document controller, assisting with GIS mapping, water sales and trading and general administration.

**Brief description of your current role:** I mainly work with the Commercial Team administering water trading, water sales, and irrigator communications and enquiries. I also provide administrative support to other parts of the business as required.

**What do you enjoy most about working at Tasmanian Irrigation:** I have been given many opportunities to develop my skills and knowledge over the years by helping out whenever and wherever needed, which has kept my job interesting. I love that I get to work with all parts of the business from the Finance Team to the Scheme Operators, and I am very proud to see the results of what TI has contributed to Tasmanian agriculture when I am travelling the State.

**What has been your most memorable moment since joining TI:** During Tranche Two water sales, we spent a couple of months selling water to three different schemes all at the same time: Duck, Southern Highlands and Scottsdale – three schemes which could not have been much further apart if we tried. It was a very hectic time with lots of travelling from Smithton to Scottsdale to Bothwell, but it was exciting and a great experience meeting and speaking with so many potential irrigators, many of whom are now using their entitlements and speaking with me regarding trading etc.

My other most memorable moment was also in 2014 when I received an award of excellence from the Board for my contribution to TI. I felt very overwhelmed and undeserving as I am just a small cog in a big wheel, but the recognition was very much appreciated, and I am grateful that my work and dedication was noticed.

**Favourite book:** Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follet.

**Favourite food:** Can't beat a good quality steak with pepper sauce.

**Favourite movie:** The Green Mile.

**Favourite holiday location:** I love to visit the Gold Coast to see my son and his family. Before he moved there I would have said Pumpkin Island – a tiny private island off Yeppoon where I had the best holiday ever when we got together with 28 friends and hired the entire island for the New Years break.

**Best piece of advice for the next generation:** There are no mistakes only outcomes ... meaning mistakes are lessons to be learned and it will be ok in the end. Learn from the outcomes, trust in your abilities and believe in your future.

**If I was Prime Minister for a day, I would:** Make it mandatory for all P Plate drivers to do a defensive driving course before they become fully licenced.

**The three people you would invite to share dinner with you:** Jon Bon Jovi, Keith Urban and Pink – I love music and these are three of my favourite artists who all make me smile. And just imagine the amazing impromptu jam session after dinner!

# A New Approach to Project Design

## **Tasmanian Irrigation has entered into an exciting new partnership with GHD and Pinion Advisory to provide expert design services for Tranche Three irrigation projects.**

Under this integrated approach, Tasmanian irrigation will deliver improved fit-for purpose project designs in a more standardised manner, in collaboration with local communities.

Design specifications will be standardised for engineering, hydraulics, electrical plans, pumps, pipelines and dams, leading to a more consistent system control and data acquisition, assisting with water delivery and asset management operations.

It is expected that an additional 80,000 megalitres of high-surety irrigation water will be delivered as part of the five Tranche Three irrigation schemes being designed under the partnership.

These projects are:

- Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme;
- Fingal Irrigation Scheme;
- South East Integration Project;
- Tamar Irrigation Scheme; and
- Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Augmentation.

Tasmanian Irrigation is confident that this agreed system will enhance cross-scheme learnings, reduce duplication and simplify procedures.

Brad Davie, GHD's Design Manager for the partnership said: "Our approach will draw on the collective capability of GHD, Pinion Advisory and Tasmanian Irrigation to form an integrated team with a shared vision to create lasting community benefit.

"These schemes will ultimately unlock water for the State and help farmers meet the growing on-farm production demand, so we are thrilled to be able to bring our skills together in this multi-year partnership and strategically design the schemes to do just this," Mr Davie said.



# Upcoming Events

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Tasmanian Irrigation has just launched a revamped website with the latest information about existing irrigation schemes and Tranche Three projects, as well as additional information about the Company.

Please visit [www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au](http://www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au), and also follow Tasmanian Irrigation on Facebook, to ensure you stay up to date with our latest news.

Forecast upcoming events include:

## **10 September**

Fingal Water Sales Close

## **Later 2021**

Sassafras Wesley Vale Augmentation  
Water Sales Launched

South East Integration Project  
Water Sales Launched

## **Early 2022**

Tamar Water Sales Launched



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