

# Chairman's report

Friday 22 June 2012



Murray Irrigation

This is the Chairman's report from Murray Irrigation Limited's Chairman Noel Graham (it follows the monthly meeting of Murray Irrigation's Board of Directors).

## **Communities to unite in Griffith Rally Wednesday 27 June**

The Board encourages all of our shareholders and their families to support this rally in Griffith this Wednesday 27 June at 11.00am for an 11.30am start.

As the Murray-Darling Basin Plan approaches a critical point, it is essential that we continue to participate in the debate and show the importance of this issue to the future of our communities. A successful rally depends on numbers, after all the work we as a community have done so far, it is time to stay focussed on showing how important this issue is by participating.

The rally is being jointly organised by the Murrumbidgee Valley Stakeholder Group and the Murray Group of Concerned Communities (MGCC). NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson will address the rally. Buses are being organised from across the region, to book please email [mgcc.nsw@gmail.com](mailto:mgcc.nsw@gmail.com) or Nathan Holahan on 03 5898 3343.

## **NSW Government Albury Community Cabinet**

Anthony Couroupis and I will be meeting with NSW Minister for Water, Katrina Hodgkinson, on Monday 25 June. We will also participate in the open Forum at the NSW Government's Community Cabinet meeting. We will take this opportunity to emphasise our support for the NSW Government's continued strong support for regional NSW shown by their position on the Basin Plan. We will also stress the importance of a satisfactory resolution which is vital to our region's social fabric, economic productivity and environmental assets.

## **Proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan**

David Harriss, Commissioner NSW Office of Water, attended the Board meeting and provided an update on government discussions on the proposed Basin Plan. Murray Irrigation encouraged NSW to continue to work through this complex matter with Ministers from other states and the Commonwealth. I also attended the recent Southern Riverina Irrigators' (SRI) meeting where the Basin Plan was discussed; Murray Irrigation supports the position agreed to at SRI, which aligns well with Murray Irrigation's views.

## **Public meeting *Muddied Waters* proposal**

Shareholders are advised there will be a public meeting in Deniliquin on Monday 25 June, between 9.00am and 11.00am at the Deniliquin RSL Club to provide more information about a public relations investment proposal to expose the significant flaws of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan process. Two of Murray Irrigation's directors will attend this meeting which will assist Murray Irrigation's assessment of the value of this proposal.

## **Auditor**

Mr Eric Passaris from Grant Thornton attended the Board meeting. Since the appointment of BDO Audit (NSW-Vic) as the company's auditor at the November 2011 Annual General Meeting, BDO (NSW-Vic) has merged with another firm, Grant Thornton. The Board took the opportunity to meet with Mr Passaris (formerly of BDO) to discuss the merger. After discussion the Board agreed to support the replacement of BDO with Grant Thornton. This appointment will be presented to shareholders at the 2012 Annual General Meeting.

## **2011/12 season performance and outlook for 2012/13**

Murray Irrigation had a successful year with irrigation deliveries of just over 900,000ML. Our operational staff, including our maintenance staff, have continued to meet the challenge of achieving high delivery efficiencies and are to be congratulated. David Harriss confirmed that there will be a commencing allocation announcement on Monday 2 July, which, given the volume in storage, continuing inflows above minimums means shareholders can again look forward to high levels of water availability in 2012/13.

**Noel Graham**  
Chairman