



SAFETY FIRST

Blue-green algae resources

Customers are advised to check the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Water website for up-to-date information on the blue-green algae bloom:

www.water.nsw.gov.au/water-management/water-quality/algal-information. Here you will find a list of algal information links on the left hand side of the page. The Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee's red alert warning is now in place for the entire length of the Murray River from and including Hume Dam to Murrabit, as well as the Edward and Wakool river systems.

PIOP winter works

The scope for PIOP winter works has been established with work to be conducted across the entire Murray Irrigation network. Some of the works being performed include both upgrades and new installations of 160 (Rubicon gates) regulator structures. A key focus for this winter will be completion of all critical structures that can only be upgraded while the channels are empty. Murray Irrigation will also continue the installation of our Central Remote Control option across existing regulator structures and install 40 outlets across our major channels. A program of investigation across our major channels will also be conducted (including the Mulwala and Berrigan canals). The works involved will be survey and condition reports of existing infrastructure for possible future upgrades.

Senate committee report

The Senate Select Committee inquiring into the impacts of the Murray Darling Basin Plan tabled its report in Parliament last Thursday 17 March. The comprehensive report made 31 recommendations including to amend the Water Act to provide for triple bottom line outcomes and for the Commonwealth to assume liability for negative impacts caused by environmental flows. The Committee made several recommendations for further reviews including calling for a Productivity Commission review of the cost-benefit of the Basin Plan. There were four dissenting reports issued by Labor, the Greens, Senator Nick Xenophon and Senator John Madigan (who proposed 19 additional

recommendations of his own). The Government will now consider the report, which is available online at: www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Murray_Darling_Basin_Plan/murraydarling/Report.

Updated MILCast catalogue

An updated MILCast product catalogue is now available on our website: www.murrayirrigation.com.au/milcast/. The new-look catalogue has been updated following valued customer feedback. For all product enquiries, contact the MILCast team on T. 03 5888 3051, or visit the new MILCast office at the end of Murray Hut Drive, Finley (behind Murray Irrigation's Finley office).

Merge/consolidate water accounts

Customers owning multiple landholdings and water accounts are reminded that the option to merge or consolidate these water accounts can assist in administration and end of season accounting. There are two options to choose from:

- Option 1 – Merge multiple landholdings into a single account; or
- Option 2 – Retain multiple water accounts with a consolidated water balance for reporting.

A fact sheet that describes these options is available here: www.murrayirrigation.com.au/customers/customer-information/fact-sheets/. If you are interested in merging your accounts, you will need to complete *Form 34 – Merge/Consolidate Water Accounts*, which is available via the 'Customers' then 'Forms' and 'General forms' section of our website: www.murrayirrigation.com.au.

Easter office closures

All Murray Irrigation offices will be closed over the Easter long weekend from 5.00pm this Thursday 24 March and will reopen at 8.30am on Tuesday 29 March. MILCast will also be closed during this time. Murray Irrigation's Water Exchange telephone service will remain open. Payment for any Exchange purchases made between Friday and Monday will be invoiced on Tuesday 29 March and must be received as cleared funds by close of business on Thursday 31 March.

Water deliveries are not affected, with Channel Attendants and Network Controllers working as normal. *Talking Water* will be sent to customers on Wednesday 30 March.

Michael Renehan, CEO

Announced allocation

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

Water availability and usage

(22/03/16)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements.....21 %
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance..... 172 GL
On-Farm Usage 236 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale 7,005 ML
Price Range \$229 - \$300
Buy Offer..... \$210
Yesterday's Sales..... 240 ML
Price Range \$225 - \$230
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Water use and trade data

15/03/16 – 21/03/16
Murray Water Exchange activity
Internal buyers (No. & ML).....13; 1,351ML
External buyers (No. & ML).....3; 788ML
Internal sellers (No. & ML).....26; 2,139ML
External sellers (No. & ML).....0; 0ML

Trade to and from licence (excl. Govt.)
Net trade...-5,938ML(week)...27,399ML(YTD)
Crop weekly water use
GL used on farm.....15 GL (29% on summer crops)

Channel flows today (ML/day)

	Actual	Capacity
Mulwala Canal	2,703	10,000
Wakool Canal	690	2,350
Escape flows	400	3,250

Rainfall and evaporation

15/03/16 – 21/03/16 Rain Evap
Finley N/A N/A
Tullakool..... N/A N/A

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth.....1,697 GL.....44 %
Hume.....827 GL.....28 %
Lake Victoria.....281 GL.....42 %
Menindee Lakes51 GL.....3 %
Active Storage.....2,856 GL.....31 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Doctors Point 12,683 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 8,448 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge ...3,542 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald..... 1,284 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy..... N/A
Flow to SA..... 6,765 ML/d
Murray to the Sea 10 gates open