

# Tasmanian Irrigation

## Duck Irrigation Scheme - September 2015

**Given the overwhelming response** to the second round of water sales for the Duck Irrigation Scheme, Tasmanian Irrigation (TI) is proceeding with the design and approvals stage for the 5200 megalitre (ML) scheme.

This section of the Circular Head Irrigation Scheme that TI had originally proposed will store winter water from the Duck River in the to-be-constructed Mill Creek Dam and release it in the summer by river flow and 60 km of pipeline to farming districts from Edith Creek to Irishtown, Forest and Montagu in the north.

In May 2015 TI redesigned the Duck Irrigation Scheme, with new studies of hydrology and transmission loss estimates, to provide 5000 ML from the Duck River. The water sales threshold to ensure its economic viability was set at 4500 ML. The second round of water sales brought new applications exceeding 2300 ML, bringing the total to well over 5100 ML, thus over-subscribing the scheme.

### Ground Truthing

We will now devote substantial effort to a 'ground truthing' exercise, in which we will discuss with every landowner within the construction footprint the most practical, convenient and cost-effective location for pipes, outlets and pump stations. Through this process we also gain a better understanding of road and creek crossings and the location of underground services notwithstanding a dial-before-you-dig request is made before any of the geotechnical test-pitting starts. This process is well underway and the support from landowners in the district is most appreciated.

### Further Work

All schemes have to comply with the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. TI is, therefore, collating information towards that end as well as towards securing the dam works permit and local council approval. The data include studies of flora, fauna

and heritage values over the whole construction footprint.

Specialist consultants will be engaged in coming months and will make contact before entering anyone's land. Surveys have already started on the proposed Mill Creek Dam footprint.

Geotechnical surveys on the dam, pipeline and pump station footprint will occur later in the year when ground conditions allow. This will give us a better understanding of the underlying geology to be incorporated into the design and to inform tendering contractors next year.

### Business Case

A key component of any scheme is its business case. This document outlines a scheme's social, environmental and economic benefits. It is crucial to unlocking funds from the Tasmanian and Australian governments. Conditional approval of the business case sets out the framework to proceed with the scheme. The business case is being finalised and, upon TI board approval, will be presented to government.

### Completion Date

All being well, TI would hope to have construction started in December 2016 and completed in time for the 2017/18 irrigation season.

## Scheme Contacts

Paul Ellery (TI)	0427 053 807
Mike Buckby (chair)	0408 174 980
Tom Hofing	0418 109 881
John Van Adrichem	0428 596 376
John McNab	0408 576 336
Harry Korpershoek	0417 306 816
Neil Innes-Smith	0427 507 299

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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 would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically please email [amy.grubb@tasirrigation.com.au](mailto:amy.grubb@tasirrigation.com.au)



An Australian Government Initiative



Launch of 2nd Round Water Sales







## DUCK IRRIGATION SCHEME



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Map Scale: 1:100,000  
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