

# Chairman's report

Friday 18 October 2013



Murray Irrigation

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

## Directors election

I congratulate the successful candidates in the recent election, Tim McKindlay and Bruce Simpson on being re-elected and new Director James Sides. James' first Directors meeting will be on Thursday 21 November after our 2013 Annual General Meeting.

## Water availability update

Directors yesterday confirmed there is no opportunity to provide an efficiency allocation.

## Murray-Darling Basin Authority Constraints Management Strategy

Murray Irrigation Directors attended meetings held by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) about their draft Constraints Management Strategy (CMS) and progress with implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Roger Reynoldson, Murray Irrigation's representative on the Hume to Yarrawonga Waterway Management Advisory Group, attended the first meeting about the draft CMS and Tim McKindlay, Murray Irrigation's delegate to both the NSW and National Irrigators' Councils, attended a briefing on progress with implementation of the Basin Plan.

The draft CMS and yesterday's meetings reinforced the importance of Murray Irrigation and also Southern Riverina Irrigators' being strident in their response to the MDBA about the potential impact of the removal of constraints on irrigators and communities. This includes responding to the prospect of "rules changes" which could impact on all water entitlements holders.

Murray Irrigation will also communicate directly with State and Commonwealth Government politicians about our concerns with the draft CMS.

The MDBA is accepting written feedback on the draft CMS until Wednesday 30 October. The Basin Plan requires the MDBA to release a final CMS strategy in November 2013.

## Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP) update

The Board received an update on progress with implementation of our PIIOP project. The recent \$60M agreement with Rubicon Water will provide commercial benefits to Murray Irrigation which will assist implementation of this large and important project. It provides both Murray Irrigation and Rubicon with a sound basis for planning over the next four years.

## Murray Water Exchange

Murray Irrigation has started receiving enquiries from South Australian irrigators about the Murray Water Exchange. The expansion of the Murray Water Exchange is intended to attract more water into Murray Irrigation by streamlining the process for interstate sellers. The Murray Water Exchange website is [www.murraywaterexchange.com.au](http://www.murraywaterexchange.com.au).

## Policy updates

The Board yesterday approved updated Fraud and Procurement policies. These documents are internal policies important to Murray Irrigation's governance. The updated documents were prepared with external expertise from Murray Irrigation's auditor Grant Thornton Australia Ltd.

## Annual General Meeting

The notice of meeting and proxy form for Murray Irrigation's Annual General Meeting will be posted to shareholders on Friday 25 October. Murray Irrigation's Annual Report will be available on our website on Friday 25 October and be posted to customers that have elected to receive a copy with the notice of meeting and proxy form. Murray Irrigation's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Deniliquin RSL Club at 10.30am on Thursday 21 November 2013. I look forward to seeing shareholders at this meeting.

Noel Graham  
Chairman