



February 2025

Hi everyone.

Late last year we wrote to you to let you know that funding commitments have been secured for the Greater South East Irrigation Scheme (GSEIS).

The announcement of a [Federal funding commitment](#), on top of the commitment already secured from the Tasmanian Government, has given us confidence to accelerate work on the project.



Project Manager, Lorrienne Lyte

Since the announcement in mid-November we have been preparing for the commencement of our design partner, progressing further work on environmental studies, and preparing for a second water sales period. We are also starting to recruit to build a project team to deliver this large and complex project.

The Greater South East Irrigation Scheme will be the 19th irrigation scheme built by Tasmanian Irrigation, and the biggest in terms of kilometres of pipeline – totalling 160 kilometres.

I want to again thank everyone who helped with the push to secure funding to build the project. We're very grateful for the ongoing support of industry bodies and irrigators in the south east.

Tasmanian Irrigation will be providing regular updates to keep you up to date with project milestones.

Building the project team

As many of you know, I am a consultant with Sugden and Gee and was engaged by Tasmanian Irrigation in 2021 to lead the GSEIS project through feasibility studies, business case development and public funding approval.

Now the project has successfully achieved these milestones, Tasmanian Irrigation is moving forward with recruiting internal resources to key project roles. Over the coming months you will see several roles advertised to build out the project team.

In the meantime, I will be continuing as the interim project manager to ensure a smooth transition while maintaining momentum. We expect to have the project team in place by May along with the establishment of a Hobart based project office.

For any questions, I'm still your main contact – so don't hesitate to reach out.

Launch of water sales

Next week, Tasmanian Irrigation will launch a second round of water sales for the GSEIS. These water sales will be open to both landholders and investors. This is your opportunity to buy water entitlements in the scheme, and to convert your existing entitlements (on South East Stages 1, 2 or 3) to the new scheme.

The water sales period will open on 19 February and close on 17 April. During this period, you will be able to purchase entitlements at the lowest price at which Tasmanian Irrigation will sell water entitlements in the scheme. This price is only guaranteed during the water sales period.

We will soon be distributing a water sales information pack that will include detail of the offer and advice on how to convert and / or buy water entitlements. You will receive this information pack directly by email, or by post if you have specifically requested that. All documents will also be available on the Tasmanian Irrigation website from 12 noon on 19 February.

Accepted applicants from the first round of water sales do not need to re-apply.

We'll also be hosting a series of drop in days where you can talk directly to the project team and get assistance to complete your application. And we will be holding a field day where experts in on-farm irrigation and agronomy will be available to discuss ways to utilise scheme water on your farm.

Stay tuned for further updates regarding the dates, times and locations of these events. And check the GSEIS project page on the Tasmanian Irrigation website from 12 noon on 19 February to access the water sales pack. Check the [GSEIS project page](#) on the Tasmanian Irrigation website.

What difference can water make?

When Australia's largest pineapple and leading mango grower decided to search for additional land to grow raspberries and strawberries, they looked to the south east of Tasmania. It ticked all their "not negotiable" boxes:

- Access to secure irrigation water
- A reliable workforce
- A temperate climate for extended seasonal supply opportunities, and
- Reduced biosecurity risks.

That's why Orielton, located 10 kilometres north west of Sorell, was selected for an initial 40-hectare land purchase. It was quickly followed by a neighbouring 50 hectares to plant premium raspberry and strawberry varieties.

Gavin Scurr, Managing Director of Piñata Farms whose father founded the company in Queensland in 1965, is now keenly awaiting the construction of the Greater South East Irrigation Scheme.



The South East offers a climate perfect for extending raspberry growing periods.

[Read more about Gavin's plans with GSEIS water](#)

Key contacts

Lorrienne Lyte

Project Manager

[0418 846 369](tel:0418846369)

lorrienne.lyte@tasirrigation.com.au

Liesa Kennedy

Communications Liaison

[0460 343 106](tel:0460343106)

liesa.kennedy@tasirrigation.com.au

Jacob Gerke

*General Manager,
Program Development and
Delivery*

[0429 978 313](tel:0429978313)

jacob.gerke@tasirrigation.com.au



The Greater South East Irrigation Scheme project is jointly funded by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments, and delivered in partnership with Tasmanian Irrigation. Australian Government funding is provided through the National Water Grid Fund.

Total Project Cost: \$301 million

Federal Government Funding Allocation: \$150 million

State Government Funding Allocation: \$75 million

Irrigator contribution, through the purchase of water entitlements.



Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)
