

Talking Water

Tuesday 10 January 2017



Murray Irrigation

SAFETY FIRST

Water safety essential

A record number of drowning deaths in NSW since Christmas serves as an all too tragic reminder of the importance of water safety. According to the Royal Life Saving Society's 2015-16 drowning report, 21 percent of all drowning deaths in Australia occurred in inland waterways such as rivers, creeks, streams, lakes or farm dams. In these hot months, it is important to be vigilant around water.

- Wear a life jacket
- Supervise children
- Avoid alcohol
- Learn CPR, first aid and lifesaving skills.

For more information, visit:
www.royallifesaving.com.au/

Murray Irrigation customer meetings

2017 will be a big year for Murray Irrigation and our customers as we continue to transition to a modern irrigation infrastructure company. As part of our commitment to effective customer engagement, we will be hosting a series of customer meetings next week to update customers on key issues and associated activities. Key topics will include the company's draft corporate plan, overview of finances, resource management policy, PIIOP Round 2 and 3 and the company's new business planning process.

The meetings will be held as follows:

- Tuesday 17 January – **Blighty** Recreation Reserve, 12.00pm.
- Tuesday 17 January – **Berrigan** Sportsground, 6.00pm.
- Wednesday 18 January – **Pretty Pine** Recreation Reserve, 12.00pm.
- Wednesday 18 January – **Wakool** Services Club, 6.00pm.

Water resource distribution

Murray Irrigation announced last month a water resource distribution of three percent allocation to be issued against delivery entitlements. The current water resource distribution will be credited to customer accounts (for those who have paid all outstanding accounts) by 5.00pm this Friday 13 January. Customers with an outstanding balance on their account must make payment **by 5.00pm Thursday 12 January** in order to access the water resource distribution.

Advance notice for water orders

Customers are reminded to place their irrigation orders well in advance to avoid a potential delay in delivery. A minimum of four days' notice is required to guarantee delivery. For assistance, contact Customer Support on T. 1300 138 265.

Three-month outlook

MDBA River Operations reports that with forecast warm dry weather conditions, coupled with state allocations at 100 percent, demands along the Murray system are expected to be high over summer and autumn. With water available in Menindee Lakes and Goulburn and Murrumbidgee Inter Valley Trade accounts, flows along the upper Murray are forecast to be less than recent years. Below Choke demand can be met by these avenues, allowing water to be stored in Dartmouth, which has the least evaporation.

December conditions

Rainfall across the entire Murray Darling Basin was seven percent below average in December 2016, while temperatures were above average. According to the MDBA, River Murray system inflows (excluding Snowy, Darling and IVT) totalled around 570GL for the month, which is 120GL higher than average.

2016 annual climate summary

The Bureau of Meteorology reports that 2016 was the fourth warmest year on record, while rainfall was above average for the southern Basin. A strong El Nino brought record warm and dry conditions in the beginning of the year, while later in the year the combination of La Nina conditions in the Pacific and negative Indian Ocean Dipole were associated with the wettest May to September period on record.

Murray Irrigation offices re-open

Murray Irrigation's Customer Centres have re-opened following the Christmas-New Year closure period. For more information, contact Customer Support on T. 1300 138 265.

MILCast has also re-opened for 2017 (sales and customer enquiries). Production will recommence on Monday 16 January. For details, contact the MILCast team on T. 03 5888 3051.

Michael Renehan, CEO

Announced allocation

Class C General Security 100 %
Water resource distribution 0 %
(Efficiency Allocation on Delivery Entitlements)

Water availability and usage

(10/01/17)

Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements..... 67 %
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance..... 530 GL
On-Farm Usage 367 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today

Water for Sale 15,039 ML
Price Range \$78 - \$250
Buy Offer \$70
Yesterday's Sales..... 349 ML
Price \$77 - \$78

To buy water call 1300 781 431

Water use and trade data

20/12/16 – 09/01/17

Murray Water Exchange activity

Internal buyers (No. & ML)..... 38; 7,158ML
External buyers (No. & ML)..... 0; 0ML
Internal sellers (No. & ML)..... 33; 7,158ML
External sellers (No. & ML)..... 0; 0ML

Trade to and from licence (excl. Govt.)

Net trade...3,560ML(week)...-10,199ML(YTD)*

* Adjusted at monthly reconciliation

Crop weekly water use

ML used on farm.....35GL (53% on rice)

Channel flows today (ML/day)

	Actual	Capacity
Mulwala Canal	5,844	10,000
Wakool Canal	1,617	2,350
Escape flows	1,000	3,250

Rainfall and evaporation

	03/01/17 – 09/01/17	Rain	Evap
Finley	0.2mm	52.9mm	
Tullakool	1.0mm	67.6mm	

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Dartmouth.....3,013 GL.....78 %
Hume.....2,698 GL.....90 %
Lake Victoria.....590 GL.....87 %
Menindee Lakes1,512 GL.....87 %
Active Storage.....7,813 GL.....84 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Murray @ Doctors Point 16,047 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 7,917 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge ... 2,844 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald..... 793 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy..... 1,380 ML/d
Flow to SA..... 17,120 ML/d
Murray to the Sea 27 gates open

This information is provided for general reference purposes only. Murray Irrigation takes best endeavours to ensure accuracy. It is collated at 8.00am Tuesdays and is subject to change.