



Updated 2009/10 Season Operating Plan

Introduction

This Operating Plan replaces the Operating Plan announced in *Talking Water* on 23 July 2009. Murray Irrigation is continuing to supply water under modified operating conditions in order to maximise delivery efficiency.

Channel Filling

Customers are reminded that some channels, not yet required for the 2009/10 season, remain dry. The longer Murray Irrigation delays filling channels the more water it can save from seepage, evaporation losses and channel filling. The less channels Murray Irrigation fills the more water saved.

As of mid December 2009, allocations to Murray Irrigation's conveyance licence remain below normal allocation levels due to drought contingency measures adopted by the NSW Office of Water.

The NSW Office of Water has reduced conveyance licence allocations in order to maximise general security allocations.

Stock and Domestic Water Supply

Stock and domestic water will continue to be provided as a replenishment flow as demand warrants.

Channels supplying stock and domestic water will continue to be operated below sill height, except when sections of channels are raised to provide irrigation water or to supply stock and domestic water through metered outlets.

There is **no guarantee of a supply height** and **pumping maybe required** in many circumstances.

Stock and domestic water may not be deliverable within the normal four days notice of order placement due to the need to fill empty and/or low sections of channel. Customers are therefore encouraged to provide their Planner with as much notice as possible of their requirements in order to limit the risk of Murray Irrigation not being able to deliver water when required.

Customers are also still encouraged to consult their Planner about alternative delivery options to using Murray Irrigation's channel system. Alternative delivery options such as trucking water to house tanks (at Murray Irrigation's cost) assists Murray Irrigation reduce its delivery losses.

Customers who applied for unused stock and domestic credits by 4:00 pm on 24 September 2009 are advised that, except in cases where Murray Irrigation has already provided alternative advice, their application has been approved. No further applications will be considered for the remainder of the 2009/10 season.



Irrigation Supply (Water Order Telephone Number: 1300 781 431)

On 29 September 2009, Murray Irrigation announced in *Talking Water* the reintroduction of a seven-day water delivery service to customers for the remainder of the 2009/10 season. This means that customers are able to make starts, finishes, increases and reductions to water deliveries on weekends and public holidays (the previous \$330 fee for weekend and public holiday changes no longer applies).

Due to low flow conditions in some channels there is no guarantee of supply height however, in the majority of cases, customers can still expect their irrigation supply to be 380mm or higher above the sill level of their outlet for the majority of the time.

At least four days notice is required to start an irrigation delivery with water orders needing to be placed by 6:30am. This means that orders lodged after 6:30am effectively require at least 5 days notice. Examples include:

- A water order lodged at 6:17am (i.e. before 6:30am) on Tuesday to start an outlet will result in their outlet being started four days later on Saturday.
- A water order lodged at 2:27pm (i.e. after 6:30am) on Tuesday to start an outlet will result in their outlet being started five days later on Sunday.

In some circumstances, irrigation water may not be deliverable within the normal four days notice of delivery time due to the need to fill empty and/or low sections of channel. Customers are therefore encouraged to provide their Planner with as much notice as possible about their requirements in order to limit the risk of Murray Irrigation not being able to deliver water within the required timeframes.

At least two days notice is requested to finish an outlet. Order debiting maybe applied where two days notice is not provided.

Customer should also note that some sections of channel will be operated above sill level where no outlets are operating for operational requirements. This is to assist with the timely and accurate delivery of water (i.e. reregulation zones).

Notice of Summer and Autumn Irrigation Programs

Landholders planning an irrigation program and who have not already done so should contact their Planner to advise of their intentions as soon as possible. This includes customers with a high level of certainty about their intent to proceed with an Autumn irrigation program.

This will enable Murray Irrigation to assess human resource and maintenance requirements to meet customer delivery requirements.

The more notice provided by customers the less risk there will be that Murray Irrigation is unable to meet water supply requirements due to channel capacity constraints as a result of channel maintenance that has been deferred to reduce customer costs during the prolonged drought.

In particular Murray Irrigation needs to assess potential work requirements such as desilting, weed control and/or bank building as well as the number of Distribution staff required to operate the channel system to meet this season's on-farm water supply requirements.



Allocation Announcements

The NSW Office of Water generally makes scheduled allocation announcements for Murray Valley licence holders on the 1st and 15th day of each month, except where this occurs on a weekend or public holiday in which case the announcement is made on the next available business day.

Following each allocation announcement by the NSW Office of Water, Murray Irrigation will proceed to make an internal allocation announcement by 10:00am on the morning of the scheduled allocation announcement.

In the majority of cases, Murray Irrigation's allocation announcements are expected to be equivalent to the same allocations announced by the NSW Office of Water.

Copies of the NSW Office of Water media releases and Critical Water Communiqués will be made available in the *Water Resource Updates* section of Murray Irrigation's website.

www.murrayirrigation.com.au/content.aspx?p=20182

Water Distribution Efficiency Announcements

Murray Irrigation's Board of Directors will consider the water available to the Company at each Board meeting, which are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month.

The announcement of any company Water Efficiency Distributions will be made by 10:00am on the Friday immediately following the Board meeting. Announcements will still be made where there is **no** change to the Water Efficiency Distribution.

Customers should note that the announcement of Water Efficiency Distributions have historically occurred occasionally and not routinely.

Stock and Domestic Allocation

On 24 August 2009, Murray Irrigation announced in *Talking Water* a 2ML per Landholding Stock and Domestic Allocation for the 2009/10 Season.

The 2009/10 Stock and Domestic allocation does **not** apply to Landholdings created after 20 August 2009 (e.g. new Landholdings created from a Subdivision).

The 2ML Stock and Domestic Allocation is fully tradeable and available for carryover at the end of the 2009/10 season if it is unused and it is within normal carryover limit rules.



Water Accounting Rules

Allocation Limits

The following Allocation Limits apply for the 2009/10 Season.

- Class A, Class B and Class C Allocations **cannot** exceed 100% of Water Entitlements
- Carryover **plus** Allocations (including Water Efficiency Distributions) **cannot** exceed 100% of Water Entitlements.

If the *Murray Lower Darling Water Sharing Plan* remains suspended by the NSW Office of Water the above Allocation Limits will also apply for the 2010/11 Season.

Carryover Limits

Carryover refers to the volume of unused water in a Water Allocation Account that can be made available for use in the following season.

If conditions remain dry, carryover rules from the 2009/10 to 2010/11 season will be the same as last season. This includes:

Water Entitlement Class	Carryover Limit
Class A (Town Water Supply)	100%
Class B (High Security)	100%
Class C (General Security)	100%

If however in the unlikely event that the temporary suspension of *Murray Lower Darling Water Sharing Plan* is lifted by the NSW Office of Water, the resumption of normal carryover rules will apply.

The deliverability of carryover water in the 2010/11 season is not guaranteed.

Transfer Rules

For detailed information about Murray Irrigation's Transfer Rules, customers should refer to Murray Irrigation's *Transfer Rules Policy* in the *Customers* (this requires you to login using your IVR number and PIN) then *Policies* section of Murray Irrigation's website.

www.murrayirrigation.com.au

On 21 August 2009, Murray Irrigation announced in *Talking Water* the removal of the 10% loss factor previously applied to annual (temporary) transfers into Murray Irrigation for the 2009/10 season. This change means that customers purchasing water from an external seller will have their allocation account credited with all of the megalitres purchased from the external seller when water is transferred to Murray Irrigation's Water Access Licence.

On the 30 September 2009, the Murray Darling Basin Authority announced that **annual** (temporary) transfers from above the Barmah Choke licences to below the Barmah Choke licences in the Murray Valley can continue to 30 June 2010.



Murray Irrigation Limited

443 Charlotte St, Deniliquin NSW 2710
Telephone (03) 5898 3300;
Fax (03) 5898 3301
Website: www.murrayirrigation.com.au

Information about *Forms* and *Charges* for annual trades (including Murray Irrigation's Water Exchange) is available in the *Water Exchange* section of Murray Irrigation's website.

www.murrayirrigation.com.au/watexch/

Further information about State Water Corporation and internal Murray Irrigation end of season cut-off dates for annual (temporary) trade applications will be announced in *Talking Water* later in the season.

End of Season Arrangements

End of season arrangements including the closure dates of the Mulwala Canal and Wakool Canal offtakes will be announced in *Talking Water* later in the season.

The Company reserves the right to close the Mulwala Canal and Wakool Canal offtakes prior to the 1 May 2010 (as indicated in the *Distribution Rules Policy*) subject to operational requirements and/or climatic conditions.

Compliance

Customers are reminded that Murray Irrigation is actively enforcing its *Compliance Policy* which was approved by the Board of Directors on 18 June 2009. The objectives of this policy include:

- Help achieve the objectives of Murray Irrigation's *Constitution, Entitlements Contract* and other policies.
- Maximise compliance with Murray Irrigation's policies and contracts
- Maintain equity between Holders
- Promote sustainable use of water within the Area of Operations

To date, most compliance breaches investigated by Murray Irrigation have related to unauthorised works and/or water diversions. Customers uncertain about their obligations should contact the Compliance Supervisor on (03) 58883 3015.

A fully copy of the *Compliance Policy* can be viewed at Murray Irrigation's website by selecting *Customers* (this requires you to login using your IVR number and PIN) then *Policies*.

Further Information

Customers requiring further information regarding the Updated 2009/10 Operating Plan should contact their Planner. Further updates to the 2009/10 Operating Plan will be provided through *Talking Water*.

Deniliquin: (03) 5898 3304

Finley: (03) 5888 3004

Wakool: (03) 5887 0504