

October 2020

# Tasmanian Irrigation

Working with Producers to Grow the Wealth of Tasmania

## Fingal Irrigation Scheme

### Fingal Preferred Option

The Preferred Option was launched by the Hon Minister Barnett at the Avoca Memorial Hall on Friday 18 September.

The current preferred option for the scheme is a larger 12,600ML riparian delivery, South Esk only scheme.

Key aspects of the scheme include:

- 12,600ML of entitlements will be sold for \$1,390/ML during the water sales period. However, the price of entitlements will increase annually in accordance with the cost of debt once the scheme is operational;
- A water sales threshold of 50%, representing 6,300ML for the scheme to progress;
- Total OPEX is estimated to be \$107/ML with full uptake of the 12,600ML of entitlements (if the 50% threshold of 6,300ML only is sold then the OPEX is estimated to be \$169.46/ML); and
- 150-day irrigation season nominally from November through to March annually with water being able to be taken over a 120-day delivery period within this.

Community feedback on the preferred option is encouraged and has been extended until Monday 2 November 2020. It should be noted however that feedback regarding the scheme is always welcomed. The form for this, along with additional information regarding the preferred option, can be found on the TI website at:

<https://www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au/schemes/fingal>

or by contacting the project manager, Tegan Lovell on the contact details provided overleaf.

### Water sales

It is wonderful to see good recent rainfall in the district which would be welcomed by many and should set most producers up for a great upcoming season. Given these good events, and in consultation and agreement with the Working Group, it is now intended that water sales will commence in February 2021 following the conclusion of the busier period for most producers and when scheme water is closer to the forefront of peoples minds. This will also ensure that transmission losses in the South Esk River are defined and the preliminary geotechnical investigations at the proposed dam site will be complete. The water sales period will run for four (4) weeks once opened.

### South Esk River Transmission Losses

The transmission loss assessment for the South Esk River is underway with field verification of reaches undertaken and development of a conceptual model now being conducted.

It is envisaged that this study will allow for an adaptive transmission loss calculation which will take into consideration the distance from the dam release to the offtake point, the time of the year and the flows in the river, both with and without water releases.

### 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.



Fingal Irrigation Scheme

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Page 1

## Next steps

In order to progress the scheme there are several things which can be conducted now that a preferred option has been established and prior to water sales commencing, especially as the scheme is riparian delivery only.

### Dam concept design and geotechnical investigations

Works for the concept dam design and preliminary geotechnical investigations have been awarded and are now underway. These works will assist in refining a concept design for the dam and better understanding the quantities and types of material required for construction in addition to providing an estimate as to how much material is available within or adjacent to the site.

### Surveys

Other tasks which need to be conducted to progress the scheme are flora and fauna and Aboriginal and historic heritage surveys. Flora and fauna surveys must be conducted over the summer period as this is the only time in which some species of flora can be easily identified. It is also advantageous to conduct Aboriginal and historic heritage surveys over the summer period when vegetation is reduced as it makes it easier for experts to survey the area.

These surveys will be conducted over the 2020/21 period and may result in minor amendments to scheme design.

### Covid-19 & Tasmanian Irrigation

During these uncertain times we wish to note that we are trying to keep things as normal as we can. We are still working, albeit remotely.

In order to keep our staff and customers safe much of our communication over the next few months will be electronic and ask that you provide email and/or phone contact details if you haven't already so we can keep in touch.

## Scheme Contacts

### Fingal Irrigator Representative Committee

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### TI Project Manager

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### Fingal Area of Interest



A map and additional information on the Fingal Irrigation Scheme (FIN) can be found on the TI website at:

[www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au/schemes/fingal](http://www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au/schemes/fingal)

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:

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If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via post please contact Tegan Lovell on 0407 678 314 or at [Tegan.lovell@tasirrigation.com.au](mailto:Tegan.lovell@tasirrigation.com.au)



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