



End of irrigation season planning

Customers are advised that Murray Irrigation currently intends closing its Mulwala and Wakool Canal offtakes at 8.00am on Monday 12 May. Off allocation water deliveries will commence on this day. Murray Irrigation will also commence draining channels linked to accredited escapes to minimise conveyance losses for all customers from Monday 12 May. Offtakes for lateral channels will also be closed on Monday 12 May.

Customers are encouraged to plan their autumn irrigation programs around this information. This date assumes current weather conditions and reductions in irrigation demand continue. Closure before Monday 12 May will only apply in the event of significant region-wide rainfall prior, that results in no or limited demand for irrigation supply.

Murray Irrigation does not anticipate extending the closure date beyond Monday 12 May. Based on previous seasons, including dry autumns, the irrigation demand in mid- to late May is extremely low with both high losses and costs associated with low on-farm deliveries.

However, in order to best manage our system to meet customer demand, we request that customers place orders for any deliveries on or after Monday 12 May by 5.00pm Wednesday 30 April.

More detailed information about our end of season arrangements will be provided via a *Special Talking Water*, to be issued by the end of April.

Dates for close of annual trade

Customers are advised of the following dates for the close of annual trade for the 2013/14 season:

- Interstate trade (to or from South Australia or Victoria) – forms must be received by **5.00pm Tuesday 29 April**
- External trade (to or from Murray Irrigation) – forms must be received by **5.00pm Thursday 29 May**
- Murray Water Exchange – will close at **5.00pm on Friday 6 June**
- Internal annual trade – will close at **5.00pm on Friday 13 June**.

Customers who need to transfer water between accounts for the purpose of managing carryover must do so by this date.

On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program – Round Four

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, Senator Simon Birmingham, last week announced Murray Irrigation as a Delivery Partner for Round Four of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program.

While successful, only a portion of our application received in-principle funding approval and therefore a number of our projects were unsuccessful.

All customers who submitted an *Expression of Interest* for Round Four of this program will receive a letter advising of their outcome. These letters are being mailed this Thursday 10 April. Details of who to contact regarding enquiries will be included in the letter.

Water Trade Rules guidelines

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has released guidelines to explain the Basin Plan Water Trade Rules which are due to commence on 1 July 2014.

Murray Irrigation expects our current rules for annual and permanent trade are already consistent with the Water Trade Rules. The MDBA says the rules will provide increased transparency in the water market. The guidelines are available on the MDBA website:

<http://www.mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/managing-rivers/water-trade/trading-rules/guidelines-for-the-water-trading-rules>

March climate summary

There was above average rainfall across the Murray-Darling Basin during March. Temperatures were also above average. Across the Basin, the Bureau of Meteorology reported that rainfall was 64 percent above the long-term mean, with an area-averaged total of 63mm.

Inflows to the River Murray System (excluding Snowy, Darling and environmental inflows) were just under 100GL for March. This total is significantly less than the inflow volume recorded during March last year (around 150GL) and well under the March long-term average of around 220GL.

Anthony Couroupis, General Manager

Announced allocation

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

Water availability and usage

(8/04/14)

Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements 24 %
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance 217 GL
On-Farm Usage 905 GL
(Including Off-Allocation Usage of .. 88 GL)

Water exchange

8.30am today

Water for Sale 9,188 ML
Price Range \$64 - \$149
Buy Offer \$60
Yesterday's Sales 895 ML
Price Range \$62 - \$70

To buy water call 1300 781 431

Water use and trade data

1/04/14 – 7/04/14

Murray Water Exchange activity

Internal buyers (No. & ML) 21; 3,427ML
External buyers (No. & ML) 1; 300ML
Internal sellers (No. & ML) 23; 3,053ML
External sellers (No. & ML) 2; 674ML

Trade to and from licence (excl. Govt.)

Net trade -317ML (week) +16,307ML (YTD)

Crop weekly water use

ML used on farm 13GL (54% on annual pasture)

Channel flows today (ML/day)

	Actual	Capacity
Mulwala Canal	1,570	10,000
Wakool Canal	450	2,350
Escape flows	103	3,250

Rainfall and evaporation

1/04/14 – 7/04/14 Rain Evap
Finley 9.3mm 27.3mm
Tullakool 3.8mm 28.4mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Dartmouth 3,433 GL 89 %
Hume 1,081 GL 36 %
Lake Victoria 414 GL 61 %
Menindee Lakes 386 GL 22 %
Active Storage 5,314 GL 57 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Murray @ Doctors Point 7,754 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra Weir 6,533 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge ... 1,819 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald 257 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy 193 ML/d
Flow to SA 4,892 ML/d
Murray to the Sea 8 gates open

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