

Talking Water

Tuesday 18 September 2012



Murray Irrigation

MGCC stakeholders' meeting

The Murray Group of Concerned Communities is holding a stakeholders meeting tomorrow, Wednesday 19 September, from 5.00pm to 6.30pm at the Deniliquin RSL Club. The meeting will hear from NSW Irrigators' Council Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Gregson, about the current status of the Basin Plan, followed by a discussion on the Murray community's views. For more information, call T. 03 5898 3343 or E. mgcc.nsw@gmail.com.

Stakeholders' breakfast briefing

Murray Irrigation is hosting a Stakeholders' Breakfast Briefing this Thursday 20 September from 7.00am at The Crossing Café in Deniliquin. Stakeholders are asked to confirm their attendance with Alison Bult or E. alison.bult@murrayirrigation.com.au or T. 03 5898 3332 where this is not already done.

Stop supply issues

Consistent with advice in last week's *Talking Water*, a number of Murray Irrigation customers have recently been placed 'on stop' for water supply purposes. Regrettably, this included a number of customers who should not have been. I apologise to these customers who we inappropriately stopped supply to. I shall be writing to each of these customers to again apologise for this mistake.

I will also introduce improved procedures for implementation of 'on stop' to avoid these circumstances occurring in the future.

Active storage

According to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), active storage increased by 108GL last week and is currently 8,555GL, which is 100 percent of capacity. Active storage has reached this level (despite Lake Victoria, Hume and Dartmouth being slightly below full supply) because of the high surcharge level in Menindee Lakes (116 percent). The last time there was 100 percent MDBA active storage was in October 1996. For more information, see:

www.mdba.gov.au/water/water-accounting.

Water Act amendment bill

Last week we were made aware that the Government had drafted an amendment to the *Water Act 2007*. The purpose of the amendment is to enable the ratification of outcomes of the proposed Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) adjustment mechanism, expected to be contained in the Basin Plan. The amendment would see SDL changes made without parliamentary review or oversight. National Irrigators' Council, NSW Irrigators'

Council and the National Farmers' Federation have all publicly opposed the Bill because it effectively gives the MDBA the power to change the SDL upwards or downwards without recourse to stakeholders, states or the Parliament.

The Government is now working with the Department of Water to finalise the Bill. It is expected to be introduced to Parliament later this week.

Rice filling

NSW DPI District Agronomist John Fowler estimates up to 20 percent of rice area may be direct drilled this season. The majority of the crop will still be aerial sown and this is recommended to occur in the second and third week of October (depending on variety). This means that in late September/early October many farmers will be filling their paddocks and irrigation demand is expected to increase. Customers are reminded to give as much notice as possible of water demand during rice fill to avoid delays in water supply. For more information, call reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

Rice discussion group meetings

NSW DPI will facilitate rice discussion groups in the Deniliquin agronomy district over the next week. Topics include management of Reiziq & Opus varieties, nitrogen management, cost effective weed control, growing rice on stubble, and any other issue growers' raise.

Meeting times and locations are:

- Today, Tuesday 18 September, 1.30pm at John Hand's property "Eddington" on Mayrung Road (T. 03 5882 5972).
- Wednesday 19 September, 9.30am at Geoff Small's property "Billinudgell" on Nesbitts Road (M. 0428 846 670).
- Thursday 20 September, 9.30am at Robert Caldwell's property "Ballymeade", Bunnaloo (T. 03 5489 7242).
- Tuesday 25 September, 9.30am at Michael Hughes' property "Oro" on Moulamein Road (M. 0408 204 610).

Herbicide resistance farm walk

An inspection of a ryegrass herbicide resistance trial in wheat will be held from 9.30am on Friday 21 September at Andrew Hermiston's property "East Wandook", Lindifferon Lane, Deniliquin. Extent of ryegrass herbicide resistance and management options will be discussed. For more details, contact John Fowler on M. 0427 079 138.

Anthony Couroupis
General Manager

Announced allocation

Class C General Security	100 %
Class B High Security	100 %
Class A Town Water	100 %
Water Efficiency Allocation	7 %

Water availability & usage

(18/09/12)	
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements	117%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)	
On-Farm Balance	1,072 GL
On-Farm Usage	118 GL
Comprising:	
On-Allocation Usage	39 GL
Off-Allocation Usage	79 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today	
Water for Sale	4,278 ML
Price Range	\$36 - \$50
Buy Offer	\$25
Last 10 Sales	2,450 ML
Price Range	\$33 - \$35
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	N/A

Rainfall & evaporation

04/08/12 - 18/09/12	Rain	Evap
Finley	1.0mm	48.8mm
Tullakool	2.6mm	61.9mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)		
Dartmouth	3,690 GL	96 %
Hume	2,949 GL	98 %
Lake Victoria	638 GL	94 %
Menindee Lakes	2,024 GL	117 %
Active Storage	9,301 GL	100 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)	
Murray @ Jingellic	11,036 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon	1,583 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point	13,279 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir	18,505 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge	7,156 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald	12,087 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia	4,456 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy	4,687 ML/d
Flow to SA	45,019 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge	0.70 m
Murray to the Sea	N/A

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