Tasmanian Irrigation recently hosted the Irrigator Working Group and visiting poppy field officers on a tour of the $57.3 million Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme.

The 2 August site inspection included a viewing of work completed to date on the 9,300 ML Camden Rivulet Dam, the St Patricks River Pump Station and the Headquarters Road Dam offtake siphon.

TI’s Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme Project Manager Andy Corbould said it was encouraging to hear the positive feedback from local farmers and business people, who are already gearing up and sharing plans to expand, diversify and value add.

“Tasmanian Irrigation remains on track for water deliveries from the Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme to commence in February 2020.

“The Camden Rivulet Dam construction is complete and the dam is filling with approximately 4,000 ML stored to date. More than 130,000 cubic meters of earth and clay sourced on site have been used to construct the dam, which is 580m long and 19m high. About 1,400 cubic metres of concrete was utilised for the spillway, which is 10m wide and 100m in length.

“Our contractors Hazell Bros and Hall Earthmoving have done a great job on the dam and are rightly proud of their work.”

Those inspecting the scheme were told that the lake will have a surface area of 200 hectares at full supply and the dam will be filled by approximately 40 per cent natural inflows from Camden Rivulet and 60 per cent pumped from the St Patricks River Pump Station.

In winter, about one third of natural inflows will be allowed to pass through the dam as environmental flows, and in summer all inflows will pass transparently through the dam.

Working Group Chair Michael Coote said it was impressive to see the degree of consideration given to the management of environmental flows.

“The inclusion of the large capacity filter, which will ensure that any weed seeds are prevented from being passed through the system, is a valuable bio-security measure for our region,” Mr Coote said.
In other works:

- VEC Civil Engineering has progressed the St Patricks River Pump Station civil works to completion, and the shed, pumps and pipework are now being installed;
- The 900mm diameter floating siphon pipe has been installed in Headquarters Road Dam to allow gravity supply to the distribution pipelines;
- 55km of pipeline has been installed out of the 92km to be laid in total, and crews are currently working in areas of North Scottsdale, Springfield, Jetsonville and the Camden; and
- New power poles have been installed along East Diddleum Road, between Springfield and St Patricks River Pump Station, as well as conduit for the underground powerline and fibre-optic cable up the steep Sideling section above the power station.

The next few months will see:

- The continuation of pipelaying around Scottsdale and along East Diddleum Road;
- The installation of air-valves, scour-valves and 105 property outlets through which 86 farmers will take their water; and
- Construction of the power station and penstock pipeline.

The Irrigator Working Group encourages all community members to consider how they will best utilise this irrigation water to enhance economic development in the region.

Any person interested in securing water remaining in the scheme should contact Andy Corbould on 6398-8433.
Update on New Tasmanian Irrigation Projects

Tasmanian Irrigation successfully constructed 10 irrigation projects as part of Tranche One, and a further four (plus Scottsdale under construction) as part of Tranche Two. These schemes have the capacity to deliver more than 150,000 ML of high-reliability irrigation water. The Tasmanian and Australian Governments have just committed $170 million towards Tranche Three, known as Pipeline to Prosperity.

This will enable another five irrigation projects to be constructed, as well as additional planning to be completed on a further five projects.

The five projects currently being assessed as part of phase one of Tranche Three are: Don; Northern Midlands; Tamar; Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Augmentation and Fingal.

Further planning and consultation is underway to assess a further five possible schemes as part of phase two of Tranche Three.

Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme Contacts

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Tasmanian Irrigation looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively and cooperatively with all farmers in the Scottsdale area and other key stakeholders to deliver a scheme designed to last at least 100 years and deliver water at an average reliability of more than 95 per cent.