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**September 2024**

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Hi everyone — Lorrienne Lyte here, Project Manager for the Greater South East Irrigation Scheme project.

I'm very happy to advise that the Tasmanian Government has this week submitted a revised funding bid for construction of the Scheme to the Federal Government.



This is an important development in terms of securing full funding for the Scheme to go ahead, in the wake of commitment of its share of the funding by the Tasmanian Government.

On behalf of the team at Tasmanian Irrigation, I want to thank farmers for their commitment to the project.

Work is continuing to progress development of the project, and I look forward to being able to provide more updates in coming months.

## **The Greater South East Irrigation Scheme**

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The GSEIS will integrate the three existing irrigation schemes in the region and bring more than 30,000 ML of new water into the area - more than quadrupling the combined capacity of the existing schemes. That will enable diversification of

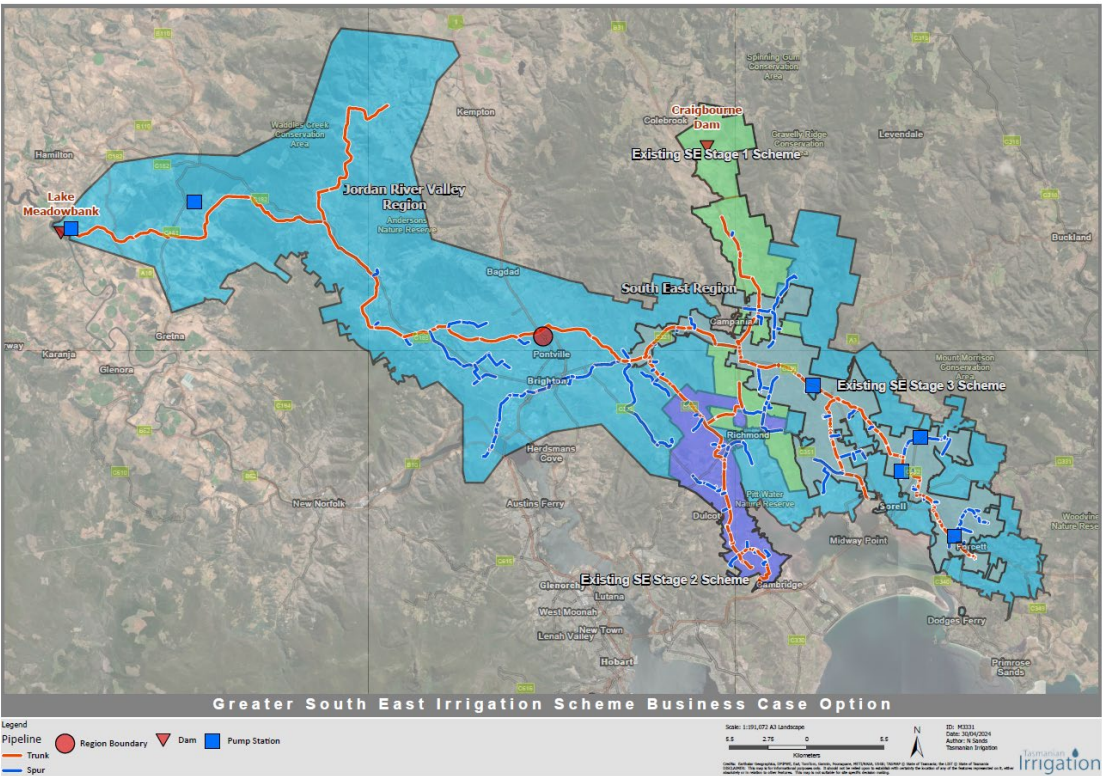
**Project Fact Box**

**Scheme capacity:** 18,600 megalitres in each delivery period (summer + winter)  
**Number of irrigators:** < 300  
**Number of new irrigators:** 120  
**Kilometres of pipeline:** 160  
**Pump Stations:** 4  
**Construction start target:** Early 2028  
**Commissioning target:** Early 2030

farming activity, increase drought security and climate change resilience, and provide reliable, affordable water for farming.

The Scheme will not only bring water surety to farmers but deliver a net economic benefit of \$291 million to the State. It will also create 225 construction jobs and 468 direct and indirect ongoing jobs.

You can read about the GSEIS in more detail on the [Tasmanian Irrigation website](#).



## Funding

The Tasmanian Government announced its funding for the 37,200-megalitre project during this year’s State election campaign.

This commitment was reinforced in this month’s State Budget, with an allocation of \$75 million included in the [Budget Papers](#).

The Government has noted that this funding is contingent on the Australian Government committing its share of the capital cost of the project.

The revised funding submission to the Australian Government was developed following receipt of feedback on where the original

submission could be strengthened. The submission was amended to more fully align with key Australian Government policy priorities, including [Future Made in Australia](#) and its [Nature Positive Plan](#).

We look forward to a positive outcome from the Australian Government's consideration of the revised funding bid.

## Project activity

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While we wait to hear the outcome of our bid for full funding for the GSEIS, work is continuing to progress the project.

We are currently undertaking season-dependent ecological surveys and targeted assessments to understand the environmental values present in the proposed Scheme footprint, particularly the Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) protected under the [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#) (EPBC Act).

These ecological field surveys will assist to undertake further design work to avoid impacts on MNES and develop suitable safeguards and mitigation measures.

We are liaising with landowners across the Scheme area as we continue to develop a Scheme footprint which would have the least impact on landowners while ensuring that impacts on heritage and environmental values, and the community, are also minimised.

We continue to work with TasWater to smooth the impact of price rises associated with delivering existing Stage 2 and 3 water rights. The impact of the first of these rises, which came into effect at the start of this financial year, has been mitigated by the removal of the interim loan interest charges for this year.

The project team has also been finalising the water sales acceptance process and we thank all applicants for their assistance with this process.



Lorrienne discussing the scheme with Matthew Pooley at Pooley Wines Butchers Hill vineyard.

## Key contacts

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Engineering surveys along the alignment.

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