

Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Hospitality and Small Business
Minister for Racing

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26 NOV 2024

Mr Simon Wood MP
Member for Bass
Email via: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Wood *Simon*

Thank you for your constituent question in Parliament on 15 October 2024 on behalf of a constituent as follows:

A local farmer is a beneficiary and customer of the soon to be built Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme on his farm. He is interested about how to utilise water as efficiently as possible to ensure he can maximise his investment but also optimise environmental outcomes on his farm. Can the Minister outline any initiatives to assist my constituent?

I can advise that the Tasmanian Government will invest \$1.6 million into research that will help farmers to understand what influences irrigation efficiency and to adopt practices that minimise environmental impacts.

This project, which will be run by Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) and Tasmanian Irrigation, will deliver improved information about the value of irrigation to Tasmania and how we can make our irrigation systems more effective and efficient.

The project has three practical objectives:

- Determine the value derived from irrigation to Tasmania to inform government policy and funding decisions and to aid farmers in their investment decisions;
- Increase knowledge and adoption of practices that optimise irrigation efficiency; and
- Investigate irrigation management to minimise environmental impacts and maximise economic returns.

Your constituent may like to contact TIA to find out more about this project via www.utas.edu.au/tia

I trust this is of assistance to you and your constituent.

Yours sincerely

Hon Jane Howlett MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water