

# TalkingWater

Tuesday 17 April 2012



Murray Irrigation

## Murray-Darling Basin Plan

The 20-week Murray-Darling Basin Plan public consultation period has come to an end. This also heralds the beginning of the next stage in the process.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) will now analyse all submissions and re-draft its proposed Plan accordingly. A Summary Report will then be put to the Murray-Darling Basin Legislative & Governance Forum in June. State Ministers will have six weeks to provide comments for the MDBA to consider before finalising the Plan and providing it to Commonwealth Water Minister Tony Burke.

Minister Burke then has 12 weeks to consider the proposed Basin Plan. He can either direct the MDBA to make further changes, or adopt the Plan and table it in parliament where it becomes a 'disallowable instrument'. If there is no motion for disallowance proposed, the Basin Plan will become law. The Government has said it wants to have the Basin Plan in place by the end of this year.

## Murray Irrigation submission

Murray Irrigation has made a comprehensive submission on the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan. A copy of the submission can be viewed on our website.

The Murray Group of Concerned Communities also submitted its own submission. This can be viewed by visiting [www.mgcc-nsw.org](http://www.mgcc-nsw.org).

## Menindee Lakes information paper

The NSW Office of Water has released an information paper on Menindee Lakes water savings opportunities. The purpose of this paper is to give a brief overview of the Menindee Lakes, how they are currently managed, and how management and operations need to consider a myriad of complex issues.

Importantly, the paper outlines the reasons the NSW Government does not support the changed operations of the Lakes proposed by the Commonwealth Government that was recently the subject of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Commonwealth and NSW Governments. A link to the document is on the Murray Irrigation website.

## March 2012 summary

March 2012 was a very wet month across most of Australia. According to the Bureau of Meteorology, NSW recorded its 2nd wettest March ever and Victoria its 4th wettest. For the Murray-Darling Basin, it was also the 4th wettest March ever recorded, with 92.1mm

averaged across the region and followed generally wet conditions during February.

The cloud and rain also meant that the month was a cool one for most of eastern Australia, with NSW recording its 4th lowest mean maximum temperature for the month of March at 2 degrees Celsius below the long-term average.

## Murray system inflows

River Murray system inflows for March were around 2,200GL. This is the highest value ever recorded for March, breaking the record set only last year of around 1,000GL.

## Rice maps

Rice maps are now available in the 'Customers' section of the Murray Irrigation website (login using your six-digit IVR number and four-digit PIN). The rice map link is on the left hand side at the bottom and is available for landholdings that have grown rice in the last two seasons.

Printed copies (limit one per landholding) are available from reception. Please have your IVR number and PIN ready to provide to staff before calling or visiting reception.

Maps not available on the website are available by request. For more information, contact Compliance Supervisor Penny Sloane on T. 03 5888 3015.

## Watts in the dairy shed

Rising energy prices are making farmers take a closer look at energy use in the dairy shed. To assist farmers, Murray Dairy is holding a field day at Lostroh Partners in Blighty next month. Gabriel Hakim (AgVet Projects, developer of the national energy assessment tool) will be in attendance to discuss:

- Tips to reduce the energy consumption of your existing dairy plant, and;
- The results of an energy audit conducted on the host farm, including a cost-benefit analysis of new technologies for minimising energy use.

The field day is being held on Tuesday 1 May from 10.00am to 1.30pm at Lostroh Partners, 79 Blighty Hall Rd, Blighty. Lunch is provided. To RSVP, call (03) 5833 5312 or email [admin@murraydairy.com.au](mailto:admin@murraydairy.com.au) by 9.00am, Monday 30 April.

**Anthony Couroupis**  
General Manager

## Announced allocation

Class C General Security .....100%  
Class B High Security.....100%  
Class A Town Water.....100%  
Water Efficiency Allocation .....Up to 18%

## Water availability & usage

(17/04/12)  
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements .....52%  
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)  
On-Farm Balance ..... 502 GL  
On-Farm Usage..... 819 GL  
Comprising:  
On-Allocation Usage ..... 739 GL  
Off-Allocation Usage..... 80 GL

## Water exchange

8.30am today  
Water for Sale .....15,938 ML  
Price Range ..... \$5 - \$35  
Buy Offer ..... N/A  
Last 10 Sales .....1,129 ML  
Price Range ..... \$4 - \$5  
**To buy water call 1300 781 431**

## Channel flows

Today  
Mulwala Canal ..... 4,600 ML/day  
Capacity ..... 10,000 ML/day  
Wakool Canal..... 710 ML/day  
Capacity ..... 2,350 ML/day  
Total Escape Flows..... 2,400 ML/day

## Rainfall & evaporation

03/04/12 - 17/04/12 ..... Rain ..... Evap  
Finley ..... 0.2mm ..... 47.5mm  
Tullakool ..... 0mm ..... 54.6mm

## Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)  
Dartmouth.....3,188 GL.....83 %  
Hume.....2,621 GL.....87 %  
Lake Victoria.....418 GL.....62 %  
Menindee Lakes .....1,539 GL.....89 %  
Active Storage.....7766 GL.....84 %

## Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)  
Murray @ Jingellic ..... 3,970 ML/d  
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoon ..... 746 ML/d  
Murray @ Doctors Point..... 12,416 ML/d  
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir ..... 7,435 ML/d  
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge..... 3,898 ML/d  
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald ..... 23,902 ML/d  
Darling @ Wilcannia ..... 40,206 ML/d  
Darling @ Burtundy ..... 19,403 ML/d  
Flow to SA..... 59,089 ML/d  
Murray @ Murray Bridge ..... 0.72 m  
Murray to the Sea ..... 224 gates open

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