

# SEASONAL UPDATE WEBINAR - RECAP

## July 2026

Seasonal snapshot by Marek Matuszek (Ag Logic), with a decision making session from agricultural consultant Jason Lynch (Pinion Advisory)

# 1. Current conditions & regional snapshot

A solid week of rain has lifted soil moisture across most of the state, although how full each profile still depends on soil type and location. Overall, the North West, North East and the Midlands are at or near full profile, so protecting soil structure is the priority. South of Longford still needs follow up rain to reach the same point.

## North West

Sandy soils in Circular Head are full and at the point of saturated, earlier than the same time last year. Structured soils further inland and down the coast are at full point, but growth rates are still solid for this time of year. Keep stock off the wettest paddocks to protect soil to help pasture growth.

## North East

Soil moisture along the coast is at its highest level in the last four years and soil further inland has hit full point ahead of same time last year. Strong subsoil recharge is a good sign heading into spring.

## Northern Midlands

Profiles north of Longford are essentially full and growth is slowing as paddocks near saturation. Walk paddocks now to assess if drainage would improve productivity before the ground dries out or, if you do have drains, how well they are performing.

## Southern Midlands, Coal

### Valley and Derwent Valley

The Southern Midlands and Coal Valley are tracking similar to past years, while the Derwent Valley is ahead but still filling. Follow up rain is still the priority here but should have greater efficacy compared to the autumn rain events. .



## East Coast and Fingal Valley

At this point, conditions are about the same as the last two years, though recent rain is finally soaking in. Soil type varies widely, so know your soil to understand how it responded to recent rains.

## Flinders Island and King Island

Both islands are filling well and King Island is well ahead of the last two seasons with Flinders similar to the same time last year. Watch for waterlogging risk in low lying paddocks through spring.

# 2. On farm decision making with El Niño declared

The BOM has now formally declared a strong El Niño, meaning a higher chance of a warmer, drier outlook, though not a guarantee. With soil moisture already in good shape, consultant Jason Lynch outlined a simple planning cycle for managing whatever the season brings.

Plan, prioritise, allocate and review repeated on a regular cycle such as every 30, 60 and 90 days, to keep decisions well informed and timely.

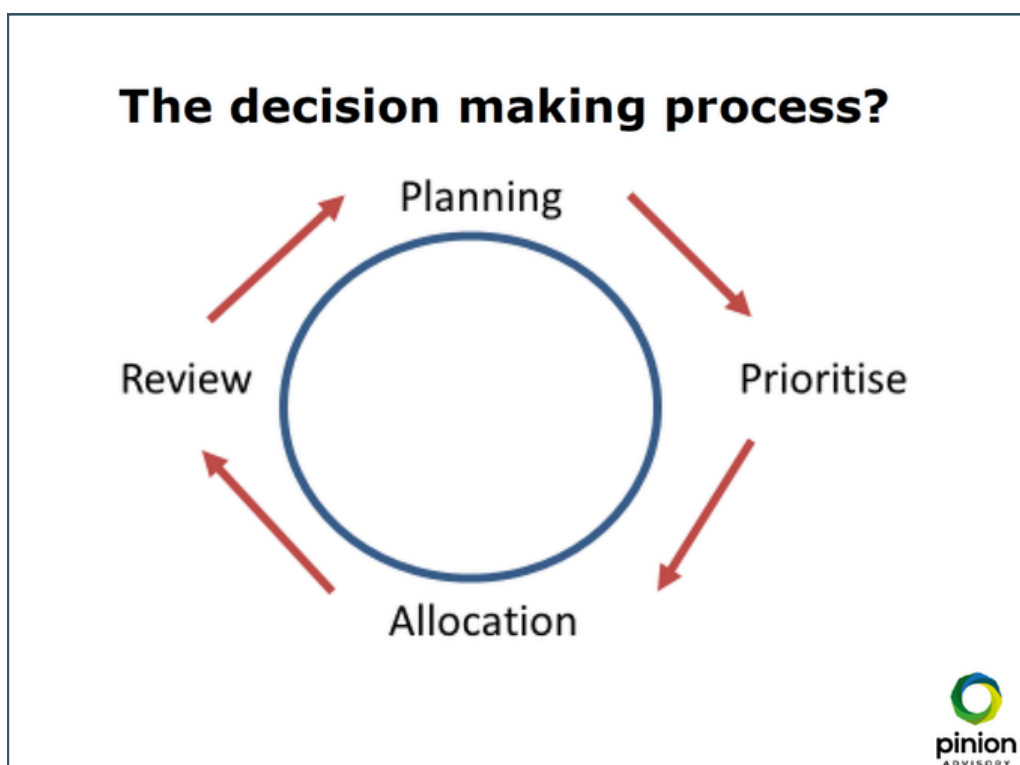


Figure 1: Slide depicting the decision making cycle, courtesy of Jason Lynch, Pinion Advisory



What does this decision making process look like in action? Below are some prompts and pointers of what you need to consider for different enterprises.

Action	Pasture	Annual Cropping	Perennial Horticulture
<b>Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Livestock numbers</li> <li>• Fodder on hand and requirements</li> <li>• Water resources</li> <li>• Pasture covers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop GM</li> <li>• Crops in the ground</li> <li>• Crop Contracts</li> <li>• Water resources</li> <li>• Fertiliser</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertiliser</li> <li>• Water resources</li> <li>• Establishment (future focus) or in production yield prediction</li> </ul>
<b>Prioritise</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pregnancy</li> <li>2. Lactation</li> <li>3. Liveweight Gain</li> <li>4. Others...</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Higher crop GMs</li> <li>2. Lower risk profile</li> <li>3. Faster growing</li> <li>4. Livestock integration</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Land/cultivars with a higher yield potential, greater demand or GM return</li> </ol>
<b>Allocation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feed budgeting</li> <li>• Feed allocated on a priority basis</li> <li>• Water resources</li> <li>• Careful with supplementary feeding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertiliser</li> <li>• Machinery</li> <li>• Water resources</li> <li>• Contractors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertiliser</li> <li>• Water resources</li> <li>• Labour</li> </ul>
<b>Review</b> (30, 60 and 90 day increments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fodder on hand</li> <li>• Livestock BCS changes</li> <li>• Reproductive cycle</li> <li>• Market and weather conditions</li> <li>• Water resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yield prediction</li> <li>• Crop production cycle</li> <li>• Fertiliser</li> <li>• Market and weather conditions</li> <li>• Water resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yield prediction</li> <li>• Crop production cycle</li> <li>• Fertiliser</li> <li>• Market and weather conditions</li> <li>• Water resources</li> </ul>

Figure 2: Table with examples of the decision making process in action, courtesy of Jason Lynch, Pinion Advisory

## Feed budgeting and water security

- Match feed supply to demand daily, monthly and across the year, then check your budget against measured pasture cover.
- Before any major water investment, build a water budget and think about how often you would really need peak capacity, rather than sizing for a rare event.
- Get advice before big capital decisions. Risk appetite and exposure to dry conditions vary a lot from farm to farm.



### 3. Seasonal outlook and water storage

- A strong El Niño has been declared, with a 75 percent chance of below median rainfall from July to September, though Tasmania's Southern Ocean position offers some buffering.
- Farming Forecaster growth predictions are tracking near the top of the historical range through to mid-September, including a strong turnaround on parts of the East Coast.
- Tasmanian Irrigation dams have had a strong week of inflows and are filling well for the 2026 to 2027 season.
- Craigbourne Dam is the exception. By design it only fills completely around once every four years and is currently in its third year, so the 2027 to 2028 season is the one to plan more carefully for. Tasmanian Irrigation has contingency plans in place.

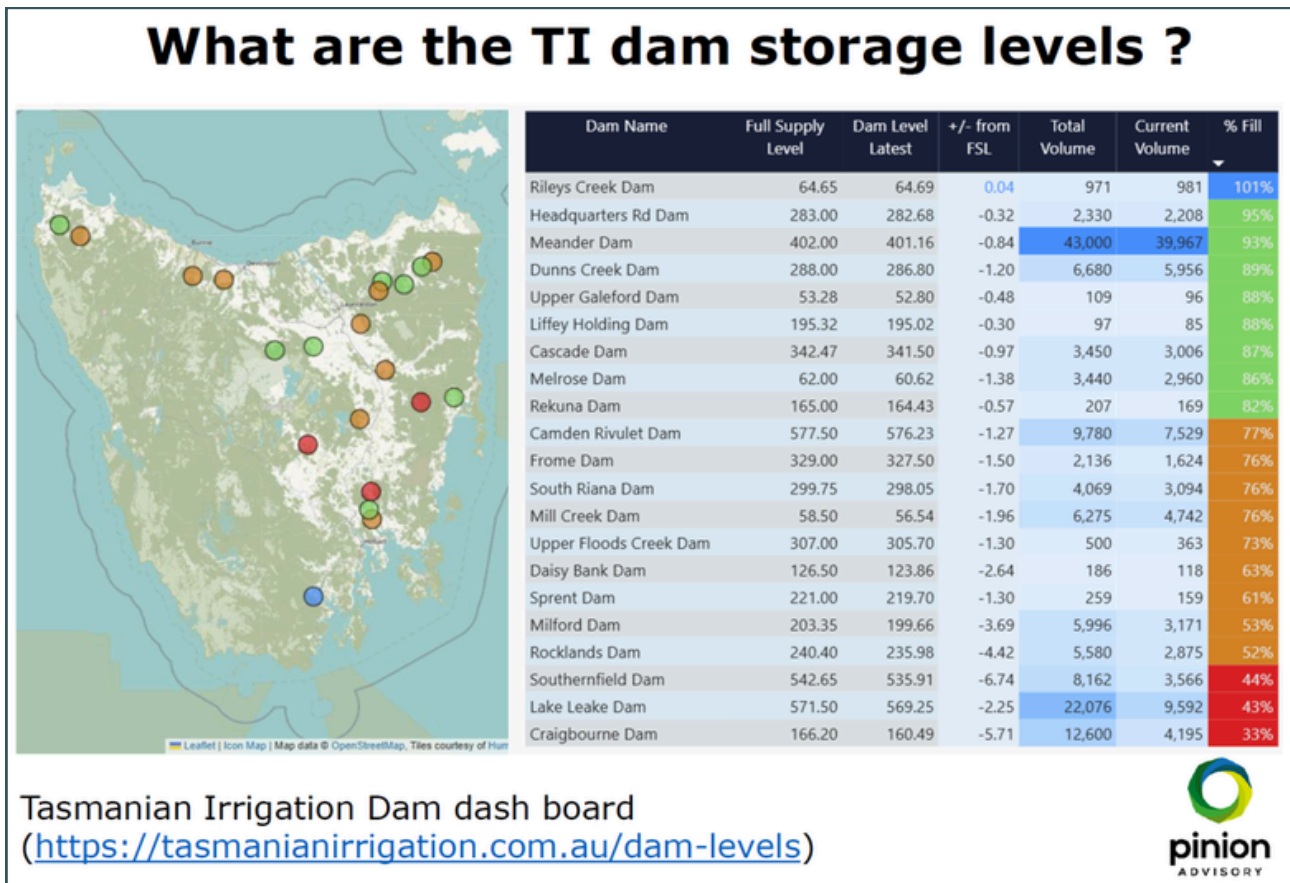


Figure 3: Slide depicting Tasmanian Irrigation Dam Levels in July 2026, courtesy of Jason Lynch, Pinion Advisory



## 4. Key Messages & Actions

- **Know your numbers:** livestock weights and numbers, joining and in calf rates, land committed to cropping, cost of production and commodity prices all belong in your planning.
- **Plan, then verify:** build a feed or water budget, then check it against actual pasture covers or soil moisture on the ground rather than relying on the plan alone.
- **Act early:** the earlier a decision is made, the more options remain. Waiting until conditions force a decision usually leaves only the harder choices.
- **Protect wet soils now:** keep stock off saturated paddocks in the North West, North East and Midlands to protect soil structure and support a quicker start to spring.
- **Treat El Niño as one input, not a forecast:** a strong classification raises the odds of a drier outlook but does not guarantee one, so keep checking weekly updates and adjust plans as new information comes in.
- **Get advice before big capital decisions:** size water infrastructure and other major investments around a proper budget, not around the most recent one or two seasons.

## 5. Things to think about or speak with your advisor about

- Build or update a feed budget for your enterprise, matching supply to demand at a daily, monthly and full year level.
- Review fertiliser and nutrient plans against current soil, sap or tissue test results rather than routine blends.
- Work through a water budget before committing to new water infrastructure, including how often you would really use peak capacity.
- Identify paddocks that held water this week and plan any drainage work for when the ground dries out.
- Discuss your exposure to a drier spring and summer with your advisor, covering stock numbers, feed reserves and irrigation water.
- Ask your advisor which of the past few seasons your property is really tracking closest to, rather than assuming the most recent year or two is the best guide.

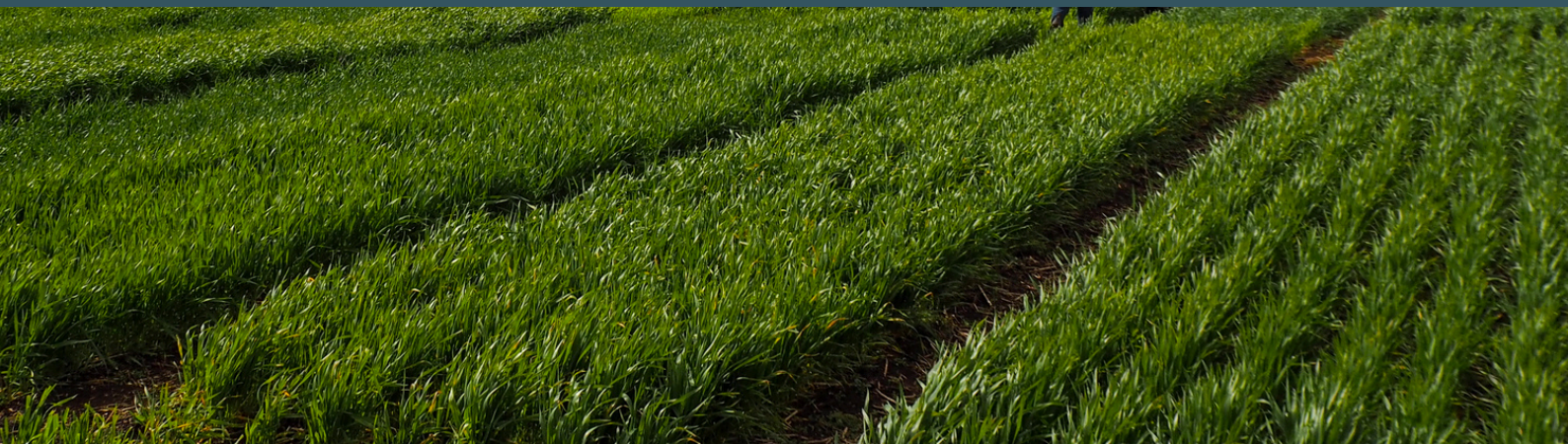


## 6. Links & useful resources

- **Farming Forecaster:** free access to soil moisture, weather, pasture growth predictions and livestock performance information for your own location, including best case, likely and worst-case growth projections - <https://www.farmingforecaster.com.au>
- **TIA Weekly Pasture Growth Rate Report:** a weekly update on pasture growth and leaf emergence rates for districts across the state - to sign up email [jacob.lightman@utas.edu.au](mailto:jacob.lightman@utas.edu.au)
- **Ag Logic Weather Station and Soil Probe Network:** real time weather, soil moisture and evapotranspiration data to guide irrigation and grazing decisions - sign up here: [Ag Logic weather station and soil moisture probe network subscription - Fill in form](#)
- **Bureau of Meteorology long range forecast:** rainfall outlook maps showing the likelihood behind the current El Niño classification and the seasonal rainfall outlook - <https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary>
- **Tasmanian Irrigation dam storage levels:** updated daily, useful for tracking scheme water availability heading into the season - <https://tasmanianirrigation.com.au/dam-levels>
- **Previous webinar recordings and written summaries -** <https://tasfarmhub.com.au/resources/seasonal-update-with-ag-logic>
- **Jason Lynch,** Pinion Advisory: [jlynch@pinionadvisory.com](mailto:jlynch@pinionadvisory.com)

Next month's webinar: 1PM, Friday 7 August 2026

Register online: [tasfarmhub.com.au/events](https://tasfarmhub.com.au/events)



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