



SAFETY FIRST

Blue-green algae

Murray Irrigation testing shows high levels of blue-green algae at both the Mulwala Canal Offtake and Wakool Canal Offtake. The species of blue-green algae currently identified is potentially toxic and may cause nausea and vomiting in humans if consumed and skin and eye irritations after contact. People are advised not to enter the water, not to drink untreated water or swim or bathe in water while red alert levels of blue-green algae are present.

Livestock owners are reminded to continue to check stock water supplies for blue-green algae and to monitor or remove stock where surface scum is visible or blue-green algae is suspected. Murray Irrigation has been informed there have been no blue-green algae related stock deaths to date since the alert has been in place. Management options for this blue-green algae outbreak are limited as it is suspected the bloom is originating in the Hume Dam and Lake Mulwala.

Murray Regional Tourism is holding a **blue-green algae information session** at the Deniliquin RSL Club from 11.00am tomorrow, Wednesday 9 March. RSVPs and enquiries to E. ea@mrtb.com.au by 5.00pm today.

For more information on blue-green algae, visit the NSW Department of Primary Industries website: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/resources/water/quality/publications/blue-green-algae.

Allocation update next week

DPI Water's next water allocation statement is due next Tuesday 15 March. The announcement will also include an update of the water availability outlook for 2016-17. DPI Water has created a 'Water Availability Hub' to improve the way information on water allocations and water availability is accessed by water users. For details, visit: www.water.nsw.gov.au/water-management/water-availability.

Autumn watering arrangements

Customers are encouraged to speak to their Channel Attendants about autumn irrigation programs so Murray Irrigation can plan its end of season arrangements. If you haven't already been contacted, please speak to your Channel Attendant immediately to discuss watering intentions for the remainder of the season. This information helps Murray Irrigation to manage our system to maximise efficiencies in a low water allocation year and will also be used to identify where PIIOP construction works can get underway without disrupting customers' operations.

Ag Industry Advisory Council

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barnaby Joyce, has announced the appointment of Murray Irrigation's Corporate Affairs and Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Perin Davey, to the Agricultural Industry Advisory Council. The Council is made up of representatives from across agricultural industries and provides the Minister with information, advice and recommendations on issues affecting Australian agriculture.

We congratulate Perin on her appointment to this unpaid advisory council. The first Council meeting will be held in Armidale later this month.

February 2016 summary

The Bureau of Meteorology has reported that rainfall in the Murray-Darling Basin was 52 percent below the mean last month (21st driest February in 117 years of records).

Inflows to the River Murray system in February totalled 93GL, which is below the long-term average of 189GL and in the lowest 20 percent of records for this time of year.

West Berriquin branch meeting

West Berriquin Irrigators Council will be holding a branch meeting at the Sportsmans Arms Hotel in Deniliquin next Wednesday 16 March. Drinks and nibbles will be served from 6.30pm with the meeting to start at 7.15pm. For more information, contact Linda Fawns on M. 0409 044 754.

Michael Renehan, CEO

Announced allocation

Class C General Security 23 %
Water Efficiency Allocation 6 %
(Efficiency Allocation on Delivery Entitlements)

Water availability and usage

(08/03/16)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements.....25 %
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance..... 202 GL
On-Farm Usage 212 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale 5,669 ML
Price Range \$223 - \$300
Buy Offer..... \$220
Yesterday's Sales..... 2,378 ML
Price Range \$211 - \$222
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Water use and trade data

01/03/16 – 07/03/16
Murray Water Exchange activity
Internal buyers (No. & ML).....23; 3,648ML
External buyers (No. & ML)..... 2; 2,146ML
Internal sellers (No. & ML).....39; 3,129ML
External sellers (No. & ML).....4; 2,665ML

Trade to and from licence (excl. Govt.)
Net trade.....-128ML(week)...36,704ML(YTD)
Crop weekly water use
GL used on farm.....8 GL (29% on summer crops)

Channel flows today (ML/day)

	Actual	Capacity
Mulwala Canal	2,584	10,000
Wakool Canal	337	2,350
Escape flows	958	3,250

Rainfall and evaporation

01/03/16 – 07/03/16 Rain Evap
Finley N/A N/A
Tullakool..... N/A N/A

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth.....1,705 GL..... 44 %
Hume.....937 GL..... 31 %
Lake Victoria.....331 GL..... 49 %
Menindee Lakes53 GL..... 3 %
Active Storage.....3,026 GL.....33 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Doctors Point 12,986 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 8,104 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge737 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald..... 702 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy..... N/A
Flow to SA..... 7,192 ML/d
Murray to the Sea 0 gates open