

Talking Water

Tuesday 24 April 2012



Murray Irrigation

Round 2 On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency

Murray Irrigation and the Commonwealth Government have each signed the Funding Agreement for Round 2 of the On-farm Irrigation Efficiency Program. Landholder Infrastructure Works Contracts were mailed yesterday. Included with the contract is a cover letter which includes the contact details of your nominated Project Officer – please read the cover letter carefully before contacting your Project Officer to arrange a meeting. The Water Entitlements sale contract will be sent directly to your solicitor by the Commonwealth Government's solicitor.

PIIOP update

Murray Irrigation continues to finalise details with both the Government and its customers regarding the Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP) funding offer. Progress updates will be provided via *Talking Water* as required.

Network Service Plan

The Murray Irrigation Board of Directors endorsed the Network Service Plan at its monthly meeting last week. The Plan includes forecast fees and prices from 1 July 2012 for five years to 30 June 2017, and will be mailed to all customers by 1 June.

CEWH Trade Discussion Paper

Last week the Board of Directors also endorsed Murray Irrigation's response to the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) Water Trading Arrangements discussion paper. The deadline for submissions has been extended to Friday 11 May. A copy of the discussion paper is available from Murray Irrigation's website.

In principle, Murray Irrigation supports the development of trading arrangements for the CEWH. However, Murray Irrigation's submission will also highlight the potential for trading by the CEWH (both buying and selling water in the annual or permanent markets) to have substantial impacts on the market because of the size of its water portfolio.

Third quarter accounts

Customers should have received their third quarter accounts. The accounts are for the period 1 January 2012 to 31 March 2012. Payment is due by 5.00pm Friday 18 May. A ten percent discount is available for third quarter invoices paid by this deadline where all outstanding amounts owing are settled.

If you did not receive an invoice, or if you have changed your contact details, call our Finance team via reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

MDBA receives thousands of submissions

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has received more than 12,000 submissions to its proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan. The 20-week public consultation period came to an end last week and the MDBA is now posting submissions on its website.

The MDBA will analyse submissions and re-draft its proposed Plan accordingly. To view the submissions, visit www.mdba.gov.au. The Commonwealth Government has said it wants to have the Basin Plan in place by the end of this year.

NSW response to the proposed Basin Plan

The NSW Government's submission on the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan has been well received by the irrigation industry and communities.

The 73-page document outlines the fact that the NSW Government is committed to ensuring the sustainability of the Murray-Darling Basin and the communities it supports. Its main message is that the Basin Plan must achieve a balanced outcome and address environmental, social and economic needs.

A link to the Government's submission will be posted on the Murray Irrigation website today.

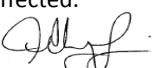
Winter stock and domestic requirements

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

Murray Irrigation will close its major offtakes at Mulwala and Wakool no earlier than Monday 14 May. A dedicated *Talking Water* explaining the end of season arrangements will be released in early May. This will also describe the flexibility to extend the season should climatic conditions warrant it.

ANZAC Day

All Murray Irrigation offices will be closed tomorrow, Wednesday 25 April, for the ANZAC Day public holiday. Murray Irrigation's Water Exchange telephone purchasing facility will remain available and water deliveries are not affected.


Anthony Couroupis
General Manager

Announced allocation

Class C General Security100%
Class B High Security100%
Class A Town Water100%
Water Efficiency AllocationUp to 18%

Water availability & usage

(24/04/12)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements51%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance 493 GL
On-Farm Usage 838 GL
Comprising:
On-Allocation Usage 758 GL
Off-Allocation Usage 80 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale15,606 ML
Price Range \$4 – \$35
Buy Offer N/A
Last 10 Sales1,310 ML
Price Range \$4 - \$5
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Channel flows

Today
Mulwala Canal 3,550 ML/day
Capacity 10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal 555 ML/day
Capacity 2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows 2,400 ML/day

Rainfall & evaporation

10/04/12 – 24/04/12 Rain Evap
Finley 10.7mm 40.4mm
Tullakool 0.6mm 45mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth3,192 GL.....83 %
Hume2,616 GL.....87 %
Lake Victoria386 GL.....57 %
Menindee Lakes1,685 GL.....97 %
Active Storage7879 GL.....85 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Jingellic 3,860 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon 865 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point 6,138 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 7,542 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge 4,590 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald 29,238 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia 33,624 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy 19,734 ML/d
Flow to SA 57,179 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge 0.91 m
Murray to the Sea 138 gates open

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