Scheme Update

A considerable amount of work has been completed on the Duck Irrigation Scheme since the last newsletter was published back in September 2015. Following the confirmation of 5,175ML of water sales for the 5,200ML scheme detailed survey works were progressed and the scheme design is now well advanced.

The Duck project team would like to thank the landowners who have assisted TI in the planning process of the scheme and in helping achieve the most appropriate location of the distribution pipeline, pump stations and surge tanks.

Field surveys

Field surveys have progressed since last spring with flora and fauna surveys being completed on the Mill Creek Dam site and transfer and distribution pipelines. European and Aboriginal Heritage surveys have also been completed on the entire construction footprint. Geotechnical investigations have been conducted for the dam and pipelines to assist the detailed design process.

Permits and approvals

Relevant permits and approvals for the scheme are progressing with a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the Mill Creek Dam recently received from Forestry Tasmania. In addition, the Irrigation District application has been lodged and the water licence has been issued by DPIWPE. The Development Application and the Dam Permit Application will be lodged in June 2016 with the EPBC referral (Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999) to be lodged in the coming months following the approval of the Dam Permit Application.

Business Case

The Business Case for the Duck Irrigation Scheme has been lodged with the Government outlining the private sector funding secured through water sales and seeking public funds to meet the total capital cost requirements.

Looking ahead

As permits and approvals progress the focus of the project team will move to the preparation of tender documentation for the construction of the scheme.

The project team aims to begin construction of the scheme over the 2016/2017 summer meaning that final deposit payments (the remaining 8% of the 10% deposit option) will be due in September 2016 pending confirmation of Government funding commitment. This will allow for an inaugural irrigation season over the summer of 2018/2019 with commissioning of the scheme expected around September 2018.
Geotechnical investigations being conducted on the distribution pipeline network.