

Talking Water

Tuesday 27 March 2012



Murray Irrigation

Interstate allocation trade suspended

In the past week, the NSW, Victorian and South Australian governments have each announced suspensions to water allocation (temporary) trades that effectively bring to an end the interstate trade of water immediately. The suspensions remain in place to 30 June 2012. Each state has made their respective decisions to protect season 2012/13 allocations for all entitlements holders.

NSW Water Commissioner David Harriss, said that the suspension was necessary to minimise a reduction in water availability for NSW water users (both irrigation and environmental users) in the 2012/13 season. Mr Harriss said that NSW strongly supports water trade but not where it has a negative impact on others.

Flood damage assistance

Disaster declarations have been put into effect by the NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services for 59 Local Government Areas, including the Shires of Berrigan, Conargo, Murray and Jerilderie. These declarations make a number of supportive measures available to assist with the cost of restoration and recovery under the Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements and the NSW Disaster Assistance Arrangements.

For more information about the disaster relief grants and the eligibility criteria, call 1800 018 444, or visit the Disaster Assist website at www.disasterassist.gov.au.

Target rice water use figure

The target rice water use figure for the season is calculated based on the crop irrigation requirement (from October to February inclusive), plus an additional 4ML/ha for soil profile wetting and drainage. The crop irrigation requirement is calculated from the climatic data recorded at Finley and Tullakool weather stations operated by the CSIRO.

The target 2011/12 rice water use figures are:

- 14.2ML/ha for E, Q and M holdings east of the Edward River; or
- 15.9ML/ha for D, W and T holdings west of the Edward River.

The rice water usage of each landholding is available in the *Customers* section of the Murray Irrigation website. Murray Irrigation is presently measuring rice area plantings using a satellite image. At the completion of this process the rice water use for each landholding will be calculated. It is expected this information will be available in April. For

further information, contact Compliance Supervisor Penny Sloane on T. 03 5888 3015.

Tribute to Bob and Irene Caldwell

Murray Irrigation directors and staff acknowledge the tragic death last week of Bob and Irene Caldwell. Bob was Deniboota Landholders' Association Treasurer, a member of the Cadell LWMP Working Group, and a Murray Shire Councillor. Our sympathy is extended to Bob and Irene's family.

Quarterly billing Friday

Customers are reminded that quarterly invoices will be raised after Friday 30 March and to check water usage to ensure it has not exceeded 120% of delivery entitlements. To avoid the casual usage fee, additional delivery entitlements may be purchased on the Murray Irrigation Exchange. Purchases must be made by 5.00pm Friday 30 March.

Unused annual delivery entitlements

Customers with unused annual delivery entitlements compared to 2011/12 water usage should consider listing these for sale on the Exchange. For more information, contact reception on T. 03 5898 3300.

Be patient when draining

Customers are reminded that due to recent heavy rain, and the drainage of storm and rice water into drains, the drainage system is backing up at discharge points where levels are influenced by rivers and creeks. Please be patient when draining and remember some drains are accessed by many landholders and are many kilometres long.

Total farm water balance policy

Customers are reminded to check the total farm water use limit on their landholdings. The information is available in the *Customers* section of the Murray Irrigation website. To discuss options available under the Total Farm Water Balance Policy, contact Compliance Supervisor Penny Sloane on T. 03 5888 3015.

Farm Innovation Technology Expo

The inaugural Farm Innovation Technology Expo (FITE) is being held from 9am to 4pm this Friday and Saturday. The event will be held at Murray Valley Industry Park, on Todds Road Deniliquin. For more information, visit www.murraynow.com.au/events/fite.

Anthony Couroupis
General Manager

Announced allocation

Class C General Security100%
Class B High Security100%
Class A Town Water100%
Water Efficiency AllocationUp to 18%

Water availability & usage

(27/03/12)

Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements54%
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance 526 GL
On-Farm Usage 794 GL
Comprising:
On-Allocation Usage 714 GL
Off-Allocation Usage 80 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today

Water for Sale15,912 ML
Price Range \$4-\$35
Buy Offer N/A
Last 10 Sales1,398 ML
Price Range\$4 - \$5

To buy water call 1300 781 431

Channel flows

Today

Mulwala Canal 3,400 ML/day
Capacity 10,000 ML/day
Wakool Canal 630 ML/day
Capacity 2,350 ML/day
Total Escape Flows 2,280 ML/day

Rainfall & evaporation

13/03/12 - 27/03/12 Rain Evap
Finley 30mm 62.7mm
Tullakool 0.2mm 65.8mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Dartmouth3,163 GL82 %
Hume2,712 GL90 %
Lake Victoria523 GL77 %
Menindee Lakes1,492 GL86 %
Active Storage 7,890 GL85 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Murray @ Jingellic5,793 ML/d
Mitta Mitta @ Tallandoo 1,129 ML/d
Murray @ Doctors Point 11,124 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 9,494 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge... 8,618 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald 9,301 ML/d
Darling @ Wilcannia 34,953 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy 17,920 ML/d
Flow to SA 52,972 ML/d
Murray @ Murray Bridge 0.74 m
Murray to the Sea 1 gate open

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