

Branch Out

SHARING TASMANIA'S IRRIGATION STORIES

Message from the CEO

By Andrew Kneebone

As we officially enter the festive season, it is opportune that we take a moment to review the year and celebrate so many wonderful achievements in Tasmania in 2022.

For Tasmanian Irrigation, it has been another busy, productive and exciting year. I sincerely thank all our team members for their ongoing dedication, hard work and commitment to safety as we continue to deliver irrigation water to our highly-valued customers and design, plan and construct the next 10 irrigation projects.

Our team continually goes above and beyond. If you ask any our team members why they work at TI, they will explain that they truly believe in what we do. Providing high-surety irrigation water to farmers to enable them to plant, graze, expand, intensify and diversify with confidence is a great motivation and cause of work satisfaction.

None of this would be possible without the unique public / private funding model that sees the Tasmanian and Australian Governments combine their funds with those from landowners to invest in game-changing irrigation infrastructure.

We often say that Tasmania is the envy of the nation when it comes to irrigation schemes, but there's no doubt that there are many countries around the world that aspire to our State's capacity to build irrigation schemes and deliver irrigation water.

It was very pleasing to receive an additional \$100 million in the Federal Government's October Budget, which will enable further work to be completed on the first six Tranche Three projects – Don, Northern Midlands, Tamar, Southern Midlands, the Greater South East and an augmentation of the Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme.

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Message from the CEO continued...

Water Sales for the Greater South East Irrigation Scheme close on 23 December so it is vital that farmers across this region finalise their plans and applications for water entitlements. Despite the recent wet weather and that dams remain at capacity, it is important that farmers remember the dry years and how much water they require during prolonged years of drought.

Tasmanian Irrigation is committed to delivering this \$522 million project – the largest irrigation project ever designed in the State.

However, if applications do not reach the Water Sales viability threshold, then the project is at risk of not proceeding or requiring a redesign, meaning some farmers may miss out.

Please reach out to GSEIS Project Manager Lorrienne Lyte if you require additional detail or assistance with your application.

We have also just learned that following the re-design of the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme, the Tasmanian Government has approved the Business Case for this 25,500 megalitre project. The State Government is now proceeding to confirm the Commonwealth funding. Once this is secured, Tasmanian Irrigation will be finalising the detailed design and gain the required permits and approvals before going to tender.

The Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme will deliver irrigation water to areas south of Cressy, including Macquarie, Barton, Isis, Conara, Campbell Town and Ross.

We sincerely thank the Northern Midlands Irrigator Representative Committee and landowners for their ongoing support and commitment to delivering this important project, which has grown in size from 13,000 megalitres to 25,500 megalitres due to increased demand.

Tasmanian Irrigation is also about to submit the Business Case for the Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Augmentation to the Tasmanian Government for approval and confirmation of funding. This project is set to increase the scheme's capacity from 5,460 megalitres to 14,660 megalitres.

December 2022

Construction on Don is continuing to progress well, and contractors remain on track to deliver water to this highly-productive north west region for the 2023/24 irrigation season.

Tasmanian Irrigation also recently held an industry briefing for civil contractors and suppliers regarding upcoming Tranche Three works. This was very well attended and is part of our enhanced engagement strategy to ensure contractors have a greater understanding about upcoming irrigation tenders and projects.

With all our dams at capacity and all irrigation schemes now open for the 2022/23 season, Tasmanian Irrigation is looking forward to working closely with our customers to ensure their water delivery requirements are taken care of over the coming summer months.

I also take this opportunity to sincerely thank Samantha Hogg for her strategic input and support of Tasmanian Irrigation over the past six years. Sam's second term as Chair of the TI Board is about to conclude and we wish her every success and happiness for the future.

"As this is our last Branch Out newsletter for 2022, I wish all Tasmanians a very Merry Christmas, a safe festive period and a prosperous 2023."

We look forward to working with you again next year to further grow Tasmania's agricultural sector.

Best wishes,

Andrew



*Meander Dam Picture:
Kris Twine*

A Chat with the Chair

Samantha Hogg



Samantha Hogg is about to complete her two terms as Chair of Tasmanian Irrigation's Board. We sincerely thank Sam for her commitment, time, strategic input and passion for irrigation in this State. We invited Sam to share a few insights regarding her time in the role:

Name: Samantha Hogg.

When were you appointed to the Board:
9 September 2016.

What were the key skills you brought to the TI table?

With international experience across the transport, infrastructure, energy and resources sectors, as well as being a hands-on farmer on our northern Tasmanian property, I bring skills in finance, strategy, project management, marketing and corporate services to the boardroom.

I have been a member of many Tasmanian and national Boards, giving me the skills to think strategically to ensure the agreed vision and objectives of Tasmanian Irrigation were implemented.

I continue to sit on a number of Boards, including Chair of Marinus Project Link, and Director of Cleanaway Waste Management Limited and Adbri Limited (formerly Adelaide Brighton Cement Ltd). I enjoy the challenge of working with fellow Directors to assist organisations achieve sustainable growth.

What would you nominate as Tasmanian Irrigation's greatest achievement during your time at the helm?

It is fantastic to see the further development of diverse crops and enterprises with irrigation.

Since I have been involved, Tasmanian Irrigation has developed firm processes and procedures to ensure the model of developing irrigation schemes can be replicated consistently.

What learnings will you take from your time on the Board?

Each person that is appointed to a government board brings a unique skill set to the table to help set strategic direction for the organisation.

As Chair, my role is to ensure we utilise these key skills and challenge each other in a productive manner to ensure the best outcomes for the Company and for the State's agricultural industries.

I continue to be impressed and inspired by the level of dedication, knowledge and innovation displayed by the small, but very passionate, team at Tasmanian Irrigation.

How important is Tasmanian Irrigation's work to the State's agricultural industries and economy?

One of the great privileges of sitting on the Tasmanian Irrigation Board is being able to visit new and existing schemes and hear first-hand from farmers how much TI water means to them, their business and their region.

We should never underestimate how important the public / private funding model is to deliver this vital irrigation infrastructure and water delivery services.

You were invited to sit on the Prime Minister's COVID Advisory Committee. How did you best represent Tasmania's interests on this national body?

For me it was reflecting what I was hearing and seeing back to this National forum.

The best aspect was that everyone who was involved was trying to help, find solutions and wanted to listen.

What advice would you give to people considering applying for Chair and / or Director roles on Tasmanian Government owned companies?

Being part of TI has had its challenges, but my two terms have been extremely rewarding. Agriculture in Tasmania is exciting and innovative, and it is great being part of that so I would encourage people to apply for Board positions and help make a difference.

Isaac and Angelique Korpershoek

An average annual rainfall of 1000mm did not deter Forest dairy farmers Isaac and Angelique Korpershoek from applying for as much water as possible when the Duck Irrigation Scheme was planned.

"We couldn't really afford it financially, but from a risk mitigation perspective, we definitely couldn't afford not to," Isaac said.

"We spent \$170,000 purchasing fodder, including lucerne hay, from the mainland in the last really dry year before the irrigation scheme was constructed, so it was very important to us that we applied for sufficient irrigation water from Tasmanian Irrigation to effectively drought proof our farm."

Angelique, the current Chair of DairyTas, and Isaac, a member of the Duck Irrigation Scheme Irrigator Representative Committee, share a strong and enduring passion for farming, the dairy industry, the environment and Tasmania.

They purchased 200 megalitres from the 5,200-megalitre scheme, which was commissioned in December 2018. The Duck services landowners located around Montagu, Stanley, Forest, Edith Creek and Irishtown in the State's north west.

Access to irrigation water has given the couple and their four children the confidence to expand their landholding from 345 acres to 1075 acres, including a 220-acre block across the road, 60 acres that was previously leased and a further 450-acre run-off block.

They have also improved their pastures for autumn calving, enhance drainage, increased

their milking herd to 350 cows and installed a pivot and a linear irrigator.

They have two full-time employees, as well as one part-time worker to milk every second weekend.

In their first year on farm, they sold 163,000 kgs of milk solids. Last year this increased to 210,000 kgs.

"Our milking platform hasn't got any bigger, it's just that we have more water and can grow better grass early," Isaac said.

"I remember helping Dad on the farm when I was younger and know how devastating it was to run out of water.



"We always knew that if an irrigation scheme was built in the area, we would find the money to invest.

"This year was very dry up here and having this irrigation water has been just brilliant.

"Tasmanian Irrigation water takes the stress off farming as we know we are covered – even in the driest years."

When calculating how many megalitres to purchase, Isaac used his off-farm experience in designing dairies and irrigation schemes. He took into account his planned 120-day season, current and projected cashflow, available resources and planned expansion.

In a bid to further boost their water entitlements application, Isaac and Angelique also factored in pumping savings expected from relying on gravity to deliver water to the flats on their farm.



"Basically, we looked at everything to ensure we could purchase the maximum amount of water — and thank goodness we did.

"Some of the farmers around here chose not to invest in the scheme and now they wish they had.

"My advice to any landowners on new irrigation projects being planned around the State is to buy as much water as you can afford."



Water Delivery

By David Skipper, General Manager Water Delivery



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 almost 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

Since the last *Branch Out*, we have experienced some very interesting and challenging weather patterns with the culmination on the 12 October of an intense and heavy two-day rainfall event in the north of the state, that caused major flooding.

Areas such as Meander, Upper Ringarooma and Smithton were heavily impacted.

This event caused the standing up of the Emergency Management Team who were closely monitoring 10 dams and numerous on ground infrastructure, such as pump stations, switch boards and wet wells.

Unfortunately, Tasmanian Irrigation did experience flood inundation in pumps stations and various control network across five schemes.

The location of pump stations on our schemes are designed for one in 100 year events.

TI reported some severe erosion down stream of dams through spillways and into the catchments.

However, the TI dams themselves came through the event well with some erosion at the toe of dams and spillways, which will now require some restoration work.

Season Open

All schemes are now open for the 2022/23 irrigation season and all the planned maintenance work has been completed.

The dams are all full and every scheme has opened with 100 per cent allocation to irrigators.

The Upper Ringarooma opening was delayed by seven days as the pump and motors were removed, refurbished and installed returned after the flooding.

There will be some ongoing remediation work during the season on a number of sites to restore areas that were eroded and undermined with the fast moving flood waters.

The South East schemes will be a major focus this season as Stage Two and Three are still solely reliant on TasWater and while the Bryn Estyn water treatment plant upgrade is progressing well, it does not imply that it is a secure or reliable water source for our schemes.

Daisy Banks Dam is a small buffer dam for Stage Two irrigators. As Stage Two irrigators are not mechanically flow controlled, it is a challenge for our Operators to ensure everyone has enough water at the critical hot, dry and windy periods, which coincides when Hobart demand increases, placing pressure on both Hobart domestic water and south east irrigators.

We encourage all south east irrigators to use this precious resource wisely and economically to ensure everyone is able to enjoy the benefits of irrigation when it is greatly needed.

A Spotlight on the Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme

The Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme commenced operations in time for the 2020-21 irrigation season to service Scottsdale, Bridport, Springfield, Nabowla and Waterhouse areas in North East Tasmania.

This was the last of the five Tranche Two projects to be completed.

The 9,300 ML Camden dam is filled from winter flows from the Camden Rivulet.

A pipeline from the St Patricks River enables supplementary filling of the dam. Water is then piped via a mini-hydro station, to the Headquarters Road Dam and then distributed from here into the various zones as required.

The Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme water flows through 92km of pipelines, including 84km's of pipeline around Scottsdale and the Waterhouse area, and there is an 8km pipeline from the Camden Dam to the power station.

The mini hydro power station is utilised to provide power back to the pump station at Camden and any excess power generated is fed into the network for consumption by all Tasmanians.

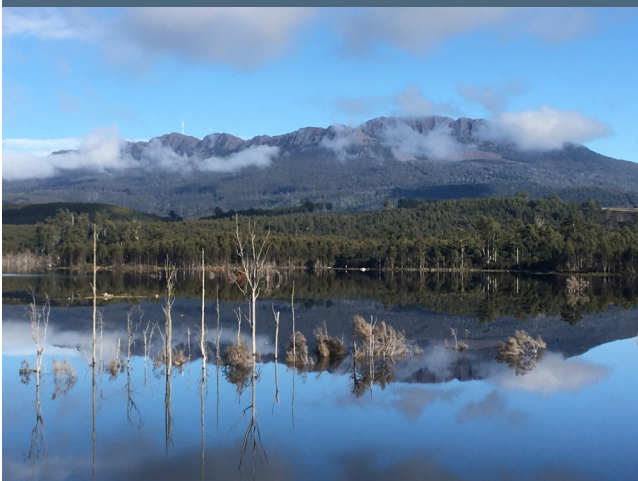
The Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme delivers high surety water over a 150-day period.

The capacity of the scheme is 8,600 ML and there is only 1,413 ML of unsold capacity left for irrigators to purchase.

Once this is sold, there is no further water available unless it is traded.

The Irrigator Representative Committee (IRC) is a very committed and community inclined group of irrigators who are very supportive of their scheme and have a tremendous working relationship with not only the scheme operators but many other areas within TI.

The IRC members have expressed their gratitude to TI and the State and Federal Government for the funding to construct this scheme, enabling the productive value of the region to be realised and amplified.



December 2022



Unsold Water Entitlements

By Byron Fraser, Tasmanian Irrigation Corporate Services Manager



Water entitlements across the majority of Tasmanian Irrigation's 18 operational schemes are fully sold.

However, there are a limited number of entitlements still available for purchase by landowners and investors, as detailed in the table below:

Scheme	ML Unsold	Price Per ML
Kindred North	530	\$1,410
Upper Ringarooma	1,205	\$1,410
Scottsdale	1,413	\$1,440
Midlands	3,414	\$1,330

The unsold portion of water entitlements represents less than five per cent of Tasmanian Irrigation's total water delivery capacity of 133,000 megalitres.

Tasmanian Irrigation encourages existing irrigators, new irrigator or investors to reach out if they are interested in purchasing or leasing these unsold entitlements.

The 'Buy Unsold Entitlements' section of Tasmanian Irrigation's website details the exact locations and zones where this unsold water is available. This can be accessed from:

www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au/buy-unsold-entitlements

Water entitlements are tradable within the district in which they are issued and because water entitlements are separate from land, a person does not need to own land within a district to receive a transfer of water entitlements.

Tasmanian Irrigation offers various payment terms to purchase or lease water to assist potential irrigators with their farming requirements.

These include:

- An outright purchase for immediate use;
- Deferred payment terms of up to two years to assist irrigators who do not require water immediately but wish to secure permanent entitlements for future use; and
- A lease-to-buy option to assist irrigators who wish to secure immediate and permanent access to water entitlements but defer payment of the final balance for up to three years.

If you would like further information or wish to purchase or lease additional water, please contact your Scheme Operator or our Launceston office on (03) 6398-8433 or watertrading@tasirrigation.com.au for a confidential discussion.



Water Entitlement Register

By Fiona Buckingham, TI Water Trading and Document Administrator



Did you know Tasmanian Irrigation maintains a Water Entitlement Register on its website that enables landowners to search for entitlements by district or customer, which can be viewed and sorted by number of megalitres?

The Water Entitlement Register (WER) is a record of all entitlements issued and managed by Tasmanian Irrigation, and includes details of transfers, entitlement purchases, security interest registrations and irrigator connections to the schemes.

The register is easy to navigate and is a fantastic resource for farmers wishing to access additional information about irrigation water in their area.

There are two main types of entitlements recorded on the register:

1. **Irrigation Rights** specify the volume (ML) available for delivery during each irrigation season; and
2. **Delivery Rights** specify the zone to which a volume can be delivered and the rate of delivery. This is usually defined as a ML per day (ML / day) flow rate. The delivery rate is calculated by ML divided by days of the season (ie. 100 ML / 120 days = 0.8333 ML / day flow rate).

Most schemes have both Irrigation Rights and Delivery Rights, however some of the older schemes, built prior to 2011, have only Irrigation Rights.

As Tasmanian Irrigation manages 18 schemes, each entitlement is given a unique serial number – specific to the Irrigation District.

It should be noted that the serial number always remains with the owner ie. transferred entitlements (volume and flowrate) will be moved to different entitlement serial numbers when a transfer is processed.

There are three types of transfers:

- **Short term** — wholly within one season. This will change the allocations only;
- **Limited Term** (lease) – for one or more seasons and will change the current entitlement; and

- **Permanent** – for a permanent change of ownership.

The Water Entitlement Register is available to view on our website at:

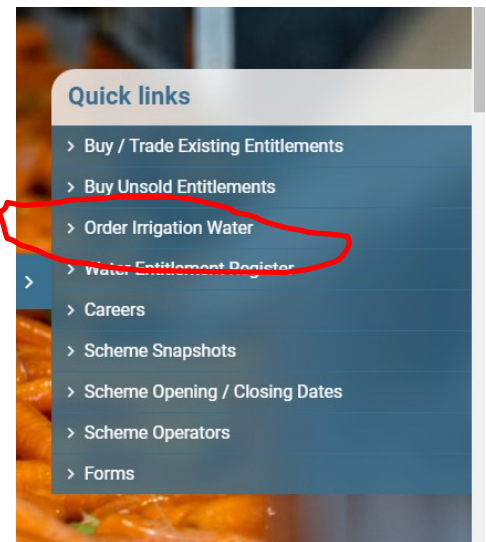
www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au/water-entitlement-register. There is a link to the page from the Quick Links box on the home page, or you can find the register under Active Schemes.

Please note that not all information is available on the website due to privacy.

The register is updated twice daily from the live Water Entitlement Register, therefore irrigators are able to view their current entitlement allocations in near real time.

When viewing the WER, please note that the allocation percentage relates to the allocation for the current season. Although not a common event, this may be reduced from 100 per cent when there is a shortage in supply.

For more information about the Water Entitlements Register, please contact (03) 6398-8433 or enquiries@tasirrigation.com.au.



Sample register snapshot

District	Customer	Serial number	Customer	District	Type	Base Entitlement (Volume ML)	Current Entitlement (Volume ML)	Allocation %	Size Allocation (Volume ML)	Currg (Vol)
All	All	IR-MD-01-020	Armanesia Properties Pty Ltd ATF the Riggall Settlement Trust	Midlands	1	2,900.0	2,900.0	100%	2,900.0	
		IR-SH-01-013	Peter John Downie	Southern Highlands	1	2,000.0	2,000.0	100%	2,000.0	
		IR-MD-01-080	Robert McDowell Campbell & Bridget Jane Campbell ATF Sigo Superannuation Fund	Midlands	1	1,859.0	1,859.0	100%	1,859.0	
		IR-MD-01-030	Jules (Leanne) Kenneth Von Sliere	Midlands	1	1,531.0	1,531.0	100%	1,531.0	
		IR-MD-01-121	Richard J Headlam & Sonia A Headlam as trustee for Ballochmyle Trust	Midlands	1	1,450.0	1,450.0	100%	1,450.0	
		IR-SH-01-020	Monrozie Pty Ltd	Southern Highlands	1	1,400.0	1,400.0	100%	1,400.0	
		IR-MD-01-075	Bullock Pastook Pty Ltd ATF Bullock Water Trust 2	Midlands	1	1,260.0	1,260.0	100%	1,260.0	
		IR-SH-01-078	Springhill Pastoral Pty Ltd	Southern Highlands	1	1,260.0	1,260.0	100%	1,260.0	
		IR-MD-01-078	Andall Pty Ltd ATF Jordan Water Trust 2	Midlands	1	1,259.0	1,259.0	100%	1,259.0	
		IR-MD-01-077	Andall Pty Ltd ATF Jordan Water Trust	Midlands	1	1,241.0	1,241.0	100%	1,241.0	
		IR-MD-01-074	Bullock Pastook Pty Ltd ATF Bullock Water Trust	Midlands	1	1,241.0	1,241.0	100%	1,241.0	
		IR-MD-01-005	Andall Pty Ltd ATF Jordan Water Trust 1	Midlands	1	1,214.0	1,214.0	100%	1,214.0	
		IR-MD-01-076	Bullock Pastook Pty Ltd ATF Bullock Water Trust 1	Midlands	1	1,214.0	1,214.0	100%	1,214.0	
		IR-1949	NS Brock Pty Ltd	Greater Meander/Meander Valley	P1	1,000.8	1,000.8	100%	1,000.8	
		IR-E223	Christopher J Domauf, Ian Angus Domauf, Jennifer Jill Domauf & Lynette Domauf T/A D	Greater Meander/Rubicon	P1	1,000.0	1,000.0	100%	1,000.0	
		IR-SU-01-022	40 South Dalries Pty Ltd	Duck	1	990.0	990.0	100%	990.0	
		IR-NE-01-049	Dalness Farming Pty Ltd ATF Dalness Farming Unit Trust	North Esk	1	860.0	860.0	100%	860.0	

Program Development and Delivery

By Josh Marshall and Jacob Gerke

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 Option Design;
- Water Sales;
- Contracts with landowners;
- Business Case;
- Detailed design;
- 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 is currently advancing work on six new irrigation projects as part of Tranche Three.

Here is an update on a couple of the projects:

Don Irrigation Scheme

- The dig lay backfill in the Don zone has been completed, as well as the Don rising main;
- The pipeline contractor has commenced dig lay backfill at Barrington, and the balance tank slabs have been poured and dig lay backfill has commenced on the Barrington rising main;
- Temporary access works have been completed at the Forthside pump station; and
- Contractors are on track to have water delivered in the 2023/24 irrigation season.

Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme

- Updated business case and funding submissions being reviewed;
- Permits and approvals progressed, such as Aboriginal Heritage, Flora and Fauna, and gazetting of the Northern Midlands Irrigation District;
- Tender documents expected to be released in early 2023; and
- Construction expected to commence in March 2023.

Sassafras Wesley Vale Augmentation

- Following a very successful Water Sales process, the post Water Sales infrastructure redesign has been completed;

- The Tasmanian Irrigation Board has signed off on the final project numbers and scope, and the business case is about to be submitted to the Tasmanian Government; and

- The Environment Team has been working through all reviews / approvals.

Southern Midlands Irrigation Scheme

- Project Manager Cathy Sugden is working with the design partner on pioneering the water sources;
- New Expression of Interest process launched to see if additional areas can be included;
- Team is running a project challenge next month over several days looking at constructability and water source locations; and
- Project is working towards a Preferred Option late Q1 2023.

Tamar Irrigation Scheme

- Due to Water Sales not reaching the viability threshold, Tasmanian Irrigation has been working hard on a redesign of the project;
- Communication with landowners is ongoing as part of the process on determining where it is viable to deliver water; and
- Tasmanian Irrigation is continuing to work with all government representatives regarding the potential supply of water to the Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone.

Water Sales — Greater South East

By Lorrienne Lyte, GSEIS Project Manager



Only a matter of days remain for south east landowners to submit a Water Sales application for the 38,000-megalitre Greater South East Irrigation Scheme.

Water Sales will close at 2pm on 23 December for this project – the largest irrigation scheme ever designed for Tasmania.

Tasmanian Irrigation encourages landowners to attend the upcoming Drop in Days (as listed below) to ask questions about the scheme, meet the TI project team and to seek assistance with application forms.

This \$522 million project has been designed to deliver reliable and fit-for-purpose water to existing and new irrigators, merge the existing South East Stages One, Two and Three Irrigation Schemes, and eliminate reliance on the potable TasWater supply by sourcing all water from Lake Meadowbank.

Importantly, the total water delivery capacity to the area will increase from 7,630 megalitres to 38,000 megalitres of summer water and 12,500 megalitres of winter water.

The latest design will enable water to be delivered to 146,000 hectares surrounding Gretna, Jordan River Valley, Kempton, Brighton, Cambridge, Richmond, Tea Tree, Colebrook, Campania, Sorell, Forcett and Pawleena.

Summer water entitlements for the South East have been priced at \$3,500 per megalitre, winter water at \$1,850 / ML, Jordan River Valley summer water at \$2,500 / ML and winter water at \$1,750 / ML, Gretna summer water at \$1,650 / ML and South East Stage One conversion entitlements at \$1,950 / ML.

If Water Sales reach the pre-determined viability threshold, then the project will progress to business case/funding approval, detailed design, permits/approvals, construction and commissioning – provisionally planned for 2026/27.

The Greater South East Irrigation Scheme is expected to create 474 direct and in-direct jobs, as well as prompt millions of dollars in on-farm investment.

Tasmanian Irrigation Chief Executive Officer Andrew Kneebone encouraged farmers to consider their water needs during dry and drought years when calculating their Water Sales applications.

“There are hundreds of existing irrigators around the State very open to sharing the value of being able to access high-surety irrigation water and I encourage south east landowners to reach out to these farmers as part of their decision making process,” he said.

“This is a game changing opportunity for the south east and Tasmanian Irrigation sincerely thanks all landowners who have already submitted their Water Sales applications.”

For more information about the Greater South East Irrigation Scheme, please visit: <https://www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au/schemes/greater-south-east-irrigation-scheme> or email Project Manager Lorrienne Lyte at lorrienne.lyte@tasirrigation.com.au

“Greater reliability, additional water, expanded area, improved water quality — it’s win after win for south east farmers.”

Upcoming Drop In Days

Date	Venue	Time
14 December	Sorell Memorial Hall CWA Room	10am — 3pm
20 December	Richmond Hall — Supper Room	10am — 3pm
21 December	Sorell Memorial Hall CWA Room	10am — 3pm

Spring Beauties

By Jesse Lewis, Tasmanian Irrigation Environmental Scientist



All morning I've been scanning the forest floor.

I see leaf litter and moss, stones and bare earth, and then small pink dots of color. I've finally found what I'm looking for — tiny Tasmanian ground orchids.

At only 5-20 cm from the base of the stem to the top of the flower head, they are hard to spot but amazingly beautiful and delicate.

This species, *Caladenia carnea*, is known by its common name as "pink fingers" and is common across much of Tasmania.

As I walk onward the forest understory practically sparkles with flecks of color. Pink fingers fluttering in the spring breeze...

As part of Tasmanian Irrigation's commitment to sustainability, all irrigation works are rigorously field assessed for sensitive natural values in accordance with state and federal regulations, such as the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*.

In this way, TI can plan its works and operations in the best possible manner for the environment, avoiding sensitive forests areas, waterways and threatened flora and fauna.

Working with some of the state's best ecological consultants, surveying the bush for rare and threatened plants like orchids is one of the most interesting parts of the planning and design process.

More than 200 orchid species are found across Tasmania, roughly 60 of which are endemic and found nowhere else on Earth.

Many are very small, cryptic and rare, making them a wonderful challenge to find and ID. More challenging still is that they often only bloom 1-2 weeks of the year with spring being the best time to see them.

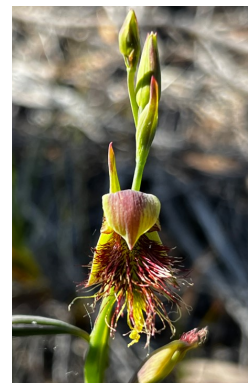
Whether you're already an enthusiast or discovering this hidden botanical world for the first-time, now is the best time to lace up your walking boots to hunt for these small wonders.



Pink Fingers (*Caladenia carnea*)



Wax-lip Orchid (*Glossodia major*)



Purple Beard Orchid (*Calochilus platycheilus*)

ORCHID FACTS

- Of Australia's 1,700 known orchid species, 90 per cent are found nowhere else in the world, including several threatened species in Tasmania;
- Many orchids use ingenious ways to lure insect pollinators in the form of physical mimicry, pheromones and specialized co-evolution with their pollinators;
- Orchids have a reputation for being strange and mysterious, often sporting unusual flowers and names. For instance, Bearded Orchids quite literally have frilly "beards";
- Another family of orchids, called Duck Orchids, have flowers that look like flying ducks. No joking, Google it;
- Some orchid species in the Midlands are so rare they are known only from a handful of small native grassland remnants in the form of golf courses, graveyards or small reserves;
- In the wild the fleshy shoots and flowers orchids put up in spring are prone to nibbling by stock and wild animals. Never pick orchid flowers;
- Some Tasmanian species are often found in the company of sundews, small carnivorous plants that use sticky hairs to trap and slowly digest insects as a form of added-on nutrition; and
- Keen to learn more and get involved? Download the free Tasmanian Orchids App or join the Tasmanian Native Orchids Group on Facebook.



TASMANIAN IRRIGATION — MEET THE TEAM

Byron Fraser

Tasmanian Irrigation title:
Corporate Services Manager.

Snapshot of your work and study history:

20 years plus experience in finance and investment banking holding multiple leadership roles across the value chain.

Brief description of your current role:

The primary purpose is to provide information, commercial analysis and guidance to the rest of the TI business. The role is very broad and is responsible for water sales and trading, scheme pricing and billing, electricity and numerous contract negotiations. The role also ensures governance of process and implements business improvement opportunities for the organisation.

What do you enjoy most about working at Tasmanian Irrigation:

I would have to say the people. I work with a great team, all dedicated to providing the best outcomes to our irrigators and the community.

What has been your most memorable moment since joining TI:

Just reflecting on the improvements and all that the team have achieved over the last few years.

Favourite book:

Hard to pick one favourite, but I really enjoyed re-reading Ready Player One recently. It's a clever story full of puzzles and lots of 80s nostalgia.

Favourite food:
Love all Italian food.

Favourite movie:

The first film I ever saw at the cinema, Empire Strikes Back. I have watched it countless times and I am very much looking forward to watching it with my son (when he is old enough).

Favourite holiday location:

Any five-star resort with hot weather. I have been lucky enough to travel to many exotic destinations, so it is hard to pick one.

Best piece of advice for the next generation:

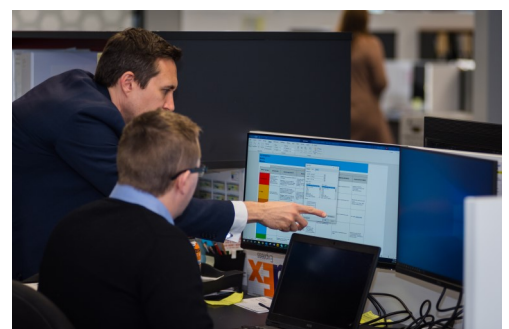
You can do anything you set your mind to.

If I was Prime Minister for a day, I would:

Not a job I would like anytime soon!

The three people you would invite to share dinner with you:

Any of the 12 people that have walked on the moon and my two grandfathers (both of whom I never met).



Spotlight on DairyTas

DairyTas is a not-for-profit regional development program (RDP) led by farmers in Tasmania. The organisation is one of eight branches funded by Dairy Australia through the Dairy Service Levy, with matching investment from the Australian Government. Additional funding is sourced through various avenues including Tasmanian Government and funding grants.

Each year DairyTas invests and delivers a broad range of research, development, extension and education programs for farmers and the broader dairy industry.

This includes:

- Our Farm Our Plan;
- Animal health and welfare training;
- Workforce attraction and retention programs and workshops;
- Young Dairy Network; and
- Discussion groups.

To achieve these role, DairyTas continues to work alongside industry partners including the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, TasTAFE and the Tasmanian Government. Priorities for program delivery are identified via a number of industry led engagement activities and incorporated into an annual operating plan, which outlines resource allocation for the year.

Tasmania is uniquely positioned to champion sustainability, with its natural advantages, including good soils and access to water, biosecurity advantages of being an island and a climate that suits pasture-based dairying.

Industry Snapshot

Tasmania	
Farms	365
Milk production	887 million litres
% of national production	10.4 per cent
DairyTas herd	173,506 cows
Average herd size	475 cows
People employed	2,400

**For more
information,
please visit:
dairytas.com.au**

Upcoming Events



Please visit Tasmanian Irrigation's website at www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au to ensure you stay up to date with the latest information about existing operational irrigation schemes and Tranche Three projects.

And don't forget to follow Tasmanian Irrigation on Facebook.

Forecast upcoming events include:

2pm on 23 December 2022

Greater South East Irrigation Scheme Water Sales Close

Late 2022

Lake Leake Dam Successful Tenderer Announced

Early 2023

Greater Meander Augmentation Tenders Open

Energy on Farms Solar Project Tenders Open

Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme Tenders Open

Lake Leake Dam construction commences



Tasmanian Irrigation

For more information about this newsletter, please contact:

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