

# *Drought update*



Murray Irrigation Limited

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Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2006

## **Government reduces water by 32%**

The NSW Government today reduced the water available on Murray Irrigation's licence by 50,000ML or 32% of the water remaining on our licence.

The Government's announcement applies to all irrigation water in the NSW Murray, and is a result of new record low inflows in the Snowy and Murray-Darling catchments and extremely low storage levels, including Snowy storages.

The decision to reduce water remaining by 32% is based on a continuation of record low inflows until the end of May, and advice from Snowy Hydro that their full 2006/07 releases will not be made.

Chairman, Stewart Ellis and General Manager, George Warne met with representatives from Minister Ian Macdonald's office and Department Natural Resources in Sydney this morning to determine the fairest options for dealing with the crisis in water available to NSW Murray irrigators.

This reduction has enormous ramifications for Murray Irrigation's operations and delivery of both irrigation and stock and domestic water.

Options for operation of our channel system for the rest of the season are currently being evaluated, but obviously an even shorter irrigation season is likely. Further information will be provided early next week included details for re-opening annual transfers and the Water Exchange.

Meetings for customers will proceed, as detailed below on Monday and Tuesday next week.

<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2006</b>	
Mallan School Hall	8.00am – 10.00am
Wakool Club	12 noon – 2.00pm
Bunnaloo Hall	3.00pm – 5.00pm
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006</b>	
Pretty Pine Hotel	8.00am – 10.00am
Finley RS Club	12 noon – 2.00pm

Customers with more than 100ML remaining on their landholdings will be contacted directly by Murray Irrigation and invited to participate in discussions about options for those businesses.

Representatives from Government have confirmed targeted assistance for irrigators may be available - further announcements from the Minister's office are expected.

George Warne can be contacted on 0428 819 352 and Stewart Ellis can be contacted on 0429 871 165.

**George Warne**  
**General Manager**