

Minister for Primary Industries and Water  
Minister for Disability Services  
Minister for Women  
Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence  
Deputy Leader in the Legislative Council



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Hon Tania Rattray MLC  
Chair  
Legislative Council Select Committee  
Government Businesses Scrutiny 'B'  
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Dear Chair

I refer to your letter of 1 December 2022 seeking additional information following Tasmanian Irrigation's hearing before the Legislative Council Select Committee, Government Businesses Scrutiny 'B'.

Below are the following responses to the Questions on Notice.

1. **Provide details for each scheme so far developed, the finalised capital cost and the capital cost contributed by irrigators via the purchase of irrigation entitlements. Can this information be provided on both a per megalitre basis and a total for each scheme.**

See table in Attachment 1.

2. **Identify what proportion of irrigation entitlements, in total and within each scheme, are held by individuals and companies which do not have any direct investment in agriculture within the scheme area.**

At initial water sales, prior to the construction of a scheme, water entitlements are only sold to land holders or those with a direct connection (ie lease) to the land within the planned irrigation district. This can be the landowners themselves or businesses that lease the land at the time.

The only exception to this rule is if the water sales threshold required to make the project viable cannot be met. At this point, water entitlements can be offered to other interested parties who may not have a direct connection to the land. This has happened on three schemes to date:

- Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme – Dorset Council purchased 642ML of 8,600ML (7%)
- Midlands Irrigation Scheme – One investor purchased 5,884ML of 38,500 (15%)
- Lower South Esk Irrigation Scheme – One investor purchased 2,597 of 5,298 (49%)

After a scheme is commissioned there are no limitations placed on who can purchase or trade water and Tasmanian Irrigation does not keep records on whether the entities holding the water have a direct investment in agriculture within the scheme area.

3. Farm Water Access Plans – please provide an explanation as to why Farm WAPs are not available in the public domain in some form?

Farm Water Access Plans are controlled, confidential documents. The content of the Farm WAP is owned by the individual property owner and as such cannot be shared in the public domain without permission from each individual. Tasmanian Irrigation provides general information in our Annual Report about Farm Water Access Plans, including how many new plans are in development, the total number in place, and an overview of our audit program across the Farm Water Access Plans and broad findings. We also provide information on our water monitoring programs, which is an indication of the effectiveness of Farm Water Access Plans in achieving our environmental objectives

I trust this information is of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Hon Jo Palmer MLC  
**Minister for Primary Industries and Water**

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Tranche	Scheme Name	Capacity (ML)	Total Scheme Build Cost (\$M)	Cost to Build (\$/ML)	Contribution by Irrigator (\$/ML)	Total Irrigator Contribution (\$M)	Percentage Contribution (%)	Volume Sold To Date (ML)
Tranche 1	Dial Blythe	2,855	14.6 M	5,100	1,200	3.4 M	24%	2,855
Tranche 1	Great Forester	1,980	6.2 M	3,119	1,200	2.4 M	38%	1,980
Tranche 1	Kindred North Motton	2,500	10.7 M	4,261	1,200	3.0 M	28%	1,970
Tranche 1	Lower South Esk	5,298	15.0 M	2,834	1,170	6.2 M	41%	5,298
Tranche 1	Midlands	38,500	102.2 M	2,656	1,150	44.3 M	43%	35,086
Tranche 1	Sassafras Wesley Vale	5,460	11.9 M	2,187	1,130	6.2 M	52%	5,460
Tranche 1	Sorell (South East Stage 3)	3,000	32.3 M	10,781	2,700	8.1 M	25%	3,000
Tranche 1	Upper Ringarooma	5,700	27.2 M	4,774	1,200	6.8 M	25%	4,495
Tranche 1	Whitemore	5,500	11.7 M	2,124	1,200	6.6 M	57%	5,500
Tranche 2	Duck	5,200	29.9 M	5,751	1,200	6.2 M	21%	5,170
Tranche 2	North Esk	4,685	27.3 M	5,817	1,500	7.0 M	26%	4,685
Tranche 2	Scottsdale	8,600	60.8 M	7,065	1,400	12.0 M	20%	7,187
Tranche 2	Southern Highlands	7,215	29.7 M	4,123	1,200	8.7 M	29%	7,155
Tranche 2	Swan Valley	2,000	18.7 M	9,365	1,500	3.0 M	16%	2,000
		98,493	398.2 M			124.0 M	31%	91,841