

Special Talking Water

Thursday 3 May 2012



Murray Irrigation

End of 2011/12 irrigation season arrangements

Murray Irrigation will close its Mulwala and Wakool Canal offtakes at 8.00am on **Monday 14 May**. After this date, all water deliveries will be **opportunistic and off-allocation**.

Customers who intend to access off-allocation water must place a start order prior to 6.30am Wednesday 9 May.

Channel draining operations will be similar to last season and will aim to maximise the volume of water drained out accredited escapes.

Water will not be held in channels during winter. Customers should ensure that they have sufficient stock and domestic water to meet their winter requirements prior to the commencement of channel draining operations.

If there is continuing dry weather and sufficient customer demand, Murray Irrigation will consider extending the irrigation season at either or both the Mulwala and Wakool offtakes. Any announcement of an extension will be made with a revised timetable via *Talking Water* and may result in a reduced period of channel draining operations.

A timeline of anticipated activities from the commencement of the proposed closure is provided as follows:

Monday 14 May

- Closure of Murray Irrigation's Mulwala and Wakool Canal offtakes at 8.00am.
- Off-allocation water availability commences for all customers on an opportunistic only basis.
- Closure of lateral channel offtakes associated with accredited escapes (see below for details).
- Commence draining of the channels below associated with accredited escapes. Off-allocation water on these channels is available only until Thursday 17 May.

Mulwala Canal

Billabong Main Canal

Billabong Main Channel

Deniboota Main Canal

Perricoota Channel

Wakool Main Canal (upstream of Wakool Railway Line)

Northern Branch Canal (upstream of Niemur Syphon)

Customers can determine which channel their outlet is located on by accessing the *Customers* section of the Murray Irrigation website, and selecting *Supply points*. Alternatively they can contact reception on T. 03 5898 3300 for assistance.

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Monday 28 May

Commence channel draining out all escapes.

Tuesday 12 June

Any outlets still operating will be finished and final meter readings recorded.

Casual Usage Fee

Water used during periods of off-allocation is included in the determination of the Casual Usage Fee. Customers are advised to carefully consider their delivery entitlements requirements prior to the closure of temporary delivery entitlements trade at 5.00pm on Thursday 31 May.

Metered Water Use – Winter Period

Any metered usage during the winter period, such as in the case of pumped stock and domestic supplies from residual pools (apart from diversions during defined off-allocation periods), will be accounted for as On-allocation water usage for the 2012/13 season.

Special Provisions

Murray Irrigation's winter works program may require variations to the above arrangements in some locations. Murray Irrigation will directly notify impacted customers in these limited cases.

Customers can also apply in writing to the Water Distribution Manager for the implementation of special provisions (e.g. delayed opening of non-credited escape) for the period up to Tuesday 12 June. Submissions must be received by the Water Distribution Manager prior to 5.00pm on Monday 14 May to be considered.

Channel Refilling in 2012/13

Opening of the Mulwala and Wakool Canal offtakes is scheduled to commence in late July, but will be subject to demand and water availability. Both will be assessed at the time. Further information about channel refilling will be provided closer to the date.

Further Information

For more information on end of season arrangements, please contact reception on T. 03 5898 3300.



Anthony Couroupis
General Manager