

Talking Water

Tuesday 4 June 2013



Murray Irrigation

Channel draining

Murray Irrigation has now commenced channel draining out all escapes in preparation for routine winter maintenance works. Any outlets still operating by next Monday 10 June will be finished and final meter readings recorded. For more information, contact reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

Regional rainfall

It was pleasing to see significant rainfall over Murray Irrigation's area of operations at the weekend. According to the Bureau of Meteorology website, Deniliquin received close to 50mm by 9.00am Sunday morning.

There was also plenty of rain over the catchments, with the Bureau of Meteorology recording approximately 90mm at Hume Reservoir, 82mm at Dartmouth Reservoir, 114mm at Thredbo and about 80mm at Corryong, all since Thursday 30 May.

PIOP 2013 Early Works

Construction work as part of the PIOP 2013 Early Works is scheduled to commence this week. Comdain Pty Ltd has commenced as contractor for civil works on both the Mulwala and Berrigan Canals.

Murray Irrigation has also commenced survey work along other channels in Divisions 3 to 8 (east of Deniliquin) and Division 16 (west of Deniliquin).

For more information, contact reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

2013/14 Budget and Fees and Prices

The Board has approved fees and prices for 2013/14. The fees and prices approved maintain the \$1.00 per delivery entitlement fee reduction implemented from 1 January 2013.

The fees and prices also 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 has been introduced because of the higher capital cost and service levels these outlets bring with them as we roll out our Outlet and Meter Strategy.

The Fees and Prices Schedule and Information statement will be issued to all customers mid-June. For more information, contact reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

Customer Satisfaction survey

Murray Irrigation has engaged Bartley Consulting to conduct a telephone survey with 200 of our irrigation customers. The calls will be made by Lighthouse Data Collection. The survey should only take 15 minutes to complete and answers will be confidential. This survey focuses on customers' experiences in the 2012/13 water year. If you require further information please contact Catharine Heffernan, Communications Supervisor, via reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

Blighty Pilot Project survey results

Murray Irrigation has received the results of the customer survey evaluation of the Blighty Pilot Project. Thanks to the customers in the Pilot area who so willingly participated in this telephone survey which included talking to 90 percent of our customers in the Project area.

The feedback received has been positive about the benefits of the new infrastructure including the flexibility provided, consistency of flow rates and higher flow rates available. Customers were positive about the process for implementation of all aspects of the Pilot project at the same time as providing constructive feedback.

The feedback provided is being included in our planning for implementation of the Outlet and Meter strategy under PIOP to all customers and implementation of the new Water Ordering System from the start of 2013/14.

Spray Irrigation Field Days

Murray Irrigation is holding two Spray Irrigation Field Days this week. The first will be held at Hatty's property 'Wondilibi' in Tocomwal from **12.30pm today**. The second Field Day will be at Fasham's property 'Studleigh' in Wakool from **12.30pm tomorrow**, Wednesday 5 June. Lunch will be provided at both field days. The events will look at the installation of spray irrigation through the On-farm Irrigation Efficiency Program. For more information, contact Aimee Snowden on T. 03 5898 3317.

Murray Irrigation offices closed

All Murray Irrigation offices will be closed next Monday 10 June for the Queen's Birthday public holiday. Offices will reopen at 8.30am Tuesday 11 June. *Talking Water* will be distributed as normal. The 'On-The-Land' radio segment will also air on 1521 2QN at the normal time of 6.45am.

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

(04/06/13)	
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements	12%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)	
On-Farm Balance	101 GL
On-Farm Usage	1,264 GL
Comprising:	
On-Allocation Usage	1,178 GL
Off-Allocation Usage	86 GL

WATER EXCHANGE has now closed.

Water trading will recommence on 1 July.

Channel flows

Today	
Mulwala Canal	0 ML/day
Capacity	10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal	0 ML/day
Capacity	2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows	50 ML/day

Rainfall & evaporation

21/05/13 – 04/06/13	Rain	Evap
Finley	45.3mm	23.7mm
Tullakool	48.0mm	19.3mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)		
Dartmouth	3,604 GL	93 %
Hume	1,578 GL	52 %
Lake Victoria	393 GL	58 %
Menindee Lakes	1,239 GL	72 %
Active Storage	6,814 GL	73 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)	
Murray @ Jingellic	20,325 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon	1,195 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point	4,201 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir	5,033 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge	755 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald	952 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia	1,613 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy	1,974 ML/d
Flow to SA	2,981 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge	0.61 m
Murray to the Sea	17 gates open

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