

Talking Water

Tuesday 4 March 2014



Murray Irrigation

Cautious welcome for IGA

Murray Irrigation has cautiously welcomed the signing of the Murray-Darling Basin Inter-Governmental Agreement between the NSW and Commonwealth governments. NSW was the last state to sign up to the Agreement ensuring key concerns were addressed, including ensuring infrastructure is the priority for water recovery and that more regional development funds are made available.

Murray Irrigation supports infrastructure investment but wants to see the focus moved onto looking at better ways to manage water to create offsets without impacting on irrigators' entitlements and reliability. Murray Irrigation last week told the NSW Minister for Water Katrina Hodgkinson that it is imperative that governments look to innovative ways to offset environmental needs instead of taking more water from productive use.

Surface Irrigation Field Days

Murray Irrigation will be hosting a series of Surface Irrigation Field Days next week to look at upgrades of surface irrigation systems through the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program. All days start at 12.30pm with a free BBQ lunch:

- Tuesday 11 March, Bryce's "Warenda" Jerilderie;
- Wednesday 12 March, Haines' "Rothsay", Deniliquin;
- Thursday 13 March, Green's "Rangemore", Wakool.

Flyers have been sent to customers. For more information, contact reception on T. 1300 138 265.

Customer meetings

Murray Irrigation hosted a series of customer meetings last week. These meetings included an opportunity for feedback from customers. Constructive feedback was received as well as some opportunities for improvement which will be reviewed and considered by the company. If you were unable to attend one of the meetings a copy of the presentation is available from the 'Current activities' section of our website:

www.murrayirrigation.com.au.

Alternatively, customers can contact reception on T. 1300 138 265.

Maximum rice water usage

The final maximum rice water usage figure for 2013/14 has been calculated based on

the crop irrigation requirement (from October 2013 to February 2014 inclusive), plus an additional 4ML/ha for soil profile wetting and drainage. The final maximum rice water use figures are:

- 16.9ML/ha for E,Q and M landholdings east of the Edward River; and
- 18.0ML/ha for D,W and T landholdings west of the Edward River.

The rice water usage for each landholding is available in the *Water Allocation Report* from the *Water Ordering* system. If customers wish to discuss their rice water usage, please contact reception on T. 1300 138 265.

Total farm water use limit

In a year of high plant transpiration, the Environment Policy (Total Farm Water Balance Rules) allows for a climatic adjustment of the total farm water use limit. The total farm water use limit on each landholding will be increased by two percent for the 2013/14 season and is the final adjustment to this limit for 2013/14. The total farm water use limit information is available in the *Water Allocation Report* from the *Water Ordering* system.

Please note the total farm water use limits on the *Water Ordering* system have **not** been increased by two percent. The forms to increase or combine the total farm water use limits on your landholding/s are available on our website in 'Customers', then 'Forms' and 'General Forms'. For more information, please contact reception on T. 1300 138 265.

MILCast contact details

Customers are advised that the latest MILCast catalogue is available via the 'MILCast' section of Murray Irrigation's website: www.murrayirrigation.com.au. For more information, you can contact our friendly MILCast team directly on T. 03 5888 3051 or via email milcast@murrayirrigation.com.au.

Lower Darling temporary trade closed

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, last week announced the closure of temporary trade into and out of the regulated lower Darling River. This closure is a result of the total storage in the Menindee Lakes System being below 480,000ML.

Anthony Couroupis, General Manager

Announced allocation

Class C General Security 100 %
Water Efficiency Allocation 9 %
(Efficiency Allocation on Delivery Entitlements)

Water availability and usage

(04/03/14)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements..... 35 %
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance..... 307 GL
On-Farm Usage 783 GL
(Including Off-Allocation Usage of .. 88 GL)

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale 13,009 ML
Price Range \$69 - \$200
Buy Offer..... \$65
Last 10 Sales 612 ML
Price Range \$69 - \$70
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Water use and trade data

25/02/14 – 03/03/14

Murray Water Exchange activity

Internal buyers (No. & ML)..... 41; 4,378ML
External buyers (No. & ML)..... 3; 947ML
Internal sellers (No. & ML)..... 22; 2,589ML
External sellers (No. & ML)..... 3; 2,736ML

Trade to and from licence (excl. Govt.)

Net trade.... +104ML (week) +14,449ML (YTD)

Crop weekly water use

ML used on farm..... 21GL (53% on rice)

Channel flows today (ML/day)

	Actual	Capacity
Mulwala Canal	4,250	10,000
Wakool Canal	950	2,350
Escape flows	900	3,250

Rainfall and evaporation

25/02/14 – 04/03/14 Rain Evap
Finley 0.0mm N/A
Tullakool..... 0.0mm N/A

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth.....N/A.....N/A
Hume.....1,379 GL.....46 %
Lake Victoria..... 464 GL.....69 %
Menindee Lakes434 GL.....25 %
Active Storage.....N/A.....N/A

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Doctors Point 14,498 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 9,273 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge975 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald..... 2,494 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy..... 352 ML/d
Flow to SA..... 7,117 ML/d
Murray to the Sea 2 gates open

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