

TalkingWater

Tuesday 1 May 2012



Murray Irrigation

Mulwala and Wakool Offtake Closures

Customers are reminded that Murray Irrigation is expecting to close its offtakes at Mulwala and Wakool on Monday 14 May.

All Murray Irrigation customers are asked to consider their winter stock and domestic requirements and to make arrangements to fill dams where required before the offtakes are closed.

A dedicated *Talking Water* explaining the end of season arrangements will be released later this week. It will also describe the flexibility available to extend the season should climatic conditions warrant it.

NIC addresses federal Senate hearing

National Irrigators' Council (NIC) and Murray Irrigation Chairman Stewart Ellis told a Federal Senate hearing last week that the 2,750GL the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) wants for environmental flows is "undeliverable". On top of natural flushes and tributary flows, Mr Ellis said adding an additional 2,750GL will cause major third-party impacts, including environmental damage and the flooding of towns and other assets.

Mr Ellis appeared at the two-day hearing in Canberra which saw several key witnesses appear before the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee's hearing into the management of the Murray-Darling Basin. This included MDBA Chairman Craig Knowles.

National Wildlife Corridors

Murray Irrigation has lodged a submission in response to the proposed development of a National Wildlife Corridors plan that could include the Edward-Wakool rivers system. Murray Irrigation's submission explained that the concept of wildlife corridors is broadly supported by the community and that many initiatives that achieve the objectives of wildlife corridors have been undertaken in the area, however, we do not support additional legislation as proposed.

As the proposal did not include any new funding initiatives, Murray Irrigation believes legislation is unnecessary. We also expressed our disappointment at the lack of consultation that had been undertaken in the development of the draft plan.

For more information on the Wildlife Corridors, visit

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-corridors/index.html>.

Water Allocation Account Balances

Customers are reminded that they are responsible for maintaining positive balances in their water allocation account at all times when irrigating. If insufficient water is available to cover an order, the order will be withheld and any operating outlets will be shut off. Re-starting of outlets requires a new order to be placed and may be subject to a four-day lead time.

Wettenhall stands down

West Berriquin Irrigators' Council Chairman Adam Wettenhall has announced that he is stepping down from this role, effective immediately. Mr Wettenhall thanked the members of West Berriquin for their support and is looking forward to staying involved in an unofficial role. Vice Chairman James Sides has taken over the Chairman's role until elections at the August Annual General Meeting.

Federal Budget

The Federal Budget will be delivered in Parliament next Tuesday 8 May. The NSW Irrigators' Council will provide a briefing on the results of the budget which will be available on the Murray Irrigation website as soon as possible after the budget is handed down.

Carryover

Customers are reminded that carryover capacity has been issued equivalent to 50 percent of Class C water entitlements. Any unused water allocation up to this amount will be automatically carried over to the 2012/13 season. Please check account balances early and ensure that unused allocation at the end of May will be within carryover capacity for each individual landholding or account.

Customers are also encouraged to consider carrying over at least 10 percent of water entitlements to maximise water availability next season.

WTC Irrigation Expo

The 2012 Water Technology Cluster (WTC) Irrigation Expo is being held in Shepparton later this month. The annual Expo covers irrigation technology, on-farm irrigation efficiency and modernisation. The Expo is being held at the Shepparton Showgrounds on Wednesday 16 May and Thursday 17 May. For more information, visit www.wtcexpo.com.au or call WTC Chair Wendy Buck on M. 0438 052 630.

Anthony Couroupis
General Manager

Announced allocation

Class C General Security100%
Class B High Security.....100%
Class A Town Water.....100%
Water Efficiency AllocationUp to 19%

Water availability & usage

(01/05/12)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements50%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance 479 GL
On-Farm Usage..... 852 GL
Comprising:
On-Allocation Usage 772 GL
Off-Allocation Usage..... 80 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale13,833 ML
Price Range \$5 - \$35
Buy Offer \$3
Last 10 Sales931 ML
Price Range \$4 - \$5
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Channel flows

Today
Mulwala Canal 3,400 ML/day
Capacity 10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal 555 ML/day
Capacity 2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows..... 2,250 ML/day

Rainfall & evaporation

17/04/12 - 01/05/12 Rain Evap
Finley 11.5mm 34.8mm
Tullakool 1.0mm 35.1mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth.....3,199 GL.....83 %
Hume.....2,608 GL.....87 %
Lake Victoria.....358 GL.....53 %
Menindee Lakes1,891 GL.....109 %
Active Storage.....8,056 GL.....87 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Jingellic 4,683 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon 700 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point..... 8,234 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 7,591 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge..... 5,457 ML/d
M' Bidgee d/s Balranald 26,524 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia 21,304 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy 19,953 ML/d
Flow to SA..... 55,649 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge 0.77 m
Murray to the Sea 138 gates open

**Tune into 'On The Land' every
Tuesday from 6.45am on 1521
2QN.**