

# TalkingWater

Tuesday 22 January 2013



Murray Irrigation

## Delivery restrictions update

There are now no flow rate restrictions being applied to customers supplied by the Mulwala Canal offtake.

Customers supplied by the Wakool Canal offtake are still subject to some local channel restrictions, with those flow rates restricted to six revs (about 8ML/day) or above, depending on location. Affected customers are aware of the restrictions that apply to them.

Customers are encouraged to provide as much notice as possible for start and increase orders. Murray Irrigation will continue to monitor flow restrictions on a daily basis.

## External trade

Customers who are considering external allocation (ML) trades are reminded to allow several days for trades to be processed. This is particularly the case where water is needed to continue irrigating. State Water is presently experiencing high demand for external trades, and this may cause delays.

## NSW caps buyback

The NSW Government has legislated to cap the amount of water that can be bought for the environment under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. Primary Industries Minister Katrina Hodgkinson last week made an order limiting buybacks to three percent, per valley, per decade.

Minister Hodgkinson said the NSW Government wanted the focus of water recovery to be on infrastructure, environmental works and measures, and strategic purchases, rather than open purchase tenders. The NSW Cap on environmental trade will not impact any trades for: consumptive purposes; licence transfers that are part of an infrastructure project (such as the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency projects or PIIOP); or temporary (annual) trades of allocation water.

## Quarterly accounts mail-out

Murray Irrigation second quarter accounts for 2012/13 will be distributed to customers later this week. If you do not receive an invoice by the end of the week, please contact our Finance team, via reception, on T. 03 5898 3300.

Accounts are due by 5.00pm Friday 22 February. To be eligible for the 10 percent discount, all accounts must be paid before this date.

## Local Land Services meeting

There will be a public consultation meeting in Deniliquin from 9.00am on Tuesday 19 February about the Local Land Services' (LLS) establishment, involving the proposed merger of Livestock Health and Pest Authorities, Catchment Management Authorities and sections of the Department of Primary Industries. The meeting will be held at the Deniliquin RSL Club and will be led by the Chairman of the LLS Reference Panel Dr John Keniry, with Mick Keogh from the Australian Farm Institute acting as an independent facilitator.

All interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend to provide constructive input about the proposal. People are also encouraged to make submissions on the 'Have Your Say' website: [www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/localandservices](http://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/localandservices).

## Barmah Choke study

A new report on the Murray River's Barmah Choke has suggested options to reduce unseasonal flooding of the Barmah-Millewa Forest. The aim of the study, which started in 2007, was to develop an understanding of current and potential future water supply and environmental risks associated with the Barmah Choke and other mid-river operational issues.

The options recommended from the final report include:

- Modifications to the rules governing inter-valley trade transfers to modify shortfalls;
- Altering the "six-inch rule", which limits the rate of fall of river level at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Reservoir) to a maximum of six inches (or 150mm) per day; and
- Using Murray Irrigation's Perricoota Escape as a bypass route.

Murray Irrigation is presently assessing the report. For more information and a copy of the report, go to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority website: [www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au).

## Australia Day office closure

All Murray Irrigation offices will be closed next Monday 28 January for the Australia Day public holiday. Offices will reopen at 8.30am Tuesday 29 January. *Talking Water* will be distributed as normal and the 'On the Land' radio segment on 1521 2QN will also be broadcast as normal from 6.45am Tuesday morning.

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

(22/01/13)	
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements .....	49%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)	
On-Farm Balance .....	446 GL
On-Farm Usage .....	819 GL
Comprising:	
On-Allocation Usage .....	740 GL
Off-Allocation Usage .....	79 GL

## Water exchange

8.30am today	
Water for Sale .....	5,532 ML
Price Range .....	\$59 - \$95
Buy Offer .....	\$42
Last 10 Sales .....	988 ML
Price Range .....	\$52 - \$59

To buy water call 1300 781 431

## Channel flows

Today	
Mulwala Canal .....	9,400 ML/day
Capacity .....	10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal .....	1,985 ML/day
Capacity .....	2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows .....	1,760 ML/day

## Rainfall & evaporation

08/01/13 – 22/01/13 .....	Rain .....	Evap
Finley .....	3.8mm	140.3mm
Tullakool .....	4.4mm	137.2mm

## Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)		
Dartmouth .....	3,659 GL .....	95 %
Hume .....	2,023 GL .....	67 %
Lake Victoria .....	466 GL .....	69 %
Menindee Lakes .....	1,251 GL .....	72 %
Active Storage .....	7,399 GL .....	80 %

## Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)	
Murray @ Jingellic .....	2,489 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon .....	1,152 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point .....	16,957 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir .....	9,611 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge .....	1,724 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald .....	531 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia .....	310 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy .....	4,618 ML/d
Flow to SA .....	10,911 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge .....	0.69 m
Murray to the Sea .....	4 gates open

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