

Talking Water

Tuesday 20 March 2012



Murray Irrigation

Report flood damage

As the region continues to recover from extensive flooding, farmers are encouraged to inspect their properties to check for damage to farm infrastructure. Concise information on flood damage is critical for NSW authorities to determine the extent of damage and assess potential support measures. This on-the-ground information helps the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to plan its emergency response as well as long term assistance and support that may be available for farmers and rural communities.

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.

A report template is also located on the DPI website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au. This template will also assist you with private insurance claims. Reports can be lodged 24 hours, seven days a week.

On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program update

The Commonwealth Government has advised Murray Irrigation that it intends finalising the Round 2 On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program funding agreement by Friday 30 March. Murray Irrigation is preparing to print and distribute landholder works contracts immediately after the funding agreement is signed by the Commonwealth Government. Any variation to this timeline will be announced via *Talking Water*.

Quarterly Billing

Landholders are reminded that quarterly invoices will be raised at the end of this month. Landholders are advised to check water usage to ensure it has not exceeded 120% of delivery entitlements. To avoid the casual usage fee, additional delivery entitlements may be purchased on the Murray Irrigation Exchange. Purchases must be made by 5pm Friday 30 March.

Water Allocation Account Balance

Customers are reminded that they are responsible to maintain a positive balance in their water allocation account at all times when irrigating. If insufficient water is available to cover an order, the order will be withheld and any operating outlets will be shut off. Re-starting of outlets requires a new order to be placed and may be subject to a four-day lead time.

Petroleum exploration application

Energetica Resources have submitted a Petroleum Exploration Licence Application for a petroleum permit (PELA 132) to the NSW Department of Primary Industries. The application commenced 7 March and is available for public comment for 28 days.

The application, which includes particulars of the land area, can be viewed on the DPI website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au under minerals/titles/current-coal-and-petroleum-exploration-licence-applications. There is a 'public comment' link at the bottom of this web page to submit your comments online.

Levee construction warning

NSW Water Commissioner David Harriss has warned landowners that constructing unauthorised levees or banks in advance of floodwaters could incur severe penalties. Mr Harriss said that while he understood landowners' desire to protect crops and potential income, the construction of banks and levees might redirect floodwaters and make flooding in adjacent areas or downstream potentially worse. For more information, visit the NSW Office of Water website.

Farm Innovation Technology Expo

The Farm Innovation Technology Expo (FITE) will be held on Friday 30 March and Saturday 31 March, from 9am to 4pm each day. The event will be held at Murray Valley Industry Park, on Todds Road Deniliquin. Some of the themes include solar and new energy technologies, new farm technologies, opportunities in the areas of finance, carbon trading, education, careers and knowledge, innovation and commercialisation.

The Australian Farmer of the Year Roadshow will be attending which will have activities for children and rural families promoting rural living. Guest speakers include Steve Tighe (futurist), Ben Keogh (Carbon Farming) and Glenys Zucco (Dairy Australia). Exhibitors will have displays and experts to talk about new agricultural and farm irrigation, cropping and machinery technologies. Murray Irrigation is a bronze sponsor and will be exhibiting. For more information, visit www.murraynow.com.au/events/fite.

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

(20/03/12)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements55%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance 528 GL
On-Farm Usage..... 792 GL
Comprising:
On-Allocation Usage 713 GL
Off-Allocation Usage..... 80 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale15,903 ML
Price Range \$5-\$35
Buy Offer \$2
Last 10 Sales1,782 ML
Price Range\$5 - \$8
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Channel flows

Today
Mulwala Canal 2,600 ML/day
Capacity 10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal..... 330 ML/day
Capacity 2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows..... 2,280 ML/day

Rainfall & evaporation

06/03/12 - 20/03/12 Rain Evap
Finley 30mm 72.1mm
Tullakool 0.6mm 74mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth.....3,148 GL.....82 %
Hume.....2,688 GL.....89 %
Lake Victoria.....534 GL.....79 %
Menindee Lakes1,495 GL.....86 %
Active Storage..... 7,865 GL.....85 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Jingellic 11,465 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoo 1,384 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point..... 3,083 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 9,486 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge... 11,474 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald 8,933 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia 32,654 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy 17,462 ML/d
Flow to SA..... 29,093 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge 0.51 m
Murray to the Sea 46 gates open

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