

# Special Talking Water

Monday 17 December 2012



Murray Irrigation

## Potential for flow restrictions

Customers are reminded of the potential for flow restrictions as summer irrigation programs approach peak demand.

Customers are encouraged to provide at least four days' notice when ordering water to help minimise the impact of restrictions on water availability. If there is a requirement to delay a previously lodged start or increase order, this can be done by contacting the Regional Planners (via reception on T. 03 5898 3300) who will ensure your order is not put back a further four days.

It should also be noted that increase orders for outlets already operating will be subject to the same conditions as a start order (i.e. potential to wait up to four days).

We are particularly encouraging customers to:

- Be vigilant of weather forecasts and increasing crop water demand to minimise the impact of a four day wait for water orders.
- Consider commencing any increase to flow requirements earlier than anticipated as crop demands increase.
- Consider taking advantage of any wet or cool weather events that reduce demand to fill storages or increase water depth in rice crops.

### Flow restrictions

The extent of restriction events can vary, and are applied according to the restriction management practices as outlined in the Distribution Rules Policy (available from our website: [www.murrayirrigation.com.au](http://www.murrayirrigation.com.au)) which determines the maximum flow rate per landholding. Management of flow restrictions is also described in the 2012/13 Operating Plan released in July 2012 (available in the 'Water' section of our website). The flow shares available on your landholding are available in the 'Customer Login' section of our website.

Customers on some channels are already experiencing localised flow restrictions. The number of customers affected **may increase as deliveries to other parts of the system approach capacity**. It is less likely that there will a requirement to implement company-wide restrictions based on maximum flow capacity being reached at either the Mulwala and or Wakool Canal offtakes. Any required reductions to maximum flow rates in this instance are likely to be relatively minor.

**For information during flow restrictions please contact your Channel Attendant in the first instance.**

### Avoiding interruptions to your water supply

Other actions that customers can take to help avoid interruptions to water supply include:

- Carefully monitoring outlet/s during windy conditions for obstructions caused by umbrella grass, particularly at low flows.
- Checking water allocation account balances to ensure continuous water supply over the Christmas-New Year period. Landholdings that reach a zero water balance will be finished, and may be subject to a four day wait to recommence irrigating.

### Monitoring Compliance

Murray Irrigation Water Distribution staff are currently completing random night patrols to ensure fair and equitable compliance with company policies; particularly in areas experiencing flow restrictions. Customers can assist by reporting any interference with channels to their local Distribution Supervisor, via reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

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