Scheme update

Construction of the Duck Irrigation Scheme (DUCK) is progressing well. The TI Duck Team has welcomed a new face with Project Engineer, Michael Holmes joining the team. Michael has experience in pipelines and the gas industry and extensive experience in the commissioning phase of projects. The TI Duck Team has also bid farewell to former Project Manager Ian Jaeche. The TI team thank Ian for his contribution to the project during his time at TI and wish him well with his future endeavours.

Pipelines

The Irishtown alignment is now complete and only small sections remain on the Forest and Edith alignments and less than 3km remains on the Mella alignment as of mid May. Construction is underway on the Forest Balance Tank with completion expected late May and completion of the Mella Balance Tank shortly after.

The Edith Pump Station (EPS) shed has been erected and the submersible pumps were installed into the precast concrete intake structures during the last week of April. Completion of the EPS will allow for the commissioning of the dam and first fill to commence. The Smithton Pump Station has had the slab pour for the shed completed and precast concrete intake structures installed.

Commissioning and water delivery

Commissioning of the scheme is expected mid-year, for those who have purchased entitlements or additional connection points within the scheme this also means that the outstanding balances can be expected for payment around September/October. The project remains on target to open the inaugural irrigation season in December 2018.
Mill Creek Dam—wall

Construction of the dam has progressed significantly with the inundation area cleared and the dam wall nearing the final stages of completion.

By mid May approximately 340,000m³ of material had been placed with around 10,000m³ of material left to place. The rip rap, larger diameter rock material used to protect the dam wall against erosion created by wave action of the water produced by winds, is now also being placed.

Mill Creek Dam—Spillway

The spillway of the Mill Creek Dam is a significant structure comprised of approximately 1450m³ of concrete. As a result of such a large volume of concrete a small concrete batch plant has been erected on site. As at the start of May around 700m³ of concrete had already been poured in the spillway chute floor and stilling basin.

Scheme Operator

The Duck Scheme Operator position will be appointed shortly and commence with Tasmanian Irrigation in June/July this year.