

Chairman's report

Friday 21 June 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

Water sales for the 2012/13 season reached nearly 1,270GL. This is not the highest volume delivered since privatisation in 1995; however it is a record when you consider the size of our workforce and customers' water entitlements. Our customers have also sourced an additional 153GL (net trade) from outside of our area.

Maintenance activities are presently underway across our area to prepare for 2013/14, including additional maintenance in the upper section of the Mulwala Canal to address erosion and other maintenance issues caused by the high volumes delivered this season.

Yallakool Division 16 to be Pilot for our Standard Level of Service

I am pleased to announce that the Yallakool system, or Division 16, has been chosen as the Pilot for our Standard Level of Service. This Pilot is funded under our Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP) funding and involves investment in outlets and remote control of regulators.

Yallakool Pilot customers will soon receive an invitation to attend an Information Session on Thursday 4 July and I encourage all Yallakool Pilot customers to attend. Customer engagement is a vital ingredient to success, as we have learnt in both the Blighty Pilot and the PIIOP Early Works.

Results of a review of Blighty Pilot Project

Three external reviews of the Blighty Pilot Project have recently been completed. Overall, the reviews were positive. The feedback from customers about the improvements in service and the opportunities presented by better channel control, improved flexibility and higher flow rates is also very positive. Each review has identified opportunities for improvement that are included in our PIIOP roll out.

Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP) update

The Board received an update on the PIIOP Project and approved a number of activities that will assist with the efficiency of its implementation. The activities will allow the PIIOP team to progress preparations for the next stage of works involving a number of divisions in Berriquin as well as the Yallakool Pilot.

Exchange operations for 2013/14

The Board discussed the Exchange operation in 2012/13 and agreed to minor changes to its operation in 2013/14. Updated rules for the Exchange will be released on our website prior to the Exchange opening on Monday 1 July. A summary of the changes will be included in a future edition of *Talking Water*.

Distribution Rules Policy update

The Board approved an updated Distribution Rules Policy; in particular, the changes clarify the company's management of flow restrictions. The updated policy is available from our website www.murrayirrigation.com.au under 'Corporate' and then 'Company Policies' or by contacting reception.

Noel Graham leave

Chairman Noel Graham has been on holidays for the last month over which I have had the privilege of being Acting Chairman. I thank my fellow directors and the General Manager Anthony Couroupis for their support over the last four weeks.

Bruce Simpson
Acting Chairman