

TalkingWater

Tuesday 3 March 2015



Murray Irrigation

No allocation increase

The NSW Office of Water (NOW) made no increase in the NSW Murray general security announced allocation yesterday. As a result, Murray Irrigation's announced allocation remains at 59 percent for general security (Class C) entitlement customers. The next NOW allocation announcement will be on Monday 16 March. This will also provide preliminary estimates of water availability for 2015-16. A copy of yesterday's announcement is available in the 'Water Resources Updates' section of Murray Irrigation's website: www.murrayirrigation.com.au.

Advance water orders

As demand for water increases, customers are reminded to place their irrigation orders well in advance to avoid a potential delay in water delivery. A minimum of four days' notice (day one is for orders received before 6.30am) is required in advance to guarantee delivery. For more information, contact our Regional Planning staff, via reception on T. 1300 138 265.

PIIOP update

As part of our PIIOP project, Murray Irrigation has commenced consultation with customers in divisions 10 and 11. Outlet construction works are currently taking place in divisions 3 to 9. We are in contact with customers within the scope of works to ensure construction work does not disrupt any irrigation requirements.

The design works for the 2015 regulator program have been completed and the tender has been issued to our approved supplier panel. Works this year will be in divisions around Finley and Jerilderie. For more information, contact the PIIOP team on T. 1300 138 265.

Native vegetation codes of practice

Self-assessable codes of practice are now available for minor clearing of native vegetation. This includes paddock trees in cultivation, thinning and invasive native species. Landholders must either notify online or directly through a Local Land Services officer at least 14 days prior to clearing. The codes and relevant information can be found at: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation.

For more information, contact Local Land Services officers Steve Hoare - Deniliquin T. 03 5880 1416 or Troy Hitchon - Albury T. 02 26051 2216.

Bruce Atkinson retirement

Murray Irrigation would like to thank retiring Berriquin Irrigators' Council (BIC) Chairman, Bruce Atkinson for his services to irrigation and to BIC over the years. Bruce is a champion for reform of the landholder association and Southern Riverina Irrigators model to ensure effective representation into the future. Murray Irrigation wishes Bruce all the best for the future. BIC Vice Chairman Michael Maloney will replace Bruce as Chair.

River flows

Water continues to be diverted around the Barmah Choke through the Yarrowonga Main Channel and Mulwala Canal to meet downstream demands. The MDBA reports that flow downstream of Stevens Weir has averaged close to channel capacity since early February with River Murray water orders maximised through the Edward Escape and relatively low diversions at Wakool Main Canal. The River Murray water order at Edward Escape was reduced last week to target a total release of around 400ML/day below capacity. In response, it is expected that flows downstream of Stevens Weir will also ease.

Rice Field Day

RGA is holding its 2015 Rice Field Day at Rice Research Australia Pty Ltd, 'Old Coree' (near Jerilderie) from 9.15am this Thursday 5 March. The day will include information on new varieties and varietal development trials, plant population trials, weed control and sowing methods, precision ag technologies, business opportunities and biodiversity, as well as market updates. For information, contact Troy Mauger on M. 0417 375 168.

Rice stubble field day

Rice Extension is hosting a rice stubble field day at 'Old Coree' (near Jerilderie) from 1.30pm on Tuesday 10 March. Presentations and demonstrations include: happy seeder, bio-char, compost, incorporation machinery, mulching, direct drilling, straw as stock food and a demonstration of the uses of drone technology in the rice farming system. For more information contact RGA Environmental Projects Manager Neil Bull on M. 0428 603,557.

Scott Barlow
Water Distribution Manager

Announced allocation

Class C General Security 59 %
Water Efficiency Allocation 0 %
(Efficiency Allocation on Delivery Entitlements)

Water availability and usage

(03/03/15)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements.....28 %
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance.....243 GL
On-Farm Usage 571 GL
(Including Off-Allocation usage of 3 GL)

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale 6,375 ML
Price Range \$106 - \$150
Buy Offer..... \$103
Yesterday's Sales..... 858 ML
Price Range \$103 - \$106
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Water use and trade data

24/02/15 – 02/03/15
Murray Water Exchange activity
Internal buyers (No. & ML).....31; 3,839ML
External buyers (No. & ML)..... 0; 0ML
Internal sellers (No. & ML)..... 24; 3,237ML
External sellers (No. & ML)..... 2; 602ML
Trade to and from licence (excl. Govt.)
Net trade -1,232ML (week) +90,684ML(YTD)
Crop weekly water use
ML used on farm..... 15GL (57% on rice)

Channel flows today (ML/day)

	Actual	Capacity
Mulwala Canal	4,251	10,000
Wakool Canal	650	2,350
Escape flows	1,800	3,250

Rainfall and evaporation

24/02/15 – 02/03/15 Rain Evap
Finley 0.2mm 45.4mm
Tullakool..... 0.0mm 59.2mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth.....3,038 GL.....79 %
Hume.....1,125 GL.....37 %
Lake Victoria.....274 GL.....40 %
Menindee Lakes 113 GL.....7 %
Active Storage.....4,550 GL.....49 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Doctors Point 17,338 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 9,946 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge ... 1,253 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald..... 911 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy..... 20 ML/d
Flow to SA..... 9,539 ML/d
Murray to the Sea 11 gates open

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