

Talking Water

Tuesday 26 February 2013



Murray Irrigation

Second quarter accounts

Customers are reminded that second quarter accounts are due to be paid by **5.00pm this Friday 1 March**. To be eligible for the 10 percent discount, all accounts must be paid before this date. For more information, contact our Finance team, via reception, on T. 03 5898 3300.

Roll-out of PIOP

Murray Irrigation has commenced planning for the first stage of our Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIOP) works this winter. Planning is underway to upgrade offtakes supplied from the Mulwala Canal to the Edward River Escape and the Berrigan Main Canal to the Billabong Channel offtake. Planning includes completing survey work along these main canals, which customers with landholdings along these canals may notice. Murray Irrigation will soon commence customer consultation about their outlets on these channels.

A final decision on the scope of winter works in 2013 under PIOP will be made over the next two months.

Draining rice crops

Rice growers are required to complete a stormwater disposal form before draining rice crops into the drainage system. No water sample is required. The Form 'RICE2 – Application for rice water drainage (2012/13)' can be accessed via the Murray Irrigation website: www.murrayirrigation.com.au. Click on 'Customers', then 'Forms' and 'General forms'.

Customer notification enables Murray Irrigation to monitor and control the stormwater escape system, to ensure equity for all customers. Any drainage inlet slides found open without approval may be closed by Murray Irrigation. For more information, contact reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

Surplus delivery entitlements

Customers with more annual delivery entitlements available than they require for their water use this season should consider selling the surplus on the temporary market. For assistance or further information contact reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

Sub-system reconfiguration program

Customers interested in expressing interest in the Commonwealth Government's Strategic Sub-System Reconfiguration (SSSR) program should contact Murray Irrigation by 5.00pm **this Friday 1 March**. The Murray Irrigation

Board will consider the program and conditions before a decision is made whether to participate in the first round of funding. For more information, visit www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/ and click on the 'Strategic Sub-System Reconfiguration in the Murray-Darling Basin Program' link.

Environment Policy Review

Murray Irrigation is seeking customer feedback regarding the integration of the Total Farm Water Balance Policy, Rice Growing Policy and Stormwater Disposal Policy into a single Environment Policy. The combined Policy aims to manage the impact of our customers' water use on local and downstream environments.

Feedback is due by 5.00pm Friday 8 March. More information on the proposed Environment Policy and details on how to provide feedback are available via the 'Current activities' section of our website: www.murrayirrigation.com.au.

Environmental water information session

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is holding a Murray Valley environmental water community information session next week. The session will be held at the Deniliquin RSL Club from 6.00pm on Thursday 7 March. There will also be a field trip to a wetland project the following day.

The information session and field trip are being hosted by the OEH for interested landholders and the wider community to find out about the use of environmental water to benefit the environment and communities within the NSW Murray Valley. For more information, contact Paula D'Santos on T. 03 5051 6234.

Rice Industry Field Days

The 2013 Murray Valley Rice Industry Field Days will be held next week. The field days will feature presentations on variety trials, weed control, managing snails and stubble management. There will also be an update on nitrogen. The Murray Valley regional field days will commence at 'Old Coree' in Jerilderie from 9.00am on Thursday 7 March, before a field day at Lachlan Bull's property north of Deniliquin from 2.30pm the same day. There will also be a field day at Peter Kaylock's property near Moulamein from 9.00am on Friday 8 March. For more information, contact the Riceworkers' Association office on T. 02 6953 0433.

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

(26/02/13)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements33%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance 302 GL
On-Farm Usage..... 1,020 GL
Comprising:
On-Allocation Usage 940 GL
Off-Allocation Usage..... 79 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale8,173 ML
Price Range \$65 - \$95
Buy Offer \$55
Last 10 Sales460 ML
Price Range \$63 - \$65
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Channel flows

Today
Mulwala Canal 3,800 ML/day
Capacity 10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal775 ML/day
Capacity 2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows..... 700 ML/day

Rainfall & evaporation

12/02/13 – 26/02/13 Rain Evap
Finley 15.4mm... 124.6mm
Tullakool 0.4mm... 116.7mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth.....3,671 GL.....95 %
Hume.....1,662 GL.....55 %
Lake Victoria.....318 GL.....47 %
Menindee Lakes 900 GL.....52 %
Active Storage.....6,551 GL.....71 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Jingellic7,496 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon 4,324 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point..... 12,960 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 8,071 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge..... 2,771 ML/d
M'Bigdee d/s Balranald 249 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia 1,991 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy 3,439 ML/d
Flow to SA..... 9,354 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge 0.61 m
Murray to the Sea 3 gates open

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