

Talking Water

Tuesday 29 May 2012



Murray Irrigation

Changes to draft Basin Plan released

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) yesterday sent the revised Basin Plan to ministers as the next step in the development of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Murray Irrigation has publicly called on politicians to do what the MDBA has failed to do - develop a realistic, deliverable and balanced Basin Plan. The 'revised' Basin Plan has not changed and is just an edited version of the draft that was released last year.

Murray Irrigation will now focus on working with governments to deliver practical amendments to the Basin Plan that gives due recognition to works and measures and maintaining regional economies. The company's media release on the revised Basin Plan can be viewed on our website.

Close of Annual Trade

All annual trades, both Murray Irrigation Exchange and private trades, close at 5.00pm **this Thursday 31 May**, including annual trade of delivery entitlements. Customers are encouraged to 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 **today** to allow processing before State Water's deadline.

Carryover

Please check account balances before close of trade **this Thursday 31 May** to ensure that unused allocation will be within carryover capacity (issued at 50 percent of Class C general security water entitlements held at 1 March) 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.

Murray Irrigation staff members will be available in Deniliquin, Finley and Wakool offices from 8.30am to 3.00pm this Wednesday and Thursday to answer any questions regarding end of year issues.

2012/13 budget and fees and prices

Murray Irrigation has held its 2012/13 fee increases to three percent (CPI) from its 2011/12 fees and prices. The government component of Murray Irrigation's fees (over which we have no control) has been increased as determined by IPART. Customers are encouraged to take opportunities to reduce their costs by account consolidation, amalgamation and or outlet removal. The fees

and prices schedules are available on the Murray Irrigation website.

2012/13 season operating plan

The 2012/13 season operating plan is similar to 2011/12, although it has been simplified to focus on the essential elements of the operation of supply and drainage infrastructure. The 2012/13 season operating plan is available from reception or the Murray Irrigation website under *Customers*.

Network Service Plan

Murray Irrigation has completed its Network Service Plan (NSP) for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2017. The NSP will be mailed to customers this week. It provides information regarding plans for expenditure and services, and includes forecast fees and prices for the next five years. A copy is also available on the Murray Irrigation website.

Water shepherding arrangements

Following the NSW and Commonwealth governments' Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the NSW Government is investigating and seeking to agree on an approach for the introduction of water shepherding in NSW. The proposed arrangements look at the feasibility of shepherding Commonwealth environmental water from the Barwon-Darling system and its tributaries, including those commencing in Queensland, through the Menindee Lakes to the River Murray system.

All interested parties are invited to review and comment on the draft proposed water shepherding arrangements during the consultation period. Submissions close on **Monday 2 July 2012**. Detailed information and documents are available on the NSW Office of Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au.

On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program 3

Murray Irrigation is holding workshops to explain the recently announced Round 3 program next week, as follows:

- 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.

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

(29/05/12)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements46%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance 435 GL
On-Farm Usage..... 895 GL
Comprising:
On-Allocation Usage 813 GL
Off-Allocation Usage..... 83 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale8,041 ML
Price Range \$6 - \$35
Buy Offer \$4
Last 10 Sales1,162 ML
Price Range \$4 - \$6
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..... 0 ML/day

Rainfall & evaporation

15/05/12 - 29/05/12 Rain Evap
Finley 8.1mm 24.6mm
Tullakool 9.4mm 26.7mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth.....3,227 GL.....84 %
Hume.....2,694 GL.....90 %
Lake Victoria.....359 GL.....53 %
Menindee Lakes1,917 GL.....111 %
Active Storage.....8,197 GL.....88 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Jingellic 7,362 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon 760 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point..... 1,956 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 4,564 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge..... 1,347 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald 10,336 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia 3,723 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy 18,286 ML/d
Flow to SA..... 41,331 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge 0.89 m
Murray to the Sea 266 gates open

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