

Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme COMMUNITY UPDATE

ORIGINS OF THE SCHEME

In 2010 the Manjimup and Pemberton area experienced its driest year in recent history.

Two years later the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) released its Warren/Donnelly Allocation Plan. Under the plan, sub-catchments such as the Manjimup Brook, Smith Brook, Upper Lefroy and Eastbrook catchment were fully allocated. Since then, modelling from the CSIRO and DWER has shown that, due to climate change, the situation is expected to worsen and more sub-catchments could become fully-allocated. DWER has indicated that once they fully allocate a sub-catchment it is not likely to change.

As a result, the government initiated a study under its Water for Food program to find the best way to source new water for growers in those fully allocated sub-catchments, and the region as a whole, to protect farmers' businesses against climate change.

The Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme is the result of that study. It will bring new water from areas not accessible to farmers in any of the sub-catchments of the region. The project involves building a 160-hectare dam, with a 15-gigalitre capacity, on Record Brook three-kilometres east of the Donnelly River. **There will not be a dam on the Donnelly River.**

Water will be distributed via a pipeline network built predominantly through road reserve, state forest or on the edge of cleared paddocks, to supply more than 90 farms spread throughout both the Manjimup and Pemberton districts. Where a pipeline exists, there may be an opportunity for local farmers to tap into the pipeline in future years.

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THE WEIR

A weir will need to be constructed on the Donnelly River and it will be similar to the Lefroy Brook weir in Pemberton and those in many South West rivers such as the Margaret River. The weir acts in the same manner as a natural rock barrier, pooling water but allowing the majority of water to continue to cascade downstream.

Permanent pools are critical to rivers as they provide a refuge for fish, marron and frogs during the low flow summer months.

Importantly, it will be **designed to allow the river to maintain its natural flow** and will have fish ladders to allow local fish and marron to continue along the river system.

The Scheme

The proposed dam is three kilometres east of the Donnelly River.

The Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme will deliver a reliable, quality source of water to farmers in the Manjimup-Pemberton area in the face of climate change.

The proposed scheme involves the construction of a 15-gigalitre dam located on Record Brook. It will draw water from the Record Brook catchment and the forested areas of the Upper and Middle Donnelly catchments.

DWER have publicly confirmed that this water does not

impact allocations in these sub-catchments nor any other including Manjimup Brook.

Water will be pumped from the Donnelly River, but only at high river flows, i.e. only after heavy rain. The dam will create a new ecosystem to support local flora and fauna and provide a beautiful location for the local community and visitors to enjoy.

Farmer Contributions

Local farmers have committed \$11 million of their own money toward the capital cost of the scheme, plus an estimated additional \$54 million worth of on-farm works to take place.

TIMELINE

MID 2020

DESIGN AND APPROVALS COMPLETE

LATE 2020

TENDER PROCESS COMMENCES

2021

CONSTRUCTION COMMENCES

2023

OPERATIONAL



LOCAL BENEFITS

The Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme is a transformational project that will deliver significant benefits to the Manjimup community, including local businesses. Behind the entitlements are more than 70 farming families, collectively employing hundreds of local people, and even more during seasonal peaks.



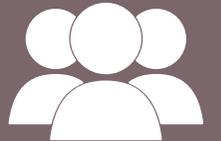
Increase in total direct salaries and wages of up to \$9 million a year.



Create up to 150 direct farm jobs.



It will generate jobs and stimulate spending in the local economy through the construction phase and into operations.



Indirect employment of up to 75 positions.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The Southern Forests Irrigation Co-operative understands the importance of the local environment to the community and **is committed to ensuring the project can be delivered with the least possible impact on the environment.**



NO OLD GROWTH FOREST WILL BE IMPACTED BY THE PROJECT



All necessary surveys will be completed as required by government regulators and the project will be assessed by the EPA with a formal public comment period.



The dam will be located three kilometres away from the Donnelly River.



It is a testament to the sustainability of this type of project that in a very environmentally conscious state such as Tasmania there are currently 14 irrigation schemes in operation.

WATER ENTITLEMENTS

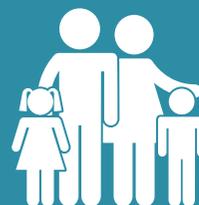
All the water entitlements being sold under the scheme will go to local property owners.



Local property owners only.



There are no external Corporations or Public companies who have been granted water entitlements. In fact, 75 per cent of water has been sold to small local farming families.



All members of the Co-op are local farming families from our community.



The Co-operative rules state that a member of the Co-op must also be a land holder in the irrigation area.