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Murray Irrigation bitterly disappointed by deferred Basin Plan release

Murray Irrigation General Manager Anthony Couroupis is bitterly disappointed with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's decision to defer the release of the Guide to the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

"This is a disappointing outcome for irrigators and the wider community who need the information from the Guide to make decisions regarding their future, especially in regard to the sustainable diversion limits and its impact on water availability.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) announced earlier today it will defer the release date of the Guide to the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan until the end of August.

"This Plan has long been scheduled for release mid-year and its deferral until after the federal election is unacceptable. Political persuasions should not affect a supposedly independent authority," Mr Couroupis said.

"The delay is contributing to huge uncertainty over the impact on jobs, families, the price of food, and our local communities.

"Hard-working Australian farmers have learnt the hard way that this Government cannot be trusted. Initially we were told to 'wait and see' by the Federal Government and not to 'pre-judge' the proposed Basin Plan.

"This new delay brings with it a lack of confidence in the Authority, and the decision to delay the Guide's release conflicts with its 'so-called' independence," Mr Couroupis said.

Mr Couroupis said Murray Irrigation customers have the right to know what the Guide is intending as soon as possible.

"Our customers need to know exactly how much water they are likely to lose, so we can start the discussions about our futures," Mr Couroupis said.

Ends

For further information contact Murray Irrigation General Manager Anthony Couroupis 03 5898 3330.