

Talking Water

Tuesday 14 August 2012



Murray Irrigation

Customer meetings

Murray Irrigation is holding a series of meetings later this month and all customers are encouraged to attend. The times and venues will be confirmed next week, with all meetings held in the week commencing Monday 27 August.

Topics to be discussed will include:

- The roll out of PIIOP; what, where and when?
- Issues for the current irrigation season, including delivery entitlements, the casual usage fee, and accessing better information from our website; and
- Murray-Darling Basin Plan update.

Clarification needed on SDL Adjustment Mechanism

Murray Irrigation is awaiting clarification from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) as to how water recovered through efficiency programs, such as the Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP) and On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Programs (OFIEP), will be treated in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. Murray Irrigation's participation in the OFIEP and proposed participation in PIIOP was based on the understanding that the water recovered would go towards achieving recovery targets, yet the altered Basin Plan released last week includes a clause under the Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) adjustment mechanism that allows targets to **increase** if water is accessed through such efficiency programs.

Along with other industry stakeholders, Murray Irrigation has queried the MDBA and supports the call from NSW Irrigators' Council for the Commonwealth Minister to direct the MDBA to amend the plan so all Water for the Future funding programs are quarantined from the adjustment mechanism.

MGCC Canberra delegation

The Murray Group of Concerned Communities (MGCC) is taking a delegation to Canberra this week to discuss the Basin Plan with backbench Members of Parliament and Senators from both sides of politics.

The aim of the delegation is to put a human face on what has largely been an environmental and / or industry debate. Delegates Jenny Wheeler of Finley, Kellie Crossley of Deniliquin and Lloyd Polkinghorne of Moulamein will explain to politicians what impacts the Basin Plan could have on them, their families and their communities. The MGCC wants politicians to realise that the

Basin Plan is not simply about water or the environment, but is important public policy that will significantly impact on a large number of people's lives.

New website, customer login

Murray Irrigation launched its new website at the end of July and customer feedback to date has been very positive. One issue we would like to clarify is the **Customer Login**. Access to the **Customer Login** is now located at the top right of screen and appears on every page. To login, insert your IVR landholding number in the first box and your four digit pin in the second box and click **Go**. You will then have access to your account information, orders, supply points and the ability to access the Water Exchange and complete annual transfers online. You can also check your contact details and view your **Rice Map** if relevant. Should you require assistance, please call reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

National Irrigation Corporations Water Entitlements Register

Murray Irrigation has indicated its intent to withdraw from the National Irrigation Corporations Water Entitlements Register (NICWER). NICWER is a facility that allows stakeholders, such as solicitors and banks, to retrieve information about our customers' water entitlements online, like a land title search. Murray Irrigation will offer its own such online search facility and will communicate with solicitors, banks and other stakeholders in the coming month about this. Searches will continue to require information that is only provided by Murray Irrigation to customers, in order to maintain privacy.

Quarterly accounts due

Murray Irrigation final quarterly invoices for 2011/12 are due for payment by **5.00pm this Friday 17 August**. To be eligible for the 10 percent discount, all accounts must be paid before this date.

Hume storage management

According to the MDBA, as of last week, total storage at Hume Reservoir was 2,944GL (98 percent capacity). Releases have recently been increased to near channel capacity (25,000ML/day at Doctors Point). This will increase airspace in Hume Reservoir ahead of a rain event that is currently forecast to occur later this week.

Anthony Couroupis
General Manager

Announced allocation

Class C General Security	100 %
Class B High Security	100 %
Class A Town Water	100 %
Water Efficiency Allocation	3 %

Water availability & usage

(14/08/12)	
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements	114%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)	
On-Farm Balance	1,055 GL
On-Farm Usage	2 GL
Comprising:	
On-Allocation Usage	0 GL
Off-Allocation Usage	2 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today	
Water for Sale	5,482 ML
Price Range	\$21 - \$35
Buy Offer	\$20
Last 10 Sales	4,236 ML
Price Range	\$20 - \$23
To buy water call 1300 781 431	

Channel flows

Today	
Mulwala Canal	3,000 ML/day
Capacity	10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal	680 ML/day
Capacity	2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows	0 ML/day

Rainfall & evaporation

31/07/12 – 14/08/12	Rain	Evap
Finley	5.9mm	26.5mm
Tullakool	3.4mm	30.4mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)		
Dartmouth	3,522 GL	91 %
Hume	2,937 GL	98 %
Lake Victoria	426 GL	63 %
Menindee Lakes	2,004 GL	116 %
Active Storage	8,889 GL	96 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)	
Murray @ Jingellic	11,652 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon	2,022 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point	20,863 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir	23,689 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge	9,806 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald	10,977 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia	12,914 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy	4,027 ML/d
Flow to SA	40,387 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge	0.74 m
Murray to the Sea	N/A

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