

Talking Water

Tuesday 4 December 2012



Murray Irrigation

NSW Government commits to cap buyback

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, was in Deniliquin last week to meet with stakeholders and discuss, among other things, the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. Minister Hodgkinson confirmed the NSW Government's commitment to impose a cap on the amount of water the Commonwealth can purchase from NSW to three percent per valley, per decade. The Minister also explained that it would be preferable for the cap to be included in the inter-governmental agreement (IGA) that will outline the implementation of the Basin Plan, but if it is not, NSW will introduce its own cap under the *Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)*.

Minister Hodgkinson was on her way to Canberra where she was to meet with the other Basin State Ministers to discuss the IGA in further detail.

The Federal Coalition has also committed to cap Commonwealth buyback through legislation if it wins Government at the next election.

Ministerial Council meeting

The Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council met last Friday. On the agenda was Basin Plan implementation, including the implications of funding pressures of joint (Commonwealth-State) programs and the inter-governmental agreement.

The Council noted that there are still several "substantial" outstanding issues, and the implementation agreement needs to include funding arrangements, a protocol setting out processes for the development of projects for the sustainable diversion limit adjustment mechanism, and for managing constraints. The Council said public consultation would be an important feature of the process to develop a constraints management strategy, as will third party impacts, noting the Commonwealth will not be compulsorily acquiring land or easements as a result of the Basin Plan.

It is expected the first draft of an IGA will be presented to the Council of Australian Governments this month.

Muddied Waters this Sunday

Investigative documentary *Muddied Waters – A Clear Solution* will be shown on **7Two at 9.30am this Sunday 9 December** (check local guides).

Muddied Waters, which is expected to run for about an hour, will include vision and interviews from across the Murray-Darling

Basin. The project, which was financially supported by many in the local community, aims to help the people of Australia better understand the Murray-Darling River system and potential negative social and economic impacts of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Executive Producer Ken Jury said Channel 7 breakfast program *Sunrise* and the network's news services are expected to promote the documentary in the lead-up to its screening.

Murray Irrigation emergency number

Customers are reminded that T. 1300 657 313 is an emergency number for customers to ring after hours for an emergency that cannot wait until normal business hours (e.g. a channel breach, regulator failure, etc.). The emergency number should not be called after hours to discuss water orders or general water distribution issues. Customers are encouraged to use Murray Irrigation's website www.murrayirrigation.com.au to follow up on water orders or call reception on T. 03 5898 3300 between 8.30am and 5.00pm.

Casual reception relief position

Murray Irrigation has an opening for a motivated person to join our Corporate Affairs team operating in the Finley and Deniliquin areas. This is a casual position providing relief coverage for reception and related administration tasks. Applications close **5.00pm this Friday 7 December**. To view a full position description, visit our website, or contact reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

Riverina Young Dairy Network

The Riverina Young Dairy Network is holding a farm walk and interactive discussion this Friday 7 December. The farm walk will be held at Gallpen's Dairy 'La Villa' on McLaurins Road, Deniliquin, starting at 10.00am.

Topics to be discussed include 'Feed Conversion Efficiency under Heat Stress Conditions' and 'Increasing profitability and sustainable soils through good Nutrient Management Principles'. Guest Speakers are Trish Lewis, Independent Dairy Consultant, New Zealand and Matt Tubb, Agronomist, Landmark Deniliquin. Lunch will be provided. The day is supported by Murray Dairy and the Murray CMA. Guests are asked to RSVP by Thursday 6 December to Jeanette at Murray Dairy on T. 03 5833 5312, or email admin@murraydairy.com.au.

Anthony Couroupis
General Manager

Announced allocation

Class C General Security	100 %
Class B High Security	100 %
Class A Town Water	100 %
Water Efficiency Allocation	7 %

Water availability & usage

(04/12/12)	
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements	80%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)	
On-Farm Balance	727 GL
On-Farm Usage	475 GL
Comprising:	
On-Allocation Usage	396 GL
Off-Allocation Usage	79 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today	
Water for Sale	4,691 ML
Price Range	\$38 - \$61
Buy Offer	\$36
Last 10 Sales	1,364 ML
Price Range	\$38 - \$40
To buy water call 1300 781 431	

Channel flows

Today	
Mulwala Canal	6,700 ML/day
Capacity	10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal	1,485 ML/day
Capacity	2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows	1,900 ML/day

Rainfall & evaporation

20/11/12 – 04/12/12	Rain	Evap
Finley	4.1mm...	116.7mm
Tullakool	4.6mm...	132.5mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)	
Dartmouth	3,818 GL.....99 %
Hume	2,748 GL.....91 %
Lake Victoria	623 GL.....92 %
Menindee Lakes	1,704 GL.....98 %
Active Storage	8,893 GL.....96 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)	
Murray @ Jingellic	3,896 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon	782 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point	15,930 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir	9,014 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge	3,676 ML/d
M'Bigdee d/s Balranald	3,617 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia	723 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy	6,645 ML/d
Flow to SA	19,557 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge	0.93 m
Murray to the Sea	21 gates open

**Tune into 'On The Land' every
Tuesday from 6.45am on 1521
2QN.**