

# Chairman's report

Friday 22 February 2013



Murray Irrigation

This is the Chairman's report, distributed following a meeting of the Murray Irrigation Board of Directors yesterday.

## **Water availability update**

There will be **no** further Murray Irrigation efficiency allocations this season. The remaining available conveyance allocation is fully committed to deliver the forecast on-farm usage.

## **Casual usage fee**

The Board discussed the trigger for payment of the casual usage fee and confirmed the current trigger will remain in place for the 2012/13 season.

The casual usage fee applies once water use (including off allocation use) exceeds 120 percent of delivery entitlements on a landholding or in a customer's consolidated account. It can be avoided by the annual transfer of delivery entitlements to your account.

This decision recognises that there is a market (annual and permanent) in delivery entitlements with our customers making business decisions based on current policy. Consequently the Board does not support policy changes that have the potential for market implications.

Customers are encouraged to place any delivery entitlements surplus to their requirements on the market.

## **Fees and Prices review**

The Board considered progress with its Fees and Prices Policy review and endorsed, in principle, the introduction of an extra-large outlet fee (as discussed at the customer meetings) as part of Murray Irrigation's Fees and Prices effective from 1 July 2013.

This decision will feed into Murray Irrigation's budget and fees and prices settings for 2013/14.

## **David Harriss, Commissioner NSW Office of Water visit**

David Harriss provided the Board with an update on the status of negotiations between the NSW and Commonwealth Governments over the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for implementation of the Basin Plan. NSW is not prepared to sign the IGA until some key issues are resolved to its satisfaction.

Murray Irrigation confirmed its support for the NSW Government's position. Key issues for Murray Irrigation include Commonwealth funding for water savings infrastructure projects in NSW and funding for implementation of the Basin Plan.

Mr Harriss also indicated the NSW Government has received 150 submissions about whether the current Water Sharing Plans should be reviewed or extended. The Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers Water Sources is due to expire in June 2014. Murray Irrigation supports the extension of the current Water Sharing Plan to 2019.

Mr Harriss also indicated the NSW Office of Water will release an outlook for 2013/14 in April 2013.

## **Daryl Coote (Water Distribution Supervisor) retirement**

Daryl retires from Murray Irrigation after more than 40 years service to the company and its predecessors. The Board acknowledged Daryl's contribution to Murray Irrigation and the Wakool region. Murray Irrigation wishes Daryl and his wife well in their retirement, Daryl's knowledge of the Wakool region will be sorely missed.

## **Customer meetings and Stakeholder breakfast**

Murray Irrigation received positive feedback about the information presented at our recent customer meetings and the Stakeholder breakfast held yesterday. Thank you to those who attended and provided feedback.

**Noel Graham**  
Chairman