



Don Irrigation Scheme

Business Case Submitted

January has seen a busy start to the year with acting Project Manager Tegan Lovell finalizing water sale Contracts ready for finalization and execution. Jacob Tierney has joined TI and will be the full time Project Manager going forward following the resignation of Alan Colson late in 2020. The project Business Case has been submitted for funding approval. Finalisation of the preliminary design is underway to enable the approval process to be completed.

Pipeline to Prosperity Update

Tasmanian Irrigation has successfully constructed 10 irrigation schemes as part of Tranche One and delivered a further four under Tranche Two with the fifth currently being commissioned. The combined capacity of these schemes allows the delivery of in excess of 150,000 ML of high reliability irrigation water annually.

Of the current 10 schemes being investigated as part of Tranche Three five are being progressed as part of phase one. These five schemes consist of Don, Northern Midlands, Tamar, Sassafra Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Augmentation and Fingal.

Don is the first scheme to complete water sales. Both the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme and Fingal now have approved preferred options and the remaining two schemes are at various stages working towards preferred options.

Approvals

TI will shortly be contacting landholders to discuss field inspections of the revised pipeline route to enable the approval process to be completed.

The approval process will involve the finalization of ecological and heritage surveys, geotechnical investigations and local government approval. Once these tasks are complete tenders will be issued for construction.

As stated in the previous newsletter the locations for the pump stations and balance tanks remain unchanged.

Design Key Features (refer to map over page)

- Scheme size 4,750ML
- Peak flow rate 39.58ML/day
- Two pump stations, two balance tanks and 56km of pipelines including transfer pipelines.
- 180 day delivery period over a Summer Irrigation Season. Option for a future winter irrigation season given adequate future demand.

Focus Ahead

Finalisation of water purchase entitlements contracts is currently underway. The focus is now on the approvals to ensure construction can commence in 2021. Following a meeting with the scheme IRC TI intends to hold a meeting with the scheme irrigator group to brief the group on the plan ahead with a particular focus on the work required to be completed prior to construction commencing.

Farm Water Access Plans

Irrigators using water from schemes developed by Tasmanian Irrigation are required to have in place Farm Water Access Plans (Farm WAPs) prior to delivery from a scheme. Farm WAPs are a practical way to address land, water and biodiversity sustainability issues within the Tasmanian farming landscape. They are property-specific plans which demonstrate that the intended application of irrigation water will be sustainable and highlight best management practices for the property.

The minimum requirement is to develop a Farm WAP to cover the area of land and dams directly affected by the proposed irrigation, using soil, water and biodiversity planning tools. Farm WAPs are completed by pre-qualified consultants to ensure the Farm WAP is developed by someone suitably qualified, competent, with appropriate experience. Once developed amendments can be arranged by the irrigator, and updates regarding best management practices can occur, however they are designed to be flexible with cropping/land use changes over the life of the scheme. The Farm WAP process is managed by the TI Environment Team who will be in contact with Irrigators prior to commissioning of the scheme.

Covid-19 & Tasmanian Irrigation

During these uncertain times we wish to advise that we are trying to keep things as normal as we can. We are still working, albeit remotely but also at the office with staff numbers limited. Field work is continuing.

In order to keep our staff and customers safe much of our communication will continue to be electronic and ask that you provide email and/or phone contact details if you haven't already if you wish to keep in touch.

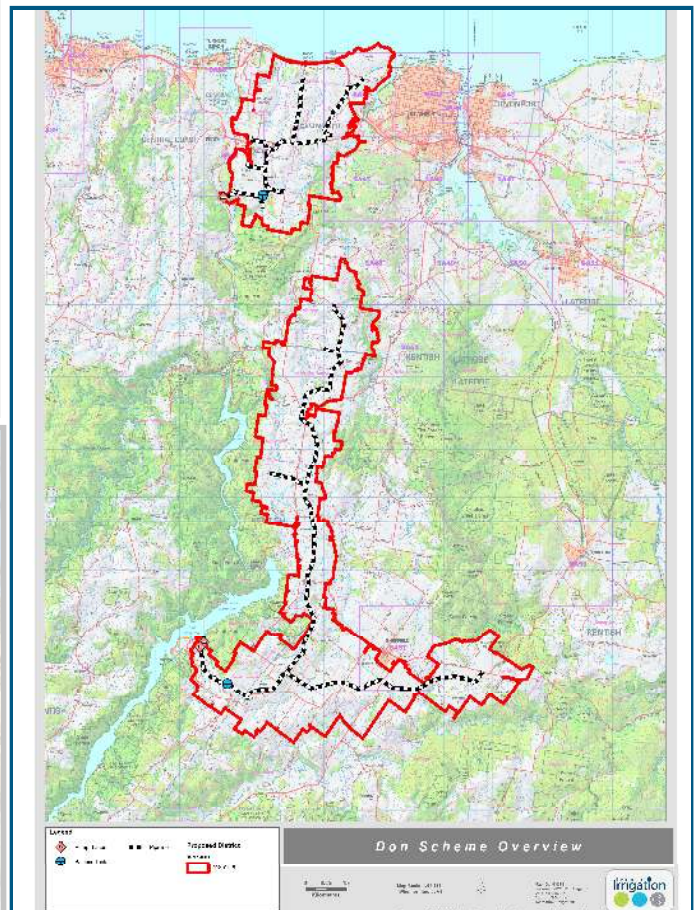
Scheme Contacts

Don Irrigator Representative Committee (IRC)

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Melina Burbury (Chair) | 0417 519 093 |
| Allan Boyce | 0427 303 311 |
| Hamish Yaxley | 0437 120 590 |
| Marcus Harris | 0407 872 024 |
| Michael Badcock | 0438 282 439 |
| Neil Armstrong | 0419 180 095 |
| Randal Parker | 0408 241 786 |

TI Project Manager

Jacob Tierney - 0400 068 869



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:

Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd, PO Box 84 Evandale, TAS, 7212.

Ph: 03 6398 8433 www.tasirrigation.com.au

If you received this newsletter by email but would prefer to receive it via post please contact **Jacob Tierney** at jacob.tierney@tasirrigation.com.au



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