

Talking Water

Tuesday 20 May 2014



Murray Irrigation

Water allocation outlook for 2014/15

The NSW Office of Water (NOW) released its second 2014/15 NSW Murray water allocation outlook on Thursday last week.

Indicative allocations for 1 July 2014 are:

- Opening general security allocation of up to five percent of entitlement under very dry conditions. Under the Water Sharing Plan, the NSW share of the Barmah-Millewa Forest account water may be borrowed and used for allocations if the general security plus average carryover is less than 30 percent.
- Carryover fully deliverable. Noting carryover is up to 50 percent of entitlements for Class C general security.
- It is estimated that general security carryover in the NSW Murray will average around 30 percent of entitlement.
- Full allocations for town water and domestic and stock access licences.
- High Security allocation of 97 percent.

The full NOW allocation outlook for 2014/15 is available under 'Water Resources Updates' on Murray Irrigation's homepage: www.murrayirrigation.com.au.

Water efficiency allocation

The Board last week agreed to make a water efficiency allocation of one percent of permanent delivery entitlements, excluding Class A (Town Water Supply) and domestic supply agreement customers. This announcement takes the water efficiency allocation to 12 percent or over 125,000ML. For full details, see Friday's *Chairman's report* or contact reception on T. 1300 138 265.

Channel draining

Murray Irrigation closed its Mulwala and Wakool Canal offtakes at 8.00am on Monday 12 May and has commenced system draining from channels linked to accredited escapes. We will commence channel draining out all non-accredited escapes next Monday 26 May.

Off-allocation deliveries have commenced on an opportunistic basis. Please place orders for off-allocation water via the water ordering line on T. 1300 781 431, or via the *Water ordering system*: water.murrayirrigation.com.au. For operational information, please contact your Channel Attendant.

Annual trade closure dates

Customers are advised of the following dates for the close of annual trade:

- External trade (to or from Murray Irrigation) – forms must be received by **5.00pm Thursday 29 May**
- Murray Water Exchange – closes at **5.00pm on Friday 6 June**
- Internal annual trade – closes 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.

OFIEP Round Four

Eligible customers are reminded that completed Stage Two application forms and attached farm plans must be submitted to Murray Irrigation no later than **5.00pm this Friday 23 May**. Murray Irrigation staff members will be on hand to assist customers at each of our offices this Friday. For more information, contact reception on T. 1300 138 265.

Water Market Workshops

The Ricegrowers' Association of Australia in conjunction with the Murray Local Land Services will host three, three-hour Water Market Workshops on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 June in Wakool, Deniliquin and Finley. The workshops will include a presentation on the seasonal outlook for 2014/15, environmental water recovery and management and a review of the local water market in 2013/14 culminating in a panel discussion about water trading. Details are currently being finalised and times and locations will be included in next week's *Talking Water*.

Les Dart retirement

Murray Irrigation farewellled long-serving Finley Channel Attendant Les Dart last week. Les has retired after 34 years' service to the company. We wish him all the best for his future.

Southern Growers Executive Officer

Southern Growers - a new community-driven organisation which will lead agricultural research and extension in the southern Riverina - is looking for an Executive Officer. Applications close Thursday 5 June. For more information, contact Chairman Andrew Harding via E. aharding@activ8.net.au.

Jennifer McLeod
Acting General Manager

Announced allocation

Class C General Security 100 %
Water Efficiency Allocation 12 %
(Efficiency Allocation on Delivery Entitlements)

Water availability and usage

(20/05/14)

Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements.....27 %
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance..... 237 GL
On-Farm Usage 923 GL
(Including Off-Allocation Usage of ..95 GL)

Water exchange

8.30am today

Water for Sale 8,479 ML
Price Range \$44 - \$149
Buy Offer..... \$35
Yesterday's Sales..... 537 ML
Price Range \$40 - \$44

To buy water call 1300 781 431

Water use and trade data

13/05/14 – 19/05/14

Murray Water Exchange activity

Internal buyers (No. & ML)..... 8; 1,299ML
External buyers (No. & ML)..... 1; 500ML
Internal sellers (No. & ML)..... 15; 1,563ML
External sellers (No. & ML)..... 2; 236ML

Trade to and from licence (excl. Govt.)

Net trade -410ML (week) -3,168ML (YTD)

Crop weekly water use

ML used on farm..... 5GL (42% on storage)

Channel flows today (ML/day)

	Actual	Capacity
Mulwala Canal	0	10,000
Wakool Canal	0	2,350
Escape flows	295	3,250

Rainfall and evaporation

13/05/14 – 19/05/14 Rain Evap
Finley 0.2mm 17.7mm
Tullakool..... 1.6mm 14.1mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Dartmouth.....3,433 GL.....89 %
Hume.....1,208 GL..... 40 %
Lake Victoria.....441 GL..... 65 %
Menindee Lakes378 GL..... 22 %
Active Storage.....5,460 GL..... 59 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Murray @ Doctors Point 1,266 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 1,852 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge ...1,050 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald..... 483 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy.....184 ML/d
Flow to SA..... 3,460 ML/d
Murray to the Sea 11 gates open

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