Scheme update

There has been a significant amount of visible progress in the scheme since our last newsletter with a host of permits and approvals being sought for the scheme.

- Development Approval from both the Northern Midlands Council and Launceston City Council has been received;
- The appropriate heritage, flora and fauna permits have been applied for and granted for construction;
- Assessment of the scheme under the Environment Protection and Diversity Conservation Act (EPBC) has been completed with the scheme deemed “Not a Controlled Action”; and
- Construction contracts for the scheme have been tendered in two parts
  - Construction of the 5,200ML dam on the Dalness property; and
  - Construction of the pump stations.

Tendered prices for these two contracts are within budget which is a significant milestone in the development of the scheme which starts to bring the scheme into reality. The final Government approval to proceed has now been sought.

Construction

With the successful tendering of works, the construction timing is now much clearer. The first phase for construction will be the finalisation of the detailed designs and construction drawings. This is expected to take several months to get the final detail required to enable the on-ground works to commence. During this period, the contractors will be visiting site to establish final locations and to meet with landholders to understand their farm needs and discuss the construction process. The contractors will complete a Landholder access agreement with each property holder to confirm what works are proposed, the location of infrastructure to be installed, the location of existing farm infrastructure to be worked around, timing and restoration. These agreements form the cornerstone of the final agreements with landholders that work has been completed as agreed and expected.

Farm Water Access Plans (FarmWAP)

Farm WAP’s are required to be completed and in place prior to being able to receive water from a Tasmanian Irrigation Scheme. TI will assist with the preparation of the FarmWAP to get ground work in place for consultants. TI’s FarmWAP team will be in touch well ahead of water being available, to assist irrigators in the preparation of these documents. Timing for this is likely to be starting over the next few months.

TasWater Weir, the North Esk pump station will be immediately upstream
Irrigator Contributions

The progression of the scheme to the construction phase also raises the payment timing for irrigators. The next 8% payment (for those who have selected the 10% deposit option) will likely be called in September with invoices being issued soon. The final payment (75% or 90%) will be called when the scheme is commissioned. This is expected to be in December 2018.

Water Trading

There has been some change in landholdings within the district resulting in landholders wanting to re-assign their water. The full payment of the deposits means that water allocations can be traded or assigned. It is important to ensure that the correct forms and process is undertaken to transfer water entitlements. The forms can be obtained from Tasmanian Irrigation. It is also important to understand that the liability for the water remains with the original applicant until fully paid for.

For landholders wanting to buy or sell water, we draw your attention to the Water Trading Noticeboard located on the Tasmanian Irrigation website: http://www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au/index.php/buy-trade-search.