

# Talking Water

Tuesday 3 December 2013



Murray Irrigation

## Order duration

Murray Irrigation's new water ordering system now allows customers to place an order with a duration longer than 30 days. Customers are reminded that when placing an order for an extended period of time, the estimated usage will be debited against their water allocation account. For more information, contact reception on T. 1300 138 265.

## Water availability

The volume remaining as a percentage of entitlements has increased from 80 percent last week to 83 percent this week (see data in right hand column). This is a result of transfers onto Murray Irrigation's licence.

## Constraints Management Strategy

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority released the final Constraints Management Strategy (CMS) last Friday, 29 November. The revised CMS clarifies that the strategy is designed to improve the management of all environmental water and recognises the fact that under the Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) adjustment mechanism, the total water recovery could be plus or minus five percent of 2,750GL.

The detail of management options is still lacking, however, the document clarifies the important role of the states in approving any changes to river operations. Victorian Water Minister Peter Walsh said yesterday in an interview with ABC Rural that the new CMS is an improvement but reiterated that liability rests with state river managers so they will not release Commonwealth water orders if they would result in flooding of private property.

The final CMS, summary of feedback and copies of submissions can be found on the MDBA website: [www.mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/water-planning/managing-constraints](http://www.mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/water-planning/managing-constraints).

## NSWIC meets Environment Minister

NSW Irrigators Council (NSWIC) met last week with Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt to discuss several issues including the current status of the water market. NSWIC outlined the current high prices combining with high allocations on the Murray was an economic consequence of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan which previous economic impact modelling had ignored. NSWIC has now formally

requested the Minister ask the MDBA to update its economic impact assessments which they believe will show the impacts of the Government's purchasing program are far more significant than previously estimated.

## High level of service

Customers on the Mulwala and Berrigan Canals who had their outlets upgraded as part of Murray Irrigation's Early Works PIIOP project now have access to the company's high level of irrigation service. Customers benefitted by the change have been sent a new *Water order booklet* and *Web ordering instruction guide*. For more information, or assistance, contact reception on T. 1300 138 265.

## New West Berriquin Chairman

Nick Morona has been elected Chairman of West Berriquin Irrigators' Council following an extraordinary meeting last Thursday. Murray Irrigation congratulates Nick on his appointment.

## LLS Board members appointed

Congratulations also to Jennie Hehir on her appointment as a member of the Murray Local Land Services (LLS) Board. This is sure to be an interesting and challenging role and Murray Irrigation looks forward to working with the LLS as it becomes operational in 2014.

## Murray CMA Strategic Water Program

The Murray Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is conducting a Strategic Water Program to better understand local ideas and issues relating to water use and management. The program applies to the Murray Local Land Services area of operations that becomes effective from 1 January 2014 and includes all of the local government areas between Wakool Shire Council in the west and Tumbarumba Shire Council in the east.

For more information, or to submit priority ideas and issues, visit:

[www.murray.cma.nsw.gov.au/strategic-water-program](http://www.murray.cma.nsw.gov.au/strategic-water-program). Feedback is due **next Monday 9 December**.

**Anthony Couroupis**  
General Manager

## Announced allocation

Class C General Security .....	100 %
Class B High Security .....	100 %
Class A Town Water .....	100 %
Water Efficiency Allocation .....	6 %

## Water availability and usage

(03/12/13)

Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements.....	83 %
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)	
On-Farm Balance .....	707 GL
On-Farm Usage .....	349 GL
Comprising:	
On-Allocation Usage .....	261 GL
Off-Allocation Usage .....	88 GL

## Water exchange

8.30am today

Water for Sale .....	15,088 ML
Price Range .....	\$80 - \$200
Buy Offer .....	\$79
Last 10 Sales .....	735 ML
Price Range .....	\$78 - \$80

**To buy water call 1300 781 431**

## Channel flows

Today

Mulwala Canal .....	3,900 ML/day
Capacity .....	10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal .....	950 ML/day
Capacity .....	2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows .....	150 ML/day

## Rainfall and evaporation

26/11/13 – 03/12/13 .....	Rain .....	Evap
Finley .....	0.0mm	66.3mm
Tullakool .....	2.2mm	70.2mm

## Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Dartmouth .....	3,782 GL .....	98 %
Hume .....	2,352 GL .....	78 %
Lake Victoria .....	586 GL .....	87 %
Menindee Lakes .....	917 GL .....	53 %
Active Storage .....	7,637 GL .....	82 %

## Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Murray @ Jingellic .....	4,342 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon .....	3,559 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point .....	15,643 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir .....	13,626 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge .....	907 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald .....	764 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia .....	31 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy .....	199 ML/d
Flow to SA .....	11,765 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge .....	0.69 m
Murray to the Sea .....	12 gates open

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