

Talking Water

Tuesday 31 January 2012



Murray Irrigation

Remote Control Pilot Project

The Blighty Channel System (located within Division 9) has been selected for the Murray Irrigation Remote Control Pilot Project. The Project will result in the upgrade of both channel control structures and outlets to allow for remotely controlled operation. This upgrade is consistent with the Board of Directors' target for service delivery as described in its 2014 Strategic Plan. Invitations have been sent to relevant customers to attend a meeting on Monday 20 February at the Blighty Recreation Reserve starting at 10.30am to further discuss this project. For more information contact Program Delivery Officer David Dudley on T. 5898 3346.

Customer meetings

All Murray Irrigation customers are encouraged to attend customer meetings starting next Wednesday 8 February to discuss a number of issues including PIOP, the Network Consultation Paper, outlet and meter strategy, the remote control pilot project, the current water ordering system and Distribution Rules policy reviews, and the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Dates, times and venues are as follows:

- Wednesday 8 February at the **Pretty Pine Hall**, starting at 10am (morning tea from 9.30am).
- Thursday 9 February at the **Noorong Hall**, starting at 10am (morning tea from 9.30am).
- Friday 10 February at the **Caldwell Hall**, (noting change of venue from Bunnaloo Hall) starting at 10am (morning tea from 9.30am).
- Monday 13 February at the **Blighty Recreation Reserve**, starting at 11am (morning tea from 10.30am).
- 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.

Accounts due

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

Annual transfers

Annual transfers from the Murrumbidgee Valley to the Murray Valley close today Tuesday 31 January.

Soybean crop walk

NSW Department of Primary Industries is hosting a soybean crop walk for all growers. The crop walk will take place tomorrow Wednesday 1 February and start at 2pm. The walk will start at Geoff and Jenny McLeod's property on St Leon's Road, Finley (travel 1km north of Finley on the Newell Highway, turn east onto Closes Road and follow the signs). The walk will also feature Ian Taig's property on Crosbie's Road. Topics of discussion include establishment issues, planting into canola stubble, irrigation, weed control issues, marketing, new varieties and what to look for. For more information, contact DPI District Agronomist John Fowler on M. 0427 079 138.

Barmah-Millewa Forest

According to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority weekly report, the Barmah-Millewa forest environmental watering operation (that started in the spring of 2011) has entered its final stages. Only small volumes of additional water are now entering the forest – targeting specific wetlands via an elevated flow through the Gulpa Offtake. This flow will be decreased further towards 450 ML/day in the coming weeks, enabling the critical drying phase to continue. Over 400GL of environmental water consisting of Living Murray and NSW and Victorian environmental water entitlements has been used for this watering event.

Positions vacant

Murray Irrigation is currently seeking a Distribution Projects Supervisor based in Deniliquin and a Plant/Weeds Operator based in Finley. More information on these two positions can be found on Murray Irrigation's website.

Young farmers forum

The NSW Irrigators' Council is hosting a two-day forum in Canberra on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 March. The Young Farmers Forum is open to all young farmers between the ages of 18 to 30 who are involved in farming/irrigation. Expressions of interest are being sought. For more information, contact Amy Batten on T. 5898 3342.

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

(31/01/12)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements70%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance 667 GL
On-Farm Usage..... 635 GL
Comprising:
On-Allocation Usage 555 GL
Off-Allocation Usage..... 80 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale6,323 ML
Price Range \$22-\$39
Buy Offer \$20
Last 10 Sales1,359 ML
Price Range\$21 – \$22
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Channel flows

Today
Mulwala Canal 3,750 ML/day
Capacity 10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal 1,138 ML/day
Capacity 2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows..... 830 ML/day

Rainfall & evaporation

17/01/12 – 31/01/12 Rain Evap
Finley 0.0mm... 132.2mm
Tullakool 13.2mm... 131.2mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth.....2,957 GL.....77 %
Hume.....2,096 GL.....70 %
Lake Victoria.....556 GL.....82 %
Menindee Lakes1,693 GL.....98 %
Active Storage..... 7,302 GL.....79 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Jingellic4,509 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon 1,656 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point..... 12,116 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 9,046 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge..... 1,323 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald 391 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia 30,010 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy 14,305 ML/d
Flow to SA..... 15,014 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge 0.69 m
Murray to the Sea 27 gates open

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