

## DON IRRIGATION WATER SALES LAUNCHED

Tasmanian Irrigation is delighted to today open water sales for the new 5,000 ML Don Irrigation Scheme.

Approximately 400 letters have been posted to landowners in the Don, Lillico, Forth, Forthside, Melrose, Lower Barrington, Barrington, Sheffield and West Kentish areas, inviting applications for high-surety irrigation water to expand and diversify agricultural businesses.

More than 4,670 ML of irrigation water was requested during the Expression of Interest process. Tasmanian Irrigation's preferred scheme design is based on evenly delivering water over a 180-day long irrigation season via two pump stations, two balance tanks, 67km of pipeline and 80 property outlets.

Tasmanian Irrigation Chief Executive Officer Andrew Kneebone said the final design will be based on actual water sales and construction contracts.

Mr Kneebone encouraged all farmers to take advantage of this game-changing \$28.51 million infrastructure project, jointly funded by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments and landowners, which is expected to be commissioned in time to supply irrigation water in the summer of 2022/23.

"This region is highly regarded as one of Australia's most productive vegetable producing areas and with the addition of 95 per cent average annual reliability irrigation water, the brand, reputation and productivity can only grow further."

Mr Kneebone said that due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was impossible to organise a community meeting and roll out the water sales process in a similar manner to previous irrigation schemes.

"However, under the new procedure, landowners who expressed interest in irrigation water during the EOI process will receive the application forms via post, others can download the details from our website [www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au](http://www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au) or they can contact the Tasmanian Irrigation office on (03) 6398-8433 or [enquiries@tasirrigation.com.au](mailto:enquiries@tasirrigation.com.au) to request an application."

The Don Irrigation Scheme water entitlement price has been set at \$1,425 per megalitre and the minimum purchase is 10 ML, followed by increments of 5 ML thereafter. Water sales applications will close on 11 June. Each application will be assessed by Tasmanian Irrigation by 30 September and once approved, a binding agreement will be entered into.

Once the final size of the scheme is determined and the final design agreed, a range of approvals and permits will be applied for, such as threatened species, development applications, water agreements with Hydro Tasmania, cultural heritage, Aboriginal heritage, Crown Land and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. Construction is scheduled to commence in early to mid 2021.

Any landowner requiring additional information should contact Tasmanian Irrigation Don Irrigation Scheme Project Manager Alan Colson on 0418 134 571 or [alan.colson@tasirrigation.com.au](mailto:alan.colson@tasirrigation.com.au)

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