

Rural Water Use Strategy Progress Report 2025





Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania acknowledges and pays respect to Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land, and acknowledges Elders past and present.

Rural Water Use Strategy Vision

The Rural Water Use Strategy guides Tasmania's future water management arrangements to ensure integrated, fair and efficient regulation of our water resources to deliver sustainable outcomes for rural water users, rural communities and the environment, while maintaining Tasmania's competitive advantages in a changing climate.

Goals



Sustainable management of Tasmania's water resources



Strategic development to maximise opportunities from water resources



Effective regulation, strong entitlements and planning



Optimising services



Minister's Foreword

Harnessing our freshwater capabilities has been a driving force for Tasmania's economy, capability, and longevity.

Through the Rural Water Use Strategy, our Government is strengthening the foundations of sustainable, reliable and transparent water management for all.

I am pleased to present the Rural Water Use Strategy Progress Report for 2025, highlighting the progress the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) has made, with support from other water managers, towards implementing the strategy over the 2024–25 period.

We've seen important work across key areas, including expanding the groundwater monitoring network in the Smithton, Meander and Sassafras Wesley Vale areas, commencing work to improve water security and drought preparedness on King and Flinders Islands and progressing research to support updates to our surface water models.

We have also made substantial progress on implementing 12 of the 23 recommendations from the independent review into Tasmania's water accountability framework.

In 2024–25 our Government committed new funding to water infrastructure, including \$75.3 million towards delivery of the Greater South East Irrigation Scheme. This commitment is in addition to \$150.6 million secured through the Australian Government's National Water Grid Fund and irrigator water sales to the value of \$75.3 million, for delivery of this important project.



We have also secured \$20 million under the Australian Government's National Water Grid Water Infrastructure for Sustainable and Efficient Regions (WISER) initiative to support TasWater to upgrade water infrastructure in Bothwell, Cambridge-Clarence, Ellendale and Oatlands.

Delivery of the strategy continues to rely on strong collaboration and partnerships, and I want to thank the Rural Water Roundtable members, local government, industry groups, natural resource management organisations and the broader community for their ongoing contributions.

To maintain momentum, our Government has extended the Rural Water Use Strategy program, with new and expanded projects set out in the updated Implementation Plan 2025-27. To support ongoing delivery of the Strategy, the Tasmanian Government has committed an additional \$440,000 of investment for NRE Tas to continue this important work. This ensures we continue to strengthen the science base and modernise our systems and policies to provide for the sustainable use and allocation of Tasmania's water resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Pearce'.

Hon. Gavin Pearce MP

**Minister for Primary Industries
and Water**

Rural Water Use Strategy Implementation Context for 2024-25

The Rural Water Use Strategy (RWUS) continues to be led by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) in collaboration with Tasmania's water managers and stakeholders. The RWUS Implementation Plan 2022–2025 has guided delivery to date, with substantial progress on activities that advance the actions outlined in the strategy. Several commitments have been completed, and others have moved into new phases. We are adapting deliverables in response to learnings from science projects and stakeholder input and aligning priorities with partners to maximise benefits for communities, industry and the environment.

The first phase of the RWUS program has focused on building the science and information base to support better decisions and to inform reviews of policy and planning settings. In 2024–25 significant progress was made on Phase 2 of the Catchment Yield Science Update Project, expanding groundwater investigations, completing the design of the collaborative Water Quality Monitoring Program, and commencing the Water Accountability Project to implement strengthened water accountability measures. The schedule of activities for the next phase of the RWUS is outlined in the Implementation Plan 2025–27.

The RWUS continues to be supported by advisory and working groups, including the Rural Water Roundtable and Water Managers and Data Custodians Working Group. In 2025, purpose-specific groups are supporting delivery of new work, including the newly established Water Accountability Working Group and the Bass Strait Islands Water Security Strategies Working Group. Collaboration with other water managers, local government, natural resource management organisations, industry bodies and communities remains central to achieving positive outcomes for water resource management.

Photograph: Poatina weir | Amanda Locatelli, NRE Tas.





Key Achievements 2024-2025

- Commenced development of the Water Accountability Catchment Risk Assessment Framework to underpin fit-for-purpose, risk-based water accountability. Progressed 12 of the 23 recommendations from the Water Accountability Framework review.

- Partnered with the University of Tasmania to commence palaeoclimate (ice-core and tree-ring) research to better understand climate variability in Tasmania to support updates to surface water hydrological models.

- Expanded the groundwater monitoring network with nine new bores installed in the Smithton, Meander and Sassafras–Wesley Vale areas.

- Undertook a survey of over 500 groundwater bores in the Smithton Syncline area, verifying location, status and purpose to build a clearer picture of the groundwater resource and level of its use.

- Engaged with communities on King Island and Flinders Island to better understand water security issues and opportunities on the islands.

- Completed proof-of-concept testing of a platform to progress replacement of the State's water licensing and dam permitting system.

- Completed seasonal biological sampling at 75 sites and monthly water quality sampling at 50 sites statewide to inform understanding the drivers of change in waterway health.

- Continued the long-term River Health Monitoring Program, with sampling completed in spring 2024 and autumn 2025.

- Finalised an agreed statewide and collaborative Water Quality Monitoring Program with key water managers.

- Continued support for the Derwent Estuary Program to deliver the Derwent River monitoring and restoration project under the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program, improving the health of the River Derwent and its estuary.

- Completed an independent review of Tasmania's water management planning framework.

- Secured \$150.6 million from the Australian Government's National Water Grid Fund for Tasmanian Irrigation to construct the Greater South East Irrigation Scheme.

- Secured a further \$20 million from the Australian Government under the National Water Grid Water Infrastructure for Sustainable and Efficient Regions initiative, enabling TasWater upgrades in Bothwell, Cambridge–Clarence, Ellendale and Oatlands.

Rural Water Use Strategy Overview

RWUS Actions		Status	2025-2026	2026-2027	Goals realised
Sustainable water infrastructure					
1	Water infrastructure and security	Ongoing	✓	✓	● ○
2	Emerging water industries	Ongoing	✓	✓	○
New water science and access to information					
3	Catchment yield science update (Phase 2)	On track	✓	✓	●
4	Groundwater assessment	On track	✓	✓	●
5	Bass Strait islands water security strategy	On track	✓	✓	● ○
6	Water accountability framework review	Complete			● □
7	Hydrological monitoring network review	Complete			●
8	Water Information Management System upgrade (Phase 0-1)	On track	✓	✓	● ■
Water resource management policy and legislation review and refresh					
9	Surface water allocation review	On track	✓	✓	● □
10	Water trading review	Complete			● □
11	Water management planning review	On track		✓	● □
12	Water accountability	On track	✓	✓	● □
13	Dam safety regulations	On track	✓		□
14	Irrigator self-management	Complete			□
15	Aboriginal freshwater interests	Ongoing	✓	✓	● □
16	Improving water resource management legislation	On track	✓	✓	● □ ■
Waterway health and water quality					
17	Waterway data coordination and sharing	Complete			● □
18	Drivers of change in waterway health	On track	✓		● □
19	Strategic directions for healthy waterways paper	Scheduled to commence in 2026	✓	✓	● □
20	New statewide water quality monitoring program	On track	✓	✓	● □
21	Ongoing assessment and monitoring	Ongoing	✓	✓	●
22	Derwent River monitoring and restoration	On track	✓	✓	●

Goals key

- Sustainable management of Tasmania's water resources
- Strategic development to maximise opportunities from water resources
- Effective regulation, strong entitlements and planning
- Optimising services

Investing in New Science to Support Long-term Water Security

Effective water management requires reliable data and information. Over the past year we have strengthened our knowledge of surface water and groundwater resources by expanding groundwater monitoring in key locations, and working with the University of Tasmania to understand Tasmania's past climate.

This gives us greater confidence to plan ahead, make management decisions and support Tasmania's communities and industries to access a safe, reliable water supply. In the future, NRE Tas will have improved management of, access to and reporting of information relating to water licences, permitting and accounting with the replacement of Tasmania's water register.

Photograph: Brid River, Bridport | Eli Atherton, NRE Tas.



Science and Information Projects

Yearly Progress Snapshot



Groundwater

Groundwater Assessment

- Continued studies in the Smithton Syncline to improve understanding of the groundwater resource and to inform the Groundwater Risk Assessment Tool.
- In collaboration with Mineral Resources Tasmania, developed a 3D geological model of the Smithton Syncline. The model and report are available via nre.tas.gov.au/rural-water.
- Undertaken a comprehensive survey of over 500 groundwater bores in the Smithton Syncline area, with NRE Tas staff visiting properties over the past nine months to verify bore location, status, purpose and use.
- Expanded the statewide groundwater monitoring network by drilling nine new bores in the Smithton Syncline, Sassafras–Wesley Vale and Meander River areas; data collection from these bores will commence later in 2025.
- This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government through the National Water Grid Fund and the Tasmanian Government, and will continue in 2026.

Bass Strait Islands water security strategies

- This project commenced in 2024 in response to the drought conditions experienced on King Island and Flinders Island.
 - Groundwater investigations are being undertaken to better understand groundwater resources on the islands.
 - Water security strategies will be prepared to outline options such as improved water storage, reticulation and other measures to meet community needs.
 - NRE Tas met with landholders and community members on both islands in June and July 2025 to hear about current challenges and better understand local issues and opportunities.
 - The Bass Strait Islands Water Security Strategies Working Group was established in 2025, comprising TasFarmers, Tas Farm Innovation Hub, King Island Council, Flinders Council, Mineral Resources Tasmania, TasWater, the Department of Premier and Cabinet and NRE Tas. The aims of the group are to provide stakeholder advice on the delivery of project initiatives, focusing on the groundwater assessments and on-island engagement.
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Catchment Yield Science Update

Phase 2

- NRE Tas is working with the University of Tasmania on two paleoclimate research studies to better understand how rainfall in Tasmania might change in the future — by studying climate patterns from the distant past.
- For one study, experts in tree-ring science are collecting and studying tree-ring samples from different places across the State. These rings can show us patterns of wet and dry seasons going back up to 500 years.
- In partnership with the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, researchers in the other study are analysing ice cores to explore how Tasmania’s rainfall may have changed over the last 2,000 years.
- Six surface water models have been updated to prepare for input of new Tasmania-specific climate projections data. A standardised method to update and calibrate the remaining 63 models has been developed. These models will be used to produce updated yield estimates across the State.
- This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government through the National Water Grid Fund and the Tasmanian Government and will continue in 2026.



Water Management Information System (WIMS) Upgrade

- This project will replace the current WIMS to better support the needs of water users and management of Tasmania’s water resources.
- NRE Tas has been undertaking proof-of-concept testing of a new cloud-based system to replace the State’s water register.
- Training in the test system was conducted to familiarise NRE Tas users with the system’s interface and functionality to enable business and administrative operations to be tested.
- So far, the proof-of-concept testing is indicating that the proposed solution would meet current requirements and enable future improvements, providing NRE Tas with a modern, secure, and scalable platform.
- If deemed suitable through the final testing phase, the WIMS Replacement Project will proceed to Phase 1 to update WIMS to a new system delivering improved functionality and modernisation of the licensing and permitting system

Looking After the Health of Our Waterways

Rivers, wetlands and lakes are important features of Tasmania's unique landscape. Strategies to manage the health of the State's waterways are being supported by work under the RWUS. Over the past year we have continued to monitor the long-term health of rivers, designed a new collaborative diffuse water quality monitoring program, and progressed our investigations into drivers of change in waterway health. All of these initiatives will enhance our understanding of waterway health across the State.

Working with Tasmania's water managers, we are sharing knowledge across

organisations in the water sector, identifying issues and information gaps, and focusing on improving our ability to monitor the health of waterways. Alongside statewide monitoring and targeted research, we are also supporting place-based projects, such as restoration and monitoring in the River Derwent, to achieve practical outcomes for the health of waterways.

These initiatives will lead to improved monitoring and reporting, a deeper shared understanding of the health of waterways, and more informed management of waterways and catchments.

Photograph: Macroinvertebrate sampling | Scott Hardie, NRE Tas.



Healthy Waterways Projects

Yearly Progress Snapshot



Statewide Water Quality Monitoring Program

New collaborative water quality monitoring program

- NRE Tas has worked with the Water Managers and Data Custodians Working Group (including Hydro Tasmania, TasWater, Tasmanian Irrigation, Environment Protection Authority Tasmania and the Inland Fisheries Service) to design a new collaborative Water Quality Monitoring Program that will improve and make more efficient, the collection of water quality data statewide.
- With the monitoring site network agreed the parties are now developing an appropriate shared resourcing model with the intent to commence the new collaborative monitoring program in 2026.



Healthy Waterways

Drivers of Change in Waterway Health

- Completed targeted sampling in case study catchments (Pipers River, the upper Ringarooma River, Mountain River and the River Leven) and more broadly across the State to assess how waterways respond to activities in catchments. Measurements in rivers included nutrients, bacteria indicators, water temperature, aquatic macroinvertebrates (waterbugs), riverbed sediment and algae.
- This project will also develop a framework to assess the causes of changes in waterway health when they occur. The framework will provide a standardised approach for identifying changes and guiding responses, linking long-term monitoring results to practical management actions.

Ongoing monitoring and assessment

- Completed statewide monitoring under the long-term River Health Monitoring Program during spring 2024 and autumn 2025.
- Developed a new method for assessing algae on riverbeds to strengthen holistic assessments of river health.
- Collaborated with researchers at CSIRO to increase our understanding of what types of algae occur on riverbeds.



Derwent River Monitoring and Restoration

- NRE Tas has continued to support the Derwent Estuary Program to deliver the Derwent River monitoring and restoration project under the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program.
- Monthly stormwater quality sampling has been completed at 31 sites across 16 urban rivers flowing into the Derwent Estuary.
- Excavation works have been completed to expand the area of tidal inundation and promote passive restoration of the Windermere Bay saltmarsh. Around 750 native plants, including shrubs, rushes, and grasses have been planted, by community volunteers, adjacent to the saltmarsh to provide a buffer to reduce erosion and support biodiversity.
- CSIRO have conducted population and habitat surveys for Spotted Handfish at nine sites across the estuary. Approximately 1,500 artificial habitat structures were installed in five locations in areas of the estuary where the natural habitat is low, to provide additional options for spawning. Fifteen captive-bred juvenile handfish were released into the estuary, using specially constructed 'hotels', to supplement the wild population of Spotted Handfish.

Photograph: River Derwent | Danielle Hardie, NRE Tas.



Taking Water Accountability to the Next Level



Demand and competition for water are increasing as Tasmania's climate changes, the value of our agricultural sector grows, and patterns of use in towns and regions evolve. These pressures call for a strategic, modern approach to water accountability so that use is measured and reported consistently, and decisions remain fair, transparent and sustainable.

Tasmania's Water Accountability Framework has served the State well in low risk, low competition settings however it is recognised it needs to be modernised to meet contemporary and emerging challenges. These challenges include increasing demand and competition for water as some catchments approach full water allocation, the growing needs of water-dependent industries and population growth, the protection of environmental values, and the impacts of climate change on water reliability. NRE Tas has accepted the 23 recommendations of the 2024 independent Review of Tasmania's Water Accountability Framework, which sets a clear roadmap to strengthen accountability and help safeguard water security for businesses, urban water supplies and the environment. Implementation of 12 of the 23 recommendations has commenced and we are working with water managers and stakeholders to deliver the recommendations in stages.

The next stages of the Water Accountability Project are:

1. Development of a Catchment Risk Assessment Framework to apply a risk-based approach to water accountability.
2. Revision of the Tasmanian Water Accountability Framework, including updates to policies covering metering and measurement, and recording and reporting.
3. Updating regulatory systems.

NRE Tas has commenced working with a specialist consultant to develop a statewide Catchment Risk Assessment Framework to inform decisions about water accountability. The accountability measures applied in each catchment will be set according to risk, and fit-for-purpose requirements will be applied to licences, irrigation rights and other access arrangements.

A Water Accountability Working Group has been established, bringing together representatives from Tasmanian Irrigation, Hydro Tasmania, TasWater, TasFarmers and NRE Tas to advise on the Water Accountability Project and its staged implementation. The group has met twice this year to provide input to the development of the Catchment Risk Assessment Framework.

Review and Refresh of Water Management Policies and Projects

Yearly Progress Snapshot



Water Management Planning Review

- An independent review of Tasmania's Water Management Planning Framework has been completed. The review focused on clarifying the role and purpose of water management planning within the broader water management system and identifying practical opportunities to improve the timeliness and efficiency of stakeholder engagement, planning processes and water management outcomes.
- The review found that there is a clear and continued need for water planning, specifically statutory water planning in Tasmania. It verified that Tasmania has the key arrangements in place which can be built upon to ensure our approach to water planning is contemporary and fit for purpose.
- There are a range of projects already underway through the RWUS that will require completion before the findings from the planning review can be taken forward for further consideration and consultation with stakeholders. These include work underway in water accountability, catchment yield science update, and the surface water allocation review.



Water Trading Review

- NRE Tas evaluated policy settings and trading activity across irrigation rights, licensed allocations and transfers via Watercourse Authorities (approval to convey water via a watercourse). Trading remains low overall, with most activity within irrigation schemes or through Watercourse Authorities.
- Water trading is enabled under the *Water Management Act 1999* and supported by the Guiding Principles for Water Trading in Tasmania. Given the low level of trading activity at present, the existing policy settings are fit for purpose and continue to provide clear guidance for trading water entitlements and physical water.
- Through the RWUS, improvements in other parts of the water management framework are expected to enhance incentives for trade and increase awareness of opportunities and constraints. These include stronger water accountability and accounting and the development of a new water register.



Surface Water Allocation Review

- Research and scoping for the review are underway.
- This project will review Tasmania's water allocation policy framework including the *Surface Water Allocation Decision Framework* and Part 6 of the *Water Management Act 1999*.
- Many results from other RWUS projects – including water accountability, catchment risk assessment, the water management planning review, catchment yield science update and the healthy waterways projects – will inform the review of the water allocation approach over the next two years.



Aboriginal Freshwater Interests

- Continued participation in the Inland Waters Target Working Group to develop an approach for an inland waters target as part of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.
- Continued support for the Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Water Interests to help elevate cultural, spiritual, social, economic and environmental interests in national water policies, programs and legislation.
- NRE Tas engaged a consultant to advise on effective engagement planning for Aboriginal freshwater interests. A community workshop was held in November 2024 with Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural practitioners; insights will inform NRE Tas' future work in this area.
- The NRE Tas ecohydrology team spent two days with Tebrakunna Rangers from the Melaythenner Teeackana Warrana (Heart of Country) Aboriginal Corporation (MTWAC) at three long-term River Health Monitoring Program (RHMP) sites in north-east Tasmania, sharing methods and discussing river health and opportunities for further collaboration, including how RHMP results could inform Healthy Country Plans.



National Water Reform

- Participated in intergovernmental working groups and the National Water Committee to help shape a new National Water Agreement aimed at tackling Australia's water challenges and enhancing water security.
- Contributed Tasmanian perspectives on priorities such as climate resilience, Aboriginal water interests, groundwater, regional and urban water security, water quality monitoring and data sharing, and strengthened accountability.

Developing Sustainable Water Industries

Water infrastructure and other water security measures play a key role in providing reliable, sustainable supplies for Tasmania's agriculture and urban water sectors. Working with Tasmanian Irrigation, TasWater, industry partners and the Australian Government, our focus is on planning and progressing priority projects and identifying opportunities that help communities and emerging industries adapt, grow and manage risk in a changing climate.



Lake Leake Dam Life Extension Upgrade - completed

Providing an additional 100 years of life for the asset and securing the ongoing availability of 14,600 megalitres of water per year to local irrigators for crop and livestock production for many years to come.



Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme – construction underway

More than 50 percent of pipes installed underground and the project on track to deliver water to farmers for the 2026 summer irrigation season.



Greater Meander Irrigation Scheme Augmentation - completed

An additional 11,000 megalitres of water being provided to new and existing irrigators in the greater Meander region.



Shellfish Lease Water Quality Improvement Program - completed

Successfully reducing the risk of sewage spills at thirty-three sites across nine Tasmanian shellfish lease areas.



\$20 million funding secured for upgrade of water infrastructure

Funding secured through the Australian Government National Water Grid Water Infrastructure for Sustainable and Efficient Regions initiative to support the upgrade of water infrastructure in Bothwell, Cambridge-Clarence, Ellendale and Oatlands by TasWater.



\$150.6 million funding secured for the Greater South East Irrigation Scheme

Funding secured through the Australian Government's NWGF to support Tasmanian Irrigation's construction of the fundamentally important Greater South East Irrigation Scheme.

Collaboration, Partnerships and Engagement



Delivering the Rural Water Use Strategy is a shared effort. NRE Tas is working with Tasmania's water managers, industry and communities to align priorities, share information and turn evidence into practical action. NRE Tas acknowledges the input from key advisory groups (the Rural Water Roundtable, Water Managers and Data Custodians Working Group, and the newly established Water Accountability Working Group and Bass Strait Islands Water Security Strategies Working Group) supporting the implementation of the strategy.

This year, collaboration focused on progressing science and monitoring, improving information systems, advancing policy reviews and shaping accountability reforms. Engagement with landholders, councils and regional organisations provided local insight and helped shape program design, timelines and communications. This approach builds trust, improves transparency and supports better decisions for people, industry and the environment.

NRE Tas is engaging with stakeholders in the following ways:

- Collaborating with other State Government agencies, the NWGF, CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology and the University of Tasmania for the Catchment Yield Science Update (Phase 2) Project.
- Consultation with councils, landholders and regional organisations through on-island workshops on King Island and Flinders Island, to identify water challenges and issues that will inform the development of local water security strategies.
- Working with technical specialists across other water management organisations (e.g. Environment Protection Authority, TasWater, Hydro Tasmania, Tasmanian Irrigation, Forest Practices Authority) to continue the design of a risk-based, collaborative, diffuse water quality monitoring program and better understand drivers of change in waterway health.
- Partnering with the Derwent Estuary Program and the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program to restore and promote the Derwent Estuary and its connected ecosystems.
- Ongoing collaboration with the Australian Government, TasWater and Tasmanian Irrigation on priority infrastructure and water security initiatives.
- Keeping people informed via SMS around water restrictions, flood and opportunistic takes.
- Working with other states, territories and the Australian Government on national water issues, including the development of a new National Water Agreement.

Looking Forward

Rural Water Use Strategy Implementation Timeline

2025

- Continue Phase 2 of the Catchment Yield Science Update, including developing climate reconstructions for eastern Tasmania using tree-rings and ice-cores.
- Progress the Groundwater Assessment Project including undertaking a study to identify groundwater-dependent ecosystems in the Smithton Syncline area and updating information supporting the Groundwater Risk Assessment Tool.
- Commence Phase 1 of the Water Information Management System (WIMS) replacement project following the completed proof-of-concept phase.
- Continue development of the Catchment Risk Assessment Framework to support risk-based water accountability and other water management activities.
- Remake the *Water Management (Dam Safety) Regulations* which expire in late 2025.
- Progress consideration by the Tasmanian Government of becoming a signatory to a new National Water Agreement.

Photograph: Irrigation system watering crops | Natasha Mulhall.





2026

- Continue Phase 2 of the Catchment Yield Science Update, including commencing integration of new climate projection data.
- Finalise the Groundwater Assessment Project, including a reassessment of the Groundwater Risk Assessment Tool for the Smithton Syncline area.
- Undertake groundwater investigations on King Island and Flinders Island and, working with Mineral Resources Tasmania, develop 3D geological models to better understand and describe the capacity and availability of water resources.
- Continue research into the drivers of change in waterway health, and scope and identify key roles and responsibilities for waterway health management.
- Establish the partnership model and governance to support delivery of a collaborative diffuse water quality monitoring program.
- Monitor the health of Tasmania's rivers through the River Health Monitoring Program (as ongoing core business).
- Continue support for the Derwent Estuary Program to deliver the Derwent River monitoring and restoration project.
- Continue Phase 1 of the Water Information Management System (WIMS) replacement project to upgrade to a new water register.
- Finalise development of the Catchment Risk Assessment Framework and outline next steps for staged implementation.
- Consider findings of the water management planning review through delivery of relevant RWUS projects, including update of progress to stakeholders and commence the review of the Guiding Principles for Water Management Planning policy.
- Undertake consultation on Tasmania's dam safety regulations to ensure they are fit for purpose and update as appropriate.
- Subject to becoming a signatory to the new National Water Agreement, commence work on an Action Plan as required under the new agreement.
- Advance the surface water allocation review.
- Continue engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal people on Aboriginal water interests, including progress towards an inland waters target under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.
- Continue support for Tasmanian Irrigation's Tranche 3 irrigation scheme proposals, including planning and approvals processes and coordination of State and Australian Government funding (as ongoing core business).



*Freshwater underpins Tasmania's
economy, environment and way of life.*



Photograph: Florentine River | Kyle Weatherman, NRE Tas.

Further information

Full copies of the Rural Water Use Strategy and project reports:
www.nre.tas.gov.au/rural-water

Enquiries

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