



25 March 2019

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

North Esk Irrigation Scheme officially launched

Today I officially launched the North Esk Irrigation Scheme alongside Hon. David Littleproud, Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water and Jonathan Duniam, Liberal Senator for Tasmania.

The \$30.4 million North Esk Scheme will play an integral role in assisting the Hodgman Liberal Government meet our target of increasing the farm gate value of Tasmania's agricultural sector to \$10 billion a year by 2050.

The Scheme is capable of delivering 4,685 megalitres of water to 57 irrigators in the Evandale, Nile, White Hills and Relbia areas.

It involved the construction of a 5,580 ML dam, 59.3km of pipeline and a pumping station, made possible by \$18.9 million in Federal funding, \$4.5 million from the Tasmanian Government and \$7 million from farmers.

Access to this irrigation water will enable farmers to consider new high-value enterprises such wine grapes, dairy, cropping, horticulture and livestock finishing, value add existing enterprises, and expand production to meet the growing demand for Tasmania's premium produce.

This is one of five Tranche Two irrigation schemes we have jointly delivered, or are in the process of delivering to supply farmers with the reliable water they need to create jobs in regional communities and cultivate the world-class food and produce Tasmania is known for.

The completion of this Scheme is an outstanding example of the benefits that can be provided to the community when all levels of government and farmers work together, and I congratulate Tasmanian Irrigation and all involved in its construction.

We are continuing to work with our Federal counterparts, farming communities and agribusiness to develop the third tranche of Tasmanian Irrigation schemes – or the Pipeline for Prosperity program.

The Hodgman Liberal Government has committed \$70 million to advance Pipeline to Prosperity, which was recently been added to Infrastructure Australia's Infrastructure Priority List.

If fully implemented, it will see almost \$500 million invested across the State into another 10 potential irrigation schemes, creating thousands of jobs and return an estimated \$114 million each year to the agriculture sector, and our economy more broadly.