

Talking Water

Tuesday 14 February 2012



Murray Irrigation

Customer meetings

Thank you to the many Murray Irrigation customers who attended one of a number of customer meetings held last week and yesterday. The purpose of these customer meetings is to discuss a number of issues directly with our customers including PIIOP, the Network Consultation Paper, outlet and meter strategy implementation, the remote control pilot project, the current water ordering system and Distribution Rules Policy reviews, and the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. Times and venues for today's two remaining meetings are as follows:

- Tuesday 14 February at the **Berrigan Recreation Reserve**, starting at 10am (morning tea from 9.30am).
- Tuesday 14 February at the **Jerilderie Shire Chambers** (Ian Gilbert Room) starting at 1.30pm.

For those customers who did not attend one of our meetings, the Power Point presentation is available from Murray Irrigation's website. Customers are reminded that comments on the Network Consultation Paper are due by 5pm Monday 20 February 2012.

Accounts due

Murray Irrigation second quarter accounts are due by 5pm this Friday 17 February. To be eligible for the 10 percent discount, all accounts must be paid before this date.

Delivery constraints video

When Water Minister Tony Burke visited Deniliquin earlier in February, he was shown the River Murray and the Barmah Choke by Andrew and Louise Burge. The local landholders explained the natural system constraints that restrict how much environmental water can be delivered downstream before it has unintended negative impacts. The Burges have also taken NSW Irrigators' Council to the same site who produced a one minute video that explains the issue well. The video can viewed on Murray Irrigation's website.

Releases from Menindee Lakes

NSW State Water Corporation has begun pre-release flood operations at the Menindee Lakes. The NSW Office of Water is anticipating significant flood flows in the Barwon Darling in the coming weeks as the Queensland and northern NSW flood peak enters the Darling River. The NSW Office of Water anticipates the current flood may be the largest flood in the Barwon Darling system since 1976. Further information is available from the NSW Office of Water website.

Community bus tours

Community members are invited to attend a bus tour to some of the Koondrook-Perricoota Flood Enhancement Project construction sites. The tour will take place at 11am on Sunday 19 February. It will leave from the Bunnaloo Community Centre and will visit the inlet regulator site at the upstream end of the project. The tour will return around 2pm and a light lunch will be provided. Seating for this week's tour is limited so bookings are essential. Enclosed footwear and long pants are required. For more information and bookings, contact Jamie Hearn at the Murray CMA on M. 0447 420 789 or Peter McDonald at Forests NSW on M. 0407 782 628.

Farm walk invitation

The Southern Growers Group, in conjunction with Ricegrowers' Association of Australia Environmental Champions Program Efficiency Field Day, is holding a field day and farm walk on Tuesday 21 February. Farms included are Ian Mason's property on Cartwells Lane off the Newell Highway and Baxter's property on Hayfield Road, also off the Newell Highway. Both properties will be sign posted with the walk to start at Ian Mason's property at 10.30am. All growers are welcome to attend. An interesting range of speakers has been organised for this event. It will also be an opportunity to look at maximising rice water use efficiency and cotton production in the southern Riverina. To assist with catering please RSVP to Tanya Clarke on M. 0438 831 686 or Jennie Hawkins on M. 0409 839 423.

Surface Irrigation Field Days

Murray Irrigation is holding a series of Surface Irrigation Field Days in coming weeks. These field days will look at construction, pros and cons of surface irrigation and involvement with the on-farm irrigation efficiency program. Properties included in the program include "Boelgi", Deniliquin on Tuesday 28 February, "Oakbank", Tocumwal on Wednesday 29 February and "Gailmond", Wakool on Friday 2 March. For more information please contact Danielle Ewington on T. 03 5888 3011.

Delivery entitlements information

Murray Irrigation customers are reminded they can access their delivery entitlements information by logging on to Murray Irrigation's website, in the *Customers* section. Customers can access their individual delivery entitlements figures including annual trade, casual usage fee threshold, volumes available to transfer and more.


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

(14/02/12)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements61%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance 581 GL
On-Farm Usage..... 732 GL
Comprising:
On-Allocation Usage 652 GL
Off-Allocation Usage..... 80 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale9,983 ML
Price Range \$17-\$39
Buy Offer N/A
Last 10 Sales969 ML
Price Range\$15 - \$18
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Channel flows

Today
Mulwala Canal 3,996 ML/day
Capacity 10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal..... 895 ML/day
Capacity 2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows..... 680 ML/day

Rainfall & evaporation

31/01/12 - 14/02/12 Rain Evap
Finley 0mm... 104.8mm
Tullakool 1mm... 102.7mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth.....2,966 GL.....77 %
Hume.....2,011 GL.....67 %
Lake Victoria.....533 GL.....79 %
Menindee Lakes1,296 GL.....75 %
Active Storage..... 6,806 GL.....73 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Jingellic2,290 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon 583 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point..... 14,176 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir6,587 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge..... 1,149 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald3,245 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia31,261 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy 13,965 ML/d
Flow to SA..... 25,356 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge 0.63 m
Murray to the Sea 17 gates open

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