

Talking Water

Tuesday 13 March 2012



Murray Irrigation

Draining of rice crops

Rice growers are required to complete the 'Form RICE 2 – Application for rice water drainage (2011/12)' before draining rice crops into the stormwater/drainage system.

As a consequence of the recent rainfall event, and the volume of water in the stormwater escape system, no water sample is presently required. However, prior approval is still required to ensure drainage does not further increase downstream pressure on the stormwater system.

Drainage inlets will be closed if customers are draining rice water without approval to ensure equity for all customers. The 'Form RICE 2 – Application for rice water drainage (2011/12)' is available on the Murray Irrigation website in the 'Forms' section, or by contacting reception on T. 03 5898 3300 or T. 03 5888 3000.

Customers looking to discharge water into the supply system are required to gain approval from Water Distribution. Please contact reception.

Rice water is not to be drained directly into the table drain.

View from the sky

Murray Irrigation has posted photos on its website showing the volume of rainwater runoff entering the area from the rain event of 27 February to 3 March. The areas captured from the air include Deniliquin-Conargo-Box Creek, Mayrung-Blighty, Finley-Berrigan, Dry Creek near Barooga, Savernake, Mulwala, Barooga-Tocumwal and north of Finley. To view the photos, visit the 'Flood Photos March 2012' section of the Murray Irrigation website.

'Open House' Basin Plan sessions

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) returns to the region this week to hold a series of 'open house' information sessions. These one-on-one sessions are designed to answer questions from members of the public. The MDBA has confirmed that they will host an 'open house' in both Deniliquin and Echuca this Thursday. The first will be held in the Deniliquin RSL Club's Mountbatten Room from 10:00am to 11:30am, before a session at the Port of Echuca Motel from 2:30pm to 4:00pm.

The MDBA will have staff from various sections of the Authority to speak to people one-on-one and answer their questions directly, including staff from the economics and hydrologic modelling teams. The MDBA will also be holding a meeting with the Murray Group of Concerned Communities, including representatives from local government, Ricegrowers' Association and Southern Riverina Irrigators'.

Community Submissions Centre

Don't forget to utilise the 'Community Submissions Centre' if you need assistance with making a submission to the MDBA. The Centre – opened by the Murray Group of Concerned Communities last month – is located at the junction of Cressy and End Streets, Deniliquin. It will be staffed between 10:00am and 2:00pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the remainder of the draft Plan consultation period, which ends on Monday 16 April. Individuals can access information about the draft Plan and how to make a submission.

South Australia visit

National Irrigators' Council and Murray Irrigation Chairman Stewart Ellis travelled to South Australia to meet with irrigators and businesses around the Lower Lakes last week.

Mr Ellis was interviewed by ABC South Australia's *Country Hour* program. Mr Ellis also attended the MDBA public meeting in Renmark on Friday as part of the NIC tour. A link to the *Country Hour* interview has been posted on the Murray Irrigation website.

Spray Irrigation Field Days

Murray Irrigation is hosting a series of Spray Irrigation Field Days this week. The first Field Day is at "Oaklands", Wakool today, followed by "Longford", Tocumwal tomorrow and "Alkoomie", Blighty on Thursday 15 March. All days start at 12:30pm with a barbecue lunch and drinks provided. Bring gumboots. For more information, contact Danielle Ewington on T. 03 5888 3011.

Post Flood Management Forum

Murray Dairy is holding a Post Flood Soil, Pastures and Animal Management Forum this Thursday 15 March at the Blighty Recreation Reserve.

The event will be held from 11:00am to 2:00pm and barbecue lunch will be provided. Guest speakers will include Peter Notman (Notman Seeds), Keith Lawry (dairy farmer from Dingee, Victoria) and representatives from the Department of Primary Industries. Keith had three farms in the 2011 North West Victorian floods and will share his experiences.

People must RSVP by Wednesday. For more information or to RSVP, contact Troy Mauger - Murray Dairy on M. 0417 870 038.

Anthony Couroupis
General Manager

Announced allocation

Class C General Security100%
Class B High Security.....100%
Class A Town Water.....100%
Water Efficiency AllocationUp to 18%

Water availability & usage

(13/03/12)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements55%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance 530 GL
On-Farm Usage..... 790 GL
Comprising:
On-Allocation Usage 710 GL
Off-Allocation Usage..... 80 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale15,641 ML
Price Range \$6-\$35
Buy Offer N/A
Last 10 Sales1,484 ML
Price Range\$5 – \$13
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Channel flows

Today
Mulwala Canal 900 ML/day
Capacity 10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal 450 ML/day
Capacity 2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows..... 400 ML/day

Rainfall & evaporation

28/02/12 – 13/03/12 Rain Evap
Finley 129.7mm 55.7mm
Tullakool 34.2mm 58.2mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth.....3,122 GL.....81 %
Hume.....2,562 GL.....85 %
Lake Victoria.....493 GL.....73 %
Menindee Lakes1,510 GL.....87 %
Active Storage..... 7,687 GL.....83 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Jingellic 11,487 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon 1,925 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point..... 3,962 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 16,207 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge... 13,224 ML/d
M' Bidgee d/s Balranald 8,612 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia 31,086 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy 16,879 ML/d
Flow to SA..... N/A
Murray @ Murray Bridge 0.57 m
Murray to the Sea N/A

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