

Talking Water

Tuesday 28 February 2012



Murray Irrigation

Government buyback concerns

The Federal Government last week announced a "new, targeted water purchase initiative" for the southern Murray-Darling Basin. Murray Irrigation has major concerns with this initiative, such as:

- It is not consistent with Water Minister Tony Burke's commitment of no tenders in the southern basin until 2013 and that the Government would focus on infrastructure investment.
- It is not strategic because it does not address irrigation infrastructure or the negative economic impacts that result from buyback.
- It was announced without input from Irrigation Corporations even though the Irrigation Corporations are required to provide a letter of support for prospective sales and has clearly been developed by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (the Department) without consideration of the legal implications of this approach on Irrigation Corporations.

Customer participation

Murray Irrigation has received calls from customers about this initiative. The Department's guidelines and application form were released yesterday. Murray Irrigation is reviewing these documents and preparing a standard application form for customers interested in completing an expression of interest to the Australian Government. This form will be available at the end of the week from reception on T. 03 5898 3300 and from the Murray Irrigation website. Customers who wish to complete an expression of interest should submit an application to Murray Irrigation by 5.00pm Monday 12 March on the *Expression of Interest: Targeted Water Purchasing (Commonwealth Government) form*. This will allow Murray Irrigation to complete an assessment of the application and provide advice to the March 2012 Board of Directors meeting. Customers will be advised by Monday 19 March of the outcome of the Board's consideration of their application. Murray Irrigation, in supporting an application, is required to confirm the sale is consistent with plans to modernise and reconfigure the delivery network. For more information about Murray Irrigation's requirements, please contact reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

Basin Plan report on Landline

Debate over the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan featured on ABC program *Landline* on Sunday. The report included interviews with Murray Irrigation Chairman Stewart Ellis and Murray Group of Concerned Communities Chairman Bruce Simpson. There was also an

interview with Murray-Darling Basin Authority Chairman Craig Knowles. Both links have been posted on the Murray Irrigation website.

On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Round 2

Murray Irrigation has recently received a draft funding agreement from the Commonwealth Government for Round 2. Murray Irrigation will be meeting with representatives from the Department in Canberra this week to seek to finalise the funding agreement as soon as possible. At this stage it is hoped individual contracts will be issued late March.

Carryover capacity

Carryover capacity will be issued to customers on Thursday 1 March per the 2011/12 Operating Plan, and will be the equivalent of 50 percent of Class C (general security) water entitlements. Trade in carryover capacity will be available by private arrangement or the Murray Irrigation Exchange from 1 March. Fact sheets on carryover are available on the Murray Irrigation website or by contacting reception. Customers are reminded to consider water balances early to avoid forfeiture of water in excess of carryover capacity.

Local women head to Canberra

Local women and their families are invited to join the Women for a Living Basin (W4LB) delegation in Canberra this Wednesday 29 February to increase awareness of the community impacts of the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan. For more information or to coordinate transport with others, contact Joan Douglas on M. 0428 308 528.

Surface Irrigation Field Days

Murray Irrigation is holding a series of Surface Irrigation Field Days this week. The program will commence with a visit to "Boelgi", Deniliquin today followed by "Oakbank", Tocumwal tomorrow and "Gailmond", Wakool on Friday 2 March. All days start at 12.30pm with a free barbecue lunch and drinks provided. For more information, contact Danielle Ewington on T. 03 5888 3011.

Farmfit for Profit course

Ricegrowers' Association of Australia (RGA) has engaged with Resource Consulting Services (RCS) and will be holding a *Farmfit for Profit* course at Tocumwal Football Reserve between 12-15 March. The course is open to all primary producers and agri-business personnel. For more information, please contact Neil Bull on M. 0428 603 557 or email neilb@murrayirrigation.com.au.


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

(28/02/12)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements59%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance 570 GL
On-Farm Usage 749 GL
Comprising:
On-Allocation Usage 669 GL
Off-Allocation Usage 80 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale11,448 ML
Price Range \$13-\$39
Buy Offer N/A
Last 10 Sales678 ML
Price Range\$13 - \$14
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Channel flows

Today
Mulwala Canal 1,550 ML/day
Capacity 10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal 650 ML/day
Capacity 2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows 400 ML/day

Rainfall & evaporation

14/02/12 - 28/02/12 Rain Evap
Finley 68mm 94.2mm
Tullakool 0.8mm 102mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth2,966 GL77 %
Hume1,900 GL63 %
Lake Victoria470 GL69 %
Menindee Lakes1,546 GL89 %
Active Storage 6,882 GL74 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Jingellic2,259 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoo 1,339 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point5,729 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 7,525 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge1,922 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald 2,437 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia29,020 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy15,228 ML/d
Flow to SA 20,064 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge 0.72 m
Murray to the Sea N/A

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