

Talking Water

Tuesday 22 May 2012



Murray Irrigation

New Murray Irrigation Chairman

Murray Irrigation last week announced the election of Noel Graham as Chairman of the Murray Irrigation Board of Directors. Mark Robertson was also re-elected as Deputy Chairman. The election was held as a result of the recent resignation of Director and Chairman Stewart Ellis.

Noel is from the Denibootea Irrigation District and has been a shareholder director since November 2009. He is a current director of both Ricegrowers Limited (SunRice) and the Rice Marketing Board.

On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program 3

Murray Irrigation will hold workshops to explain the recently announced Round 3 program. Details of the workshops are:

- Finley Bowling Club, Wednesday 6 June.
- Deniliquin Coach House Hotel, Thursday 7 June.
- Wakool Services Club, Friday 8 June.

Each workshop will run from 9.30am to 12.30pm (morning tea provided). Expressions of interest can be completed and submitted at these workshops. For more information, call Aimee Snowden on T. 03 5898 3317.

Response to network consultation process

Murray Irrigation Limited is required by the *Water Charge (Infrastructure) Rules 2010* to develop a Network Consultation Paper (NCP) and Network Service Plan (NSP). The NCP was completed in December 2011 and a copy was mailed to all customers inviting feedback.

A summary of Murray Irrigation's response to that feedback has been posted on our website. The NSP will be mailed to customers no later than 1 June 2012. The NSP provides information regarding plans for expenditure and services over the next five years and includes forecast fees and prices from 2012/13 to 2016/17.

End of season arrangements update

Opportunistic access to off-allocation water for customers on channels associated with accredited escapes finished on Thursday 17 May. Opportunistic access to off-allocation water for other customers continues wherever possible – falling water levels in many sections of channel means that access may be limited. For more information, contact reception on T. 03 5898 3300 or your Channel Attendant.

Close of Annual Trade

All annual trades, both Murray Irrigation Exchange and private trades, 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.

Report flood damage

Customers who were affected by the extensive regional flooding in late February/early March are being encouraged to report any damage to their property or stock. Concise information on flood damage is critical for NSW authorities to determine the extent of damage and assess potential support measures.

Landholders are asked to report all forms of damage, including loss of stock and fodder, and damage to crops, pastures, fencing and other farm infrastructure, to NSW DPI on 1800 814 647 or damage.report@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Making a difference for biodiversity

As part of the *Riverina Biodiversity Monitoring Project*, the Murray Catchment Management Authority is holding an evening workshop in Conargo next week. The workshop is being held to increase farmers' awareness of the positive impacts their revegetation activities, both past and present, are having on native animal populations. The workshop will run from 5.30pm to 8.30pm at the Conargo Recreation Hall on Wednesday 30 May. For catering purposes, please RSVP by this Thursday 24 May to Nicky Bruce T 02 6051 2232 or nicky.bruce@cma.nsw.gov.au.

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

(22/05/12)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements46%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance 441 GL
On-Farm Usage..... 889 GL
Comprising:
On-Allocation Usage 809 GL
Off-Allocation Usage..... 80 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale11,207 ML
Price Range \$4 – \$35
Buy Offer \$3
Last 10 Sales1,475 ML
Price Range \$3 - \$4
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Channel flows

Today
Mulwala Canal Closed
Capacity 10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal Closed
Capacity 2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows..... 850 ML/day

Rainfall & evaporation

08/05/12 – 22/05/12 Rain Evap
Finley 0mm 27.3mm
Tullakool 0mm 33.3mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth.....3,218 GL.....83 %
Hume.....2,652 GL.....88 %
Lake Victoria.....358 GL.....53 %
Menindee Lakes1,966 GL.....114 %
Active Storage.....8,194 GL.....88 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Jingellic 3,431 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon 625 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point..... 1,361 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 3,584 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge..... 2,413 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald 12,808 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia 4,866 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy 19,344 ML/d
Flow to SA..... N/A
Murray @ Murray Bridge 0.81 m
Murray to the Sea 144 gates open

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