

Talking Water

Tuesday 15 October 2013



Murray Irrigation

Shareholder Directors elected

Bruce Simpson, James Sides and Tim McKindlay have been elected to the Murray Irrigation Board of Directors following the declaration of the postal ballot by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) yesterday. Noel Graham was not re-elected.

The appointment of the three Directors will be confirmed by the 2013 Annual General Meeting, to be held on Thursday 21 November. For full details, see the special *Talking Water* released yesterday.

New options for customers

Murray Irrigation customers will have more choices in how they manage their water allocation accounts in the near future. These choices are available as a result of the introduction of our new water ordering system *WaterNow* and changes to Murray Irrigation's systems. Murray Irrigation's Entitlements Contract was recently changed to allow this flexibility.

The options fall into two categories

- Increased opportunities for a customer to authorise another person to act on their behalf; for example a farm manager, lessee, share-farmer, or other family member; and
- The options of merging or consolidating Water Accounts.

Fact sheets that describe these options are available from the 'Customers' section of Murray Irrigation's website.

Murray Irrigation anticipates establishment of the new authorities and merged or consolidated water accounts will be available from 1 November. Customers interested should discuss the options available with our Water Trade staff via reception on T. 1300 138 265.

Plan ahead when ordering water

Irrigation customers are reminded that as our daily irrigation demand is increasing, providing four days' notice for water orders is increasingly important.

When placing water orders, if there is no additional capacity available on your channel, *WaterNow* will prompt customers to accept an alternative date or flow rate for delivery. If this alternative is unacceptable, customers should select 'reject' and then select 'continue' which will submit your **original** order as an 'unsatisfied' order.

Murray Irrigation planning staff will then contact you with further information and options. An 'unsatisfied' order does **not** appear as a 'pending' order in *WaterNow* until planning staff have reviewed the order and contacted customers.

For any further questions regarding this topic, customers should contact Murray Irrigation planning staff via reception on T. 1300 138 265.

Buyback cap commitment

Parliamentary Secretary for Water, Senator Simon Birmingham last week confirmed that water buybacks under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan will be capped at 1,500GL and irrigation communities will benefit from a more sympathetic approach to water recovery. Around 1,137GL has already been purchased by Government, meaning buyback between now and 2019 will be limited to 363GL across the Basin. In an article in *The Australian* newspaper, Senator Birmingham also raised his concerns about the legislation to recover an extra 450GL through a special account fund. The full article is available via: www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/libs-to-put-lid-on-water-buybacks/story-fn59niix-1226735727237.

Constraints Management Strategy

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority will hold an open-house meeting in Deniliquin this Thursday 17 October from 2.30pm to 4.00pm at the Deniliquin RSL Club about its draft Constraints Management Strategy. Written submissions are being accepted until 30 October. For more information go to the MDBA website: www.mdba.gov.au.

SRI CEO

Southern Riverina Irrigators' (SRI) is seeking applications for the position of Chief Executive Officer. Former CEO Louise Burge resigned from the position after seeing the organisation through the development of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and other significant changes in water policy. SRI Chairman Denis Tinkler thanked Ms Burge for her commitment to the irrigators of the region and her service to SRI. For further information see the following advertisement:

http://gallery.mailchimp.com/c6e5c2d75b14461767c095feb/files/SRI_Job_description_Oct_2013.pdf.

Anthony Couroupis, General Manager

Announced allocation

Class C General Security	100 %
Class B High Security.....	100 %
Class A Town Water.....	100 %
Water Efficiency Allocation	0 %

Water availability and usage

(15/10/13)

Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements.....	85 %
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)	
On-Farm Balance.....	739 GL
On-Farm Usage	252 GL
Comprising:	
On-Allocation Usage	164 GL
Off-Allocation Usage	88 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today

Water for Sale	3,993 ML
Price Range	\$68 - \$112
Buy Offer.....	\$62
Last 10 Sales	866 ML
Price Range	\$65 - \$67

To buy water call 1300 781 431

Channel flows

Today

Mulwala Canal.....	5,400 ML/day
Capacity	10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal.....	1,570 ML/day
Capacity	2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows	100 ML/day

Rainfall and evaporation

08/10/13 – 15/10/13	Rain	Evap
Finley	0.7mm	40.6mm
Tullakool.....	1.2mm	44.0mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Dartmouth.....	3,820 GL.....	99 %
Hume.....	2,859 GL.....	95 %
Lake Victoria.....	618 GL.....	91 %
Menindee Lakes	1,116 GL.....	64 %
Active Storage.....	8,413 GL.....	91 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Murray @ Jingellic	6,461 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon.....	3,086 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point	23,013 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir	18,009 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge.....	953 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald.....	1,059 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia.....	624 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy	161 ML/d
Flow to SA.....	25,290 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge	0.97 m
Murray to the Sea	N/A

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