

# TAMING TASMANIA'S HEART: THE GREATER MEANDER IRRIGATION SCHEME

Nestled in the heart of Tasmania, where rolling hills meet pristine waters, lies a tale of transformation, resilience, and the unyielding spirit of human endeavour. The Greater Meander Irrigation Scheme, a marvel of engineering and innovation, has breathed life into this serene landscape, turning it into an agricultural paradise that is the envy of the island.

Throughout the winter season, water is collected within the confines of the Meander Dam. Subsequently, this stored water is distributed over a span of 150 days during the summer months. This distribution occurs through controlled releases into the Meander River and a network of pipelines that run alongside the river, effectively nourishing the district.

## REPLACING DETERIORATING INLET STRUCTURES

Pump station inlet structures assume a pivotal role in the allocation and control of water distribution to agricultural fields. However, blockages and silt accumulation can compromise their effectiveness and capacity.

The vulnerability of the inlet structures to the Meander Dam is no exception. In order to ensure uninterrupted service to local clients, and circumvent the need for costly and intricate ongoing maintenance, Tasmanian Irrigation set about replacing the most adversely impacted units.



## CUTTING-EDGE AND LONG-LASTING PRECAST INNOVATION

In a collaborative effort with designers, sub-contractors and installation contractors, National Precast Master Precaster Hudson Civil devised a custom precast solution tailored to not only meet the client's demands but also ensure long-lasting performance.

Jason Lanham, Hudson Civil's General Manager, says the company's technical experts dedicated extensive effort early on in the project, collaborating closely with Tasmanian irrigation designers and the contractor Sub-41. Together, they meticulously crafted a more resilient solution that would not only enhance intake capacity but would also ease maintenance and ensure resilience in the face of recurrent river system floods.

## FACTORY-CRAFTED FOR SUPERIOR QUALITY, ENHANCED SAFETY AND STREAMLINED INSTALLATION

The solution integrated the precaster's distinctive unculvert system, produced using specialised moulds that enable precise tolerances and ensure exceptional quality. Meanwhile, installation of the structural steel and aluminium components was strategically divided between the factory and on-site.

In the factory, steel elements, including the sub-frame, were meticulously fabricated and subjected to precise testing. This approach - simplifying the foundation and placement procedures - yielded a secure, precise, and efficient installation process... an achievement that would have been unattainable with cast in-situ products.

## UNICULVERTS PAVE THE PATH TO THE FUTURE

This project exemplifies the Tasmanian civil construction industry's commitment to leveraging innovation and the latest advancements in precast technology to attain favourable project results.

The versatility and transformative capabilities of the unculvert system are evident to such an extent that Tasmanian Irrigation has embraced this system for all their intake structure replacements and new installations.

This ongoing partnership with Hudson Civil underscores their joint commitment to executing capital works programs effectively and safely.



**Project:** Greater Meander Irrigation Scheme  
**Client:** Tasmanian Irrigation  
**Master Precaster:** Hudson Civil



# TWO DAYS OF PRECAST BUSINESS & FUN

Anyone involved in precast specification, design, manufacture or construction is welcome to participate in the National Conference that is being run by the precast industry's peak body, National Precast, later this year.

The Conference runs over three days and is being held at the Crown Plaza in the beautiful Sydney beachside location of Coogee from Monday, 30th October to Wednesday, 1st November 2023.

National Precast's CEO Sarah Bachmann says that this conference will be bigger and better.

"With support from our Conference Partner Leviat, we will be bringing together leaders in the precast industry from around the country, providing a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends old and new," Bachmann comments.

The October Conference sees the introduction of the Welcome Reception and Exhibition, showcasing new products from over 15 suppliers.

"The Welcome Reception and Exhibition will be Hawaiian-themed. There'll be plenty of time to see what's new, chat and enjoy the special entertainment we have planned."

The line-up of speakers for the full-day Conference is impressive, with some of the presentation topics including tough contracting (with success), meeting supply challenges in big projects, creating healthy working environments and overcoming the new multi-employer bargaining provisions of the Fair Work Act.

The Conference Day will be followed by an underwater-themed Networking Dinner overlooking the water at Coogee's Ocean

Room, with entertainment and prizes! And on the final day, for members, there'll be a visit to the Metro West tunnel segment factory.

"We're taking steps to ultimately create an event that is widely talked about and that draws anyone who manufactures, supplies, specifies or uses precast," says Bachmann.

"We want to make doing business, fun. Come along and see what our exhibitors have to offer, share information and learn."

Register at [www.nationalprecast.com.au/events](http://www.nationalprecast.com.au/events), or contact Shiva on 0451 475 724. Tickets are limited, so make sure you get in FAST!



## National Conference Sydney

### Monday 30th October 2023

Board Meeting (Board Members only)

Board & Industry Partners Lunch (Board & Industry Partners only)

Welcome Reception & Exhibition (Sponsored by Reid Construction Systems)

### Tuesday 31st October 2023

Conference

Networking Dinner (Sponsored by PSA & Progress Group)

### Wednesday 1st November 2023

Factory Visit (Members only)

Thanking our National Conference Partner

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[www.nationalprecast.com.au/events](http://www.nationalprecast.com.au/events)