

Chairman's report

Friday 19 July 2013



Murray Irrigation

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

David Harriss, Commissioner NSW Office of Water Basin Plan update

David Harriss updated the Board on negotiations between the NSW and Commonwealth Governments over the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. NSW requires resolution of five key issues to its satisfaction before it is prepared to sign the IGA.

Whilst progress has been made on some issues, for example the recent announcement of funding for the Nimmie Caira project in the NSW Murrumbidgee valley, issues not resolved to the NSW Government's satisfaction are:

1. a Commonwealth Government commitment to fund infrastructure works to reduce the volume of water entitlements that need to be recovered from irrigators
2. limits on the rate of any Commonwealth Government water entitlements buyback
3. sustainable diversion limits of two aquifers
4. funding for the NSW Government to implement the Basin Plan
5. equitable access to the \$104M of structural adjustment funding available to the states.

Murray Irrigation again confirmed its support for the NSW Government's position and the efforts of the Minister, Katrina Hodgkinson and Commissioner, David Harriss.

2012/13 year

The Board received the interim end of year financial results. These results are still subject to audit but confirm the strong financial position of your company and positive performance that has allowed the one dollar per delivery entitlement reduction in 2012/13, and its continuation into the 2013/14 fees and prices.

Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators (PIIOP) update

The Board received an update on the progress with the Early Works on the Mulwala and Berrigan Canals associated with Murray Irrigation's PIIOP project rollout. These works are progressing consistent with the anticipated date for commencement of system-wide water deliveries by Monday August 19.

2013/14 Operating Plan

The Board approved the 2013/14 Operating Plan which describes how Murray Irrigation will operate its water supply system in 2013/14. Customers are encouraged to read this document which is available from our website www.murrayirrigation.com.au or by contacting reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

Environment Policy

The Board approved a new Environment Policy that replaces the Rice Growing, Total Farm Water Balance and Stormwater Disposal policies. The new policy has been developed over the last 18 months, with customer input sought earlier this year. The new policy is available from our website www.murrayirrigation.com.au or by contacting reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

WaterNow Customer Information Sessions

Murray Irrigation's new water ordering system is being launched on Monday 22 July. The investment in a new water ordering system is central to Murray Irrigation improving its service to customers. *WaterNow* includes both on-line water ordering and also a new telephone water ordering system. The changes to the system are significant and I encourage customers to attend one of the 15 information sessions about *WaterNow*. Details of the information sessions are available from our website www.murrayirrigation.com.au.

Director election

Murray Irrigation will call for nominations for directors in the first week of August for the three director vacancies arising from retirements by rotation. The three directors who are retiring by rotation are Noel Graham, Tim McKindlay and Bruce Simpson, and each is eligible to re-nominate.

Noel Graham, Chairman