

Chairman's report

Friday 17 May 2013



Murray Irrigation

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

2012/13 irrigation season

The end of what has been a very successful irrigation season for both customers and Murray Irrigation is now only days away. It has been a year of significant achievement with water deliveries to customers now exceeding 1,250GL, while we have also processed a record number of annual allocation transfers for customers, now approaching 7,000, which is twice what we would normally expect to process.

I thank all our customers and staff for their co-operation during the season and their contribution to our successes.

I remind all customers of the end of season dates for the closure of external annual transfers and of the Exchange advertised in *Talking Water*.

2013/14 Budget and Fees and Prices

The Board has approved fees and prices for 2013/14. On the back of a successful 2012/13 irrigation season I am pleased to advise that the approved budget delivers no increase in the Murray Irrigation component of our fees and prices for our irrigation and domestic customers.

The fees and prices approved maintain the \$1.00 per delivery entitlement fee reduction implemented from 1 January 2013.

The fees and prices do include a new 'extra-large irrigation outlet fee' for outlets with a capacity greater than 15ML/day of \$861 per outlet. This new fee was included in the Fees and Prices Policy review completed earlier this year and was introduced because of the higher capital cost and capacity these outlets bring with them as we roll out our Outlet and Meter Strategy.

Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP) update

The Board approved the appointment of Comdain Pty Ltd as the contractor for civil works in the PIIOP 2013 Early Works which will commence on both the Mulwala and Berrigan Canals during the winter shut down period.

Recruitment is underway for a number of PIIOP positions which include opportunities for employment for local people. Murray Irrigation has also leased an existing building in Deniliquin to house the PIIOP team with the team scheduled to commence working from their new location at 416 Charlotte Street on Tuesday 21 May.

A key component of the PIIOP program is the sub-system retirements. I am pleased to report that in the last few days payments to customers in the sub-system retirement areas have commenced and their water entitlements are being transferred to the Commonwealth.

2013 Director election

The Board approved the timetable and process for a postal ballot (if required) for the three shareholder Director positions due for retirement by rotation. Details of the process for the Director election will be provided to shareholders in July and August.

Noel Graham
Chairman