

# Talking Water

Tuesday 6 March 2012



Murray Irrigation

## Response to heavy rainfall

The Murray Irrigation area of operations east of Deniliquin has received between 150mm to 300mm of rainfall in the past week. Murray Irrigation's drainage system is designed, consistent with MDBC guidelines, to manage 57mm of rainfall over a period of 24 hours, taking four days to drain. For this reason, extensive inundation is presently being experienced as the water moves downstream through our drainage system.

Murray Irrigation is prioritising work requests to minimise downstream impacts. We have mobile and fixed pumps operating where appropriate and a number of excavators on-site. Water Distribution Supervisors are dealing with requests to use channels to drain farm paddocks.

## Customers should not pump water into the supply or drainage channels without prior permission from Murray Irrigation.

Customers should be prepared, as there is the potential for further inundation as the water moves downstream.

Customers needing assistance should contact reception on T. 03 5898 3300 during office hours or 1300 657 313 outside office hours. Should you have any concerns with flooding of roads, please contact your local council.

## Help alleviate downstream pressure

If you have access to a drainage system and no issue with holding water on your property, we ask you to close your drainage inlet to alleviate the pressure downstream.

## Commonwealth Water Purchasing

Customers who wish to complete an expression of interest for the Commonwealth Government's new water purchasing initiative must submit an application to Murray Irrigation by 5.00pm Monday 12 March. The *Expression of Interest: Targeted Water Purchasing (Australian Government) form* is available on the Murray Irrigation website or from reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

Customers will be advised by Monday 19 March of the outcome of the Board's consideration of their expression of interest.

## Basin Plan based on 'junk science'

A report released by the Australian Environment Foundation (AEF) last week undermines the claim by the South Australian government that the Murray River's terminal Lower Lakes have a freshwater history. The freshwater theory is key to the demand for an

additional 4,000GL of water under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. The AEF report states that maintaining an artificial freshwater lake system has seen environmental decline since the completion of the barrages in the 1940s. More information and a link to the report are on Murray Irrigation's website.

## Basin Plan presentation to CWA

The Finley Country Women's Association (CWA) will host a presentation on the Murray-Darling Basin Plan at the Finley Bowling Club from 7pm tonight. Murray Irrigation's Water Policy Officer, Perin Davey, will discuss the proposed Basin Plan and how to make a submission to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. All are welcome. Dinner \$15. RSVP: Nola Pinnuck M. 0439 996 627.

## Spray Irrigation Field Days

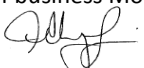
Murray Irrigation is holding a series of Spray Irrigation Field Days next week. The days will look at installation, pros and cons of spray irrigation and involvement with the On-farm Irrigation Efficiency Program.

Guest speakers from the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Murray Catchment Management Authority will be present on the day. The first Field Day is at "Oaklands", Wakool on Tuesday 13 March, followed by "Longford", Tocumwal on Wednesday 14 March and "Alkoomie", Blighty on Thursday 15 March.

All days start at 12.30pm with a barbecue lunch and drinks provided. Any changes to the field days will be announced via *Talking Water* and 2QN. At this stage, all venues are suitable to proceed as planned. For more information, contact Danielle Ewington on T. 03 5888 3011.

## Stakeholders' Breakfast Briefing

Murray Irrigation is holding a Stakeholders' Breakfast Briefing next week, Thursday 15 March from 7am at The Crossing Café in Deniliquin. The proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan will be the priority for discussion; however, other topics will include the new water recovery initiative by the Commonwealth Government, the progress of Murray Irrigation's PIOP funding opportunity, and a variety of other topics of interest to local businesses and their clients. Stakeholders are asked to confirm their attendance with Alison Bult on T. 03 5898 3332 or E. [alison.bult@murrayirrigation.com.au](mailto:alison.bult@murrayirrigation.com.au) by close of business Monday 12 March.

  
**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 18%

## Water availability & usage

(6/03/12)  
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements .....55%  
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)  
On-Farm Balance ..... 535 GL  
On-Farm Usage..... 785 GL  
Comprising:  
On-Allocation Usage ..... 705 GL  
Off-Allocation Usage..... 80 GL

## Water exchange

8.30am today  
Water for Sale .....15,641 ML  
Price Range ..... \$6-\$35  
Buy Offer ..... N/A  
Last 10 Sales .....1,347 ML  
Price Range .....\$8 - \$13  
**To buy water call 1300 781 431**

## Channel flows

Today  
Mulwala Canal ..... 100 ML/day  
Capacity ..... 10,000 ML/day  
Wakool Canal..... 160 ML/day  
Capacity ..... 2,350 ML/day  
Total Escape Flows..... 80 ML/day

## Rainfall & evaporation

21/02/12 - 06/03/12 ..... Rain ..... Evap  
Finley ..... 194.7mm ..... 70.4mm  
Tullakool ..... 33.8mm ..... 75.1mm

## Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)  
Dartmouth.....3,067 GL.....80 %  
Hume.....2,304 GL.....77 %  
Lake Victoria.....474 GL.....70 %  
Menindee Lakes .....1,532 GL.....89 %  
Active Storage..... 7,377 GL.....80 %

## Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)  
Murray @ Jingellic .....55,807 ML/d  
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon ..... 5,571 ML/d  
Murray @ Doctors Point..... 14,898 ML/d  
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir ..... 55,716 ML/d  
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge... 22,119 ML/d  
M'Bidgie d/s Balranald ..... 2,777 ML/d  
Darling @ Wilcannia ..... 31,274 ML/d  
Darling @ Burtundy ..... 16,255 ML/d  
Flow to SA..... 20,914 ML/d  
Murray @ Murray Bridge ..... 0.74 m  
Murray to the Sea ..... 51 gates open

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