

Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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Mr Mark Shelton MP
Member for Lyons
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11 SEP 2026

Dear Mr Shelton MP

Thank you for the below question you asked in Parliament on 11 August 2026, on behalf of your constituents in Lyons.

'Many people across the Lyons electorate, particularly those around the Macquarie River, such as Barton, Conara, Campbell Town, Ross and the lower Isis Valley, have been closely monitoring the progress of the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme and are looking forward to the opportunities which it will create for farmers and the communities.'

Can the Minister please provide an update on progress with the laying of the 152 km of pipeline for this project and outline how the Tasmanian Government's investment in irrigation development is supporting agriculture, productivity, regional jobs, and economic growth across Tasmania?'

I am pleased to report that a major milestone has been achieved in the progress of the Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme, with the final section of pipeline laid. This completes the projects 152.4 kilometer pipeline network.

This is a significant milestone in the largest irrigation scheme ever delivered in Tasmania, in terms of both capital value and summer water delivery capacity.

While the final pipe is now in place, work continues with commissioning activities, testing of pipelines and property outlets, and final preparations to ensure everything is ready for delivery of first water. I am pleased to advise the project remains on track to be operational for the 2026-27 irrigation season, with water delivery scheduled to commence in October 2026.

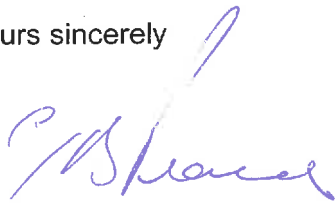
Importantly, confidence in the scheme is already very strong, with 95 per cent of available water entitlements already allocated to irrigators.

This project is about far more than infrastructure. It is about providing long-term water security, improving farm productivity and creating new opportunities for agricultural growth across the region. The scheme is expected to generate \$184 million in increased farm revenue and provide an ongoing \$54 million annual boost to Tasmania's economy.

The Northern Midlands Irrigation Scheme demonstrates the value of strategic investment in irrigation development. By providing reliable water supplies, we are enabling farmers to diversify

production, increase output, invest with confidence and strengthen the resilience of their businesses in the face of increasingly variable seasonal conditions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Pearce', written over a faint, light blue circular watermark.

Hon Gavin Pearce MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water