

Talking Water

Tuesday 6 May 2014



Murray Irrigation

End of irrigation season planning

Murray Irrigation will close its Mulwala and Wakool Canal offtakes at 8.00am next Monday 12 May. Drainage of all channels linked to accredited escapes commences immediately after these closures. Opportunistic only off-allocation deliveries also commence immediately after these closures.

Customers are strongly encouraged to give advance notice of changes to orders to assist with channel operations. Changes to orders are to be made via T. 1300 781 431 or the *Water ordering* system: water.murrayirrigation.com.au. Full details are in the special *Talking Water* released yesterday.

Meeting with Kevin Humphries

The new Minister for Lands and Water, Kevin Humphries, met with Murray Irrigation Chairman Bruce Simpson last week. Member for Murrumbidgee, Adrian Piccoli, also attended the meeting.

Minister Humphries is enthusiastic about his new portfolio and described his approach, including increased liaison with irrigators, particularly through NSW Irrigators' Council.

Issues discussed at the meeting included the Murray-Darling Basin Plan's implementation, Murray-Darling Basin Authority costs and efficiency, and the renewal of our Water Sharing Plan. Murray Irrigation was pleased to host the Minister in his second week in the portfolio and will continue to ensure the Minister and his Office are well informed of our issues.

Murrumbidgee trade out closed

The NSW Office of Water has closed trade out of the Murrumbidgee Valley until further notice due to the inter-valley trade limit being reached. Trade into the Murrumbidgee Valley is still open. Customers are reminded that NSW inter-valley trade closes at the end of May and applications must be submitted to Murray Irrigation by 5.00pm on Thursday 29 May.

Barmah Choke trade

NSW Water Commissioner David Harriss last week reminded NSW Murray water users that the relaxation of trade restrictions around the Barmah Choke is a temporary measure and restrictions may resume in the future. Mr Harriss explained that restrictions may become necessary to ensure peak demand downstream of the

Choke can be met by supply from Hume Dam while Menindee Lakes is in NSW control. The current relaxation of restrictions has been in place since 2007.

Murray Irrigation's licence is classed as above the Choke while river licences held below Picnic Point are classified as below the Choke. When restrictions apply, transfer of water from a Murray Irrigation account to one of these licences is not allowed. The final decision to apply restrictions rests with the MDBA.

Water Management Act amendments

Murray Irrigation last week attended a briefing on a range of amendments to the Water Management Act 2000 that the NSW Government is planning to present to parliament in the near future.

Key amendments for Murray Irrigation customers relate to supplementary licences and changes to our Water Sharing Plan. The Amendment Act includes a provision to issue supplementary licences in perpetuity, meaning that the licence cannot be cancelled without compensation (as is currently the case). The proposed change to the Water Sharing Plan will also standardise the "worst period of low inflows" to clarify that this means historical information held before the commencement of the Plan in 2004. It is expected that this change will provide more capacity for early season general security allocations.

Quarterly accounts mail-out

Murray Irrigation's third quarter accounts for 2013/14 were mailed to customers last week. If you have not received an invoice, please contact Finance, via reception, on T. 1300 138 265. Accounts are due by 5.00pm Friday 30 May. To be eligible for the 10 percent discount, all accounts must be paid on or before this date.

Stakeholders' breakfast

Murray Irrigation is holding a Stakeholders' Breakfast next Thursday 15 May at Deniliquin's The Crossing Café. Topics for discussion will include the rollout of Murray Irrigation's PIIOP project, the 2014/15 water year and outlook, and Murray Irrigation's new 2020 Strategic Plan. Stakeholders are asked to confirm attendance with Alison Bult on T. 03 5898 3332 by 5.00pm Monday 12 May.

Anthony Couroupis, General Manager

Announced allocation

Class C General Security 100 %
Water Efficiency Allocation 11 %
(Efficiency Allocation on Delivery Entitlements)

Water availability and usage

(06/05/14)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements..... 24 %
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance..... 210 GL
On-Farm Usage 914 GL
(Including Off-Allocation Usage of ..88 GL)

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale 7,256 ML
Price Range \$48 - \$149
Buy Offer..... \$46
Yesterday's Sales..... 1,894 ML
Price Range \$40 - \$48
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Water use and trade data

29/04/14 – 05/05/14

Murray Water Exchange activity

Internal buyers (No. & ML)..... 22; 2,412ML
External buyers (No. & ML)..... 3; 4,131ML
Internal sellers (No. & ML)..... 35; 6,543ML
External sellers (No. & ML).... N/A; N/A

Trade to and from licence (excl. Govt.)

Net trade -3,773ML (week) -469ML (YTD)

Crop weekly water use

ML used on farm..... 7GL (52% on annual pasture)

Channel flows today (ML/day)

	Actual	Capacity
Mulwala Canal	1,400	10,000
Wakool Canal	300	2,350
Escape flows	700	3,250

Rainfall and evaporation

29/04/14 – 05/05/14 Rain Evap
Finley 20.1mm 15.0mm
Tullakool..... 20.4mm 8.0mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Dartmouth.....3,427 GL.....89 %
Hume.....1,140 GL.....38 %
Lake Victoria.....439 GL.....65 %
Menindee Lakes370 GL.....21 %
Active Storage.....5,376 GL.....58 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Murray @ Doctors Point 2,778 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 1,894 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge ... 1,027 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald..... 304 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy.....300 ML/d
Flow to SA..... 3,501 ML/d
Murray to the Sea 0 gates open

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