

Talking Water

Tuesday 3 July 2012



Murray Irrigation

Shareholder Director casual vacancy

An election via postal ballot will be conducted to fill the shareholder director casual vacancy. The candidates are Bruce Simpson, James Sides and Ted Hatty.

To be eligible to vote, all outstanding fees up to and including the March 2012 quarterly invoice must be paid by 5.00pm Friday 6 July.

Ballot papers will be distributed by Tuesday 10 July.

Starting allocations for 2012/13 season

The NSW Office of Water (NOW) yesterday announced commencing 2012/13 allocations for water users in the Murray Valley. Following this announcement, Murray Irrigation general security (Class C) entitlements holders will have an opening allocation of 56 percent of water entitlements, while high security allocations will commence at 97 percent of water entitlements.

The next NOW announcement will be made on 15 August and then on the 15th of each month until full allocations are reached. A copy of the NOW announcement is available from the Murray Irrigation website. Click on 'Water Supply' in the left hand menu and then 'Water Resource Updates'.

Channel refilling

Due to the persistent dry conditions and expected customer demand, Murray Irrigation intends opening the Mulwala and Wakool offtakes on Monday 9 July. Filling of these channels is expected to be complete by Monday 23 July.

It is also possible that the current period of supplementary access announced by the NSW Office of Water may be extended. Refilling of the system during these events provides benefits to both Murray Irrigation and its customers. Diversions to lateral channels may commence on 23 July, according to customer demand. More detailed information will be released via a Special *Talking Water* later this week.

Water Exchange 2012/13 opening

Murray Irrigation's Water Exchange has reopened for the 2012/13 irrigation season. Customers are reminded to obtain current forms which are available from both the Murray Irrigation website and reception.

Barmah Choke trade rules relaxed

Trades of water allocation from above to below the Barmah Choke will continue to be

allowed in 2012/13. While water availability will be high in 2012/13, water in storages below the Choke will assist meet downstream demand and therefore reduce the likelihood of river channel capacity constraints.

With the Menindee Lakes near capacity and water available in tributary valley accounts, there is little prospect of trade from upstream of the Barmah Choke to downstream creating channel capacity constraints. The relaxation of this rule is subject to monthly review by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

Basin Plan rally in Griffith

A strong contingent of Murray Irrigation landholders, local government and local business representatives joined thousands of others in Griffith on Wednesday 27 June to call on the NSW Government to stand up for regional communities in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan negotiation process.

The Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council met in Canberra on Friday to consider the current draft Basin Plan. Unfortunately, the meeting did little to allay irrigators' concerns and has raised more questions than it has answered.

The Basin Officials have a week to conduct extra work and the Ministers will hold an out-of-session meeting on Sunday 8 July. The state Ministers are required to provide the MDBA with a report on their position by Monday 9 July.

More information and photos from the rally are on the Murray Irrigation website.

On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program 3

Expression of Interest forms for the Round 3 On-farm Irrigation Efficiency Program are due to Murray Irrigation by **5.00pm this Friday 6 July**. Details of the program are on Murray Irrigation's website. Contact is Aimee Snowden on T. 03 5898 3317, or E. aimee.snowden@murrayirrigation.com.au.

Livestock Management Information

Ricegrowers' Association of Australia is holding a Livestock Management and Research Information Day at Pretty Pine Recreation Reserve **tomorrow, Wednesday 4 July**. The day will include presentations from various speakers. For more information, contact Neil Bull on M. 0428 603 557.

Anthony Couroupis
General Manager

Announced allocation

Class C General Security	56 %
Class B High Security	97 %
Class A Town Water	97 %
Water Efficiency Allocation	0 %

Water availability & usage

(03/07/12)	
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements	93%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)	
On-Farm Balance	871 GL
On-Farm Usage	0 GL
Comprising:	
On-Allocation Usage	0 GL
Off-Allocation Usage	0 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today	
Water for Sale	N/A
Price Range	N/A
Buy Offer	\$11
Last 10 Sales	N/A
Price Range	N/A

To buy water call 1300 781 431

Channel flows

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

Rainfall & evaporation

19/06/12 – 03/07/12	Rain	Evap
Finley	1.9mm	19.0mm
Tullakool	1.2mm	19.7mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)		
Dartmouth	3,361 GL	87 %
Hume	2,870 GL	95 %
Lake Victoria	484 GL	71 %
Menindee Lakes	1,916 GL	111 %
Active Storage	8,631 GL	93 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)	
Murray @ Jingellic	12,748 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoo	2,717 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point	12,439 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir	19,945 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge ...	10,586 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald	9,444 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia	3,116 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy	2,714 ML/d
Flow to SA	20,330 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge	0.66 m
Murray to the Sea	N/A

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