
The SMART Farming Irrigation Partnership Program

The Tasmania Government's **SMART Farming** policy recognises the vital role of the farming sector in the Tasmanian economy and provides ongoing support for the sector. In delivering assistance through a wide range of activities, SMART Farming promotes farming practices that are ecologically sound, economically viable and socially responsible.

Sustainable water use and development are a vital component of SMART Farming.

According to independent analysis, an additional 150,000 megalitres per annum of irrigation water (a 40% increase on existing levels) will be required in 2015 to meet the 10 year growth forecasts for agriculture.

The SMART Farming Water Initiative provides \$7.54 million over the next four years for a multi-focussed approach to shore up existing water supplies for irrigated agriculture and to achieve reliable and sustainable additional irrigation supplies.

The SMART Farming Irrigation Partnership Program provides funding to subsidise the cost of environmental studies to support applications for dam works permits or water licences and allocations. It does not apply to engineering or capacity survey work associated with a dam application.

Irrigation proposals that increase agricultural productivity/production and help to procure the 150,000-ML of water identified as needed to meet the 10-year growth forecasts for agriculture will be eligible for funding support.

Subsidies are payable where the Assessment Committee for Dam Construction or the Department of Primary Industries and Water serves notice on an applicant that he or she is to provide information to support the application. Such information is generally to enable the assessment of potential impacts of the water development proposal on flora, fauna, aquatic ecology, hydrology, geomorphology or aboriginal or historical cultural heritage.

Under the **SMART Farming Irrigation Partnership Program**, the Government will provide subsidies of up to fifty percent of the cost of obtaining expert advice to provide this information.

The amount of subsidies depends on the type of study required as follows:

<i>Cultural Heritage (Aboriginal and Historic) Survey</i>	50 percent of the costs of the study up to a maximum of \$600
<i>Flora and Fauna Survey</i>	50 percent of the costs of the study up to a maximum of \$1200
<i>Fish Survey</i>	50 percent of the costs of the study up to a maximum of \$1000
<i>Aquatic Ecology Survey</i>	50 percent of the costs of the study up to a maximum of \$1500

Hydrological study	50 percent of the costs of the study up to a maximum of \$1500
Forest Practices Plan	50 percent of the costs of developing the plan (excluding any application or certification fees) up to a maximum of \$1500
Giant Freshwater Crayfish Survey and Capture*	50 percent of the costs of the work up to a maximum of \$1000 *

*Note: A requirement for a Giant Freshwater Crayfish Survey and Capture will normally be a condition of a dam works permit rather than a Notice. In such situations, subsidies may be claimed by sending the invoice for the work plus the relevant tax invoice as noted below once the work has been completed. Any claims must be made within 12 months of the date of effect of the dam works permit.

The maximum subsidy payable may be increased in particular circumstances but not beyond 50% of the total study cost. If it appears that the maximum subsidy listed above will not cover half of the cost of the required work, the applicant must contact the Water Resources Division of DPIW before commissioning the work (otherwise the above maximum amounts will apply).

To obtain a subsidy under the SMART Farming Irrigation Partnership Program, you must:

- Notify DPIW of your intention to claim the subsidy on completion of the work by submitting the attached registration form **prior to commissioning the work;**
- **Within 12 months¹** of issue of the Notice requiring the work:
 - Complete the work required by the Notice and obtain acceptance of the Report by the Assessment Committee for Dam Construction and/or DPIW; and
 - Once the Report is accepted, send a copy of the invoice from the consultant(s) who carried out the work and a Tax Invoice to the Department of Primary Industries and Water for 50 percent of the cost of the work up to the maximum level (or as otherwise agreed) to Water Resources Division of DPIW.

All applications and invoices to be sent to:

Bill Shackcloth
Water Management Branch
Water Resources Division
Department of Primary Industries and Water
GPO Box 44 Hobart TAS 7001
Phone: 6233 2613
Email: Bill.Shackcloth@dpiw.tas.gov.au



¹ Note that this deadline for the payment of a subsidy does not affect the period of time in which you may respond to a Notice from the Assessment Committee's requirement – the statutory two year time period for the studies still applies if you do not wish to claim the subsidy.