



Tasmanian Irrigation

SHIS Newsletter #2 2017

Construction of the Southern Highlands Irrigation Scheme (SHIS) is now complete. Practical Completion has been issued to both construction contractors and Tasmanian Irrigation (TI) has had operational control of the scheme since July 2017. The scheme is now commissioned and ready to deliver water. The SHIS is the first Tranche Two scheme to be completed and the benefits to the Bothwell community are already becoming apparent. In August the scheme began initial operations, with pre-season water delivered to some Irrigators to meet early crop demands. The priority is the 2017/18 irrigation season and TI has progressively been filling the Southernfield Dam since July in preparation for a busy season.



Southernfield Dam crest and storage October 2017

Southernfield Dam

Construction of the Southernfield Dam was completed on 22 June 2017 by the construction contractor Gradco. The dam is a clay core earth filled dam with vertical and horizontal filters. It is 26m high with a crest length of 495m. Over winter and throughout spring TI has been progressively filling the dam from winter flows from the Shannon River.

Construction time for the dam was a little over 12 months. The dam is performing well and currently holds nearly 4,700ML. All works are complete except for fencing of the impoundment which should be completed by Summer.

Pumps and Pipelines

Andrew Walter Constructions (AWC) completed construction of the pump stations and pipelines on 21 July 2017. The scheme includes three pump stations, 58km of pipeline and 35 property outlets. The Shannon River Pump Station (SRPS) has been filling the Southernfield Dam and given adequate flows in the Shannon River will continue to do so to 30 November. All the infrastructure is commissioned with AWC progressively rectifying minor defects since Practical Completion was issued. Irrigators have been connecting up to their property outlets. There has been a substantial change in the Bothell landscape with many on-farm systems being installed.



Shannon River Pump Station



Application of pre-season SHIS water at *Montacute Hollow* Tree Road

2017/18 Irrigation Season and Pre-Season Water

The 2017/18 irrigation season will open on 1 November 2017. Irrigators should have now been contacted by TI requesting intended water usage for the season. At the request of some of the scheme irrigators the scheme has been providing small volumes of pre-season water to some Irrigators since August. Pre-season water has been delivered to Hollow Tree and to the east of Bothwell along the B2 pipeline.

Scheme Operator and Water Orders

Robert Stacey has joined TI as the SHIS Scheme Operator. Robert comes to TI having worked in the gas industry as a Supervisor based in Northern Tasmania. He previously was engaged by AWC on the construction of the scheme, so comes to TI with a good knowledge of the scheme infrastructure and Bothwell area. Robert is the best contact in regard to water orders and general enquiries. Water Orders for the 2017/18 irrigation season can be made by email shis@tasirrigation.com.au, the TI website (www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au) or contact Robert directly on his mobile.

Farm Water Access Plan (FarmWAPs)

Before water from any TI scheme can be utilised and applied to land the area must first be covered by an approved Farm Water Access Plan (FarmWAP). FarmWAPs are management tools which demonstrate that the use of TI water is sustainable and complies with Australian and Tasmanian Government requirements. The plans contain soil, water and biodiversity modules and specify management actions where environmental risks associated with irrigation are identified. FarmWAPs are completed by pre-qualified consultants authorised by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water.

In order to ensure compliance TI conducts random audits of FarmWAPs on an annual basis.

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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