

# Talking Water

Tuesday 15 May 2012



Murray Irrigation

## Offtakes closed

Murray Irrigation's Mulwala and Wakool Canal offtakes are now closed in preparation for end of season channel draining operations. Off-allocation water availability has commenced for all customers on an opportunistic basis. For more information, contact reception on T. 03 5898 3300 or your Channel Attendant.

## Round 3 On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency

The Federal Government has announced Round 3 of its On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program and is calling for Delivery Partner submissions. Total available funds are \$100 million for irrigators in the southern connected portion of the Murray-Darling Basin. Murray Irrigation will advise customers via *Talking Water* about opportunities to apply for a share of this funding.

## Commonwealth Government Budget

The Federal Government last week released its 2012/13 Budget. As well as announcing additional funding for on-farm irrigation efficiency, the Budget will also provide \$200 million for a Strategic Sub-System Reconfiguration Program. This is a new four-year initiative that hopes to achieve water savings through reconfiguring off-farm water delivery infrastructure in tandem with the purchase of water entitlements. Murray Irrigation is working with the Commonwealth Government on the design and rollout of this new Program.

## Water buybacks

The Federal Budget papers also show \$40M for water buybacks in the Murray-Darling Basin was brought forward to the current financial year. However, an additional \$89M earmarked for water buybacks now isn't due to be spent before 2016/17.

The Government has budgeted to spend just over \$157 million on buybacks in the next financial year, down significantly on the \$540 million it spent in 2011/12. That reflects an announcement made by Water Minister Tony Burke not to hold any more water purchasing tenders in the southern Basin until 2013.

More information regarding the Budget can be found on the Murray Irrigation website, including the NSW Irrigators' Council's assessment of the budget.

## Targeted Water Purchase Initiative

The Federal Government's 'Targeted Water Purchase Initiative' in the southern connected Murray-Darling Basin closed in late March. The Department is now conducting due diligence

prior to issuing contracts to purchase 117GL of permanent water entitlements. At this stage the location of the entitlement purchases is not known. The average price offered in the NSW Murray (above Barmah Choke) is \$710/ML. To access the full report on the average prices of offers pursued from this initiative, as well as previous initiatives, visit: <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/policy-programs/entitlement-purchasing/average-prices.html>

## Close of Annual Trade

All annual trades, both Murray Irrigation Exchange and private trades, will close at 5.00pm Thursday 31 May, including annual trade of delivery entitlements. Customers are encouraged to consider their water usage to the end of the season and ensure they have enough delivery entitlements to prevent incurring the Casual Usage Fee. External allocation transfers to or from Murray Irrigation must be lodged no later than 5.00pm Tuesday 29 May to allow processing before State Water's deadline.

## Carryover

Customers are reminded that carryover capacity has been issued equivalent to 50 percent of Class C (General Security) water entitlements. Any unused water allocation up to this amount will be automatically carried over to the 2012/13 irrigation 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.

## Accounts due

Customers are reminded that Murray Irrigation third quarter accounts are due by 5.00pm **this Friday 18 May**. To be eligible for the 10 percent discount, all accounts must be paid before this date.

## West Berriquin landholders meeting

West Berriquin Irrigators' Council landholders are reminded that a meeting is being held at the Blighty Hotel from 7.00pm **tonight**. A number of topics will be discussed. For more information, contact James Sides on M. 0427 236 791.

**Anthony Couroupis**  
General Manager

## Announced allocation

Class C General Security .....100%  
Class B High Security.....100%  
Class A Town Water.....100%  
Water Efficiency Allocation .....Up to 19%

## Water availability & usage

(15/05/12)  
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements .....48%  
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)  
On-Farm Balance ..... 457 GL  
On-Farm Usage..... 873 GL  
Comprising:  
On-Allocation Usage ..... 793 GL  
Off-Allocation Usage..... 80 GL

## Water exchange

8.30am today  
Water for Sale .....9,307 ML  
Price Range ..... \$7 – \$35  
Buy Offer ..... \$4  
Last 10 Sales .....1,150 ML  
Price Range ..... \$5 - \$8  
**To buy water call 1300 781 431**

## Channel flows

Today  
Mulwala Canal ..... 0 ML/day  
Capacity ..... 10,000 ML/day  
Wakool Canal ..... 0 ML/day  
Capacity ..... 2,350 ML/day  
Total Escape Flows..... 1,650 ML/day

## Rainfall & evaporation

01/05/12 – 15/05/12 ..... Rain ..... Evap  
Finley ..... 1.5mm ..... 30.7mm  
Tullakool ..... 0.8mm ..... 39.7mm

## Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)  
Dartmouth.....3,214 GL.....83 %  
Hume.....2,626 GL.....87 %  
Lake Victoria.....349 GL.....52 %  
Menindee Lakes .....N/A.....N/A  
Active Storage.....N/A.....N/A

## Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)  
Murray @ Jingellic ..... 4,382 ML/d  
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon ..... 655 ML/d  
Murray @ Doctors Point..... 3,386 ML/d  
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir ..... 4,002 ML/d  
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge..... 3,816 ML/d  
M'Bidgie d/s Balranald ..... 16,270 ML/d  
Darling @ Wilcannia ..... 6,935 ML/d  
Darling @ Burtundy ..... 19,616 ML/d  
Flow to SA..... 53,559 ML/d  
Murray @ Murray Bridge ..... 0.88 m  
Murray to the Sea ..... 138 gates open

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