

Talking Water

Tuesday 14 February 2017



Murray Irrigation

SAFETY FIRST

Do not swim in channels

With the recent heatwave experienced across the state, Murray Irrigation is reminding people that irrigation channels are not safe places to swim or play. Regulating structures can change suddenly, and cause strong undercurrents and fluctuations in channel levels without warning. Submerged objects (e.g. rocks and debris) and snakes can present dangers to swimmers.

Local consultation on Basin Plan

Murray Irrigation attended a local workshop on the implementation of the Basin Plan, hosted by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority last week. The MDBA explained the importance of the SDL Adjustment Mechanism process to be conducted this year. The MDBA Executive committed to further local meetings with stakeholders.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries held a second workshop with local stakeholders on Monday to discuss the NSW SDL adjustment projects. These concepts seek to reduce the amount of water recovery under the Basin Plan by better managing environmental water. Stakeholders raised several issues of concern but reiterated support for the principle of no negative third party impacts to water access or reliability.

Water ordering system maintenance

Murray irrigation's *Water ordering* system will be undergoing routine maintenance and be offline for approximately one hour from 2.00pm next Tuesday 21 February. During this shutdown period, customers will not be able to lodge, or change water orders. Current operating orders should not be affected. If you experience any issues, contact Customer Support on T. 1300 138 265. Murray Irrigation apologises for any inconvenience caused and thanks customers for their cooperation.

December quarter invoices

December 2016 quarter invoices have been sent to customers with payment due by 5.00pm Friday 10 March. Please note that for this quarter, discount details are included at the bottom of the line items on your invoice. For more information, contact Customer Support on T. 1300 138 265.

Wakool Customer Centre

Following feedback from customers, Murray Irrigation has adjusted the opening hours of its Wakool Customer Centre in Dampier Street, Wakool. The Centre will now be open from 1.00pm to 3.00pm Monday to Friday. Customers requiring assistance outside of these hours can contact Customer Support via T. 1300 138 265. The opening hours of Deniliquin and Finley customer centres are unchanged.

Plan ahead when ordering water

Due to the hot weather and increased demand, customers are reminded to place water orders well in advance. A minimum of four days' notice is required to guarantee delivery. Please also be aware of your outlet(s) finish time(s). Customers can set up order end date notifications via SMS for both four days and one day. For assistance, contact Customer Support on T. 1300 138 265.

MDBA active storage

MDBA total storage decreased by 117GL last week, with the active storage currently 6,460GL (75 percent capacity). This is around 1,000GL above the long-term average and more than double the volume at the same time last year when the active storage was 3,098GL (36 percent capacity). **Note:** the storage volumes reported in the *Talking Water* right hand column are 'total storage' volumes and include inaccessible volume known as 'dead storage'.

BoM climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) is forecasting drier than average conditions in southeast Australia and warmer than average temperatures to the end of April. To view the BOM outlook, visit: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary.

Edward-Wakool Fish Forum

Murray Local Land Services is hosting an Edward-Wakool Fish Forum this Thursday 16 February from 7.00pm at the Barham and District Services Club. The evening is an opportunity to share information about native and pest fish projects in the Edward-Wakool system. A free bus will be leaving from Deniliquin at 5.30pm. Bookings essential. For more information, contact Josh Campbell (Murray LLS) on M. 0427 104 874.

Michael Renehan, CEO

Announced allocation

Class C General Security 100 %
Water resource distribution 3 %
(Efficiency Allocation on Delivery Entitlements)

Water availability and usage

(14/02/17)

Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements..... 62 %
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance..... 489 GL
On-Farm Usage 541 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today

Water for Sale 16,729 ML
Price Range \$40 - \$250
Buy Offer \$32
Yesterday's Sales..... 2,879 ML
Price Range \$32 - \$38

To buy water call 1300 781 431

Water use and trade data

07/02/17 – 13/02/17

Murray Water Exchange activity

Internal buyers (No. & ML)..... 32; 5,245ML
External buyers (No. & ML)..... 1; 562ML
Internal sellers (No. & ML)..... 14; 5,745ML
External sellers (No. & ML)..... 1; 62ML

Trade to and from licence (excl. Govt.)

Net trade..... -5ML(week).... -10,846ML(YTD)

Crop weekly water use

ML used on farm..... 24GL (52% on rice)

Channel flows today (ML/day)

	Actual	Capacity
Mulwala Canal	3,593	10,000
Wakool Canal	949	2,350
Escape flows	300	3,250

Rainfall and evaporation

07/02/17 – 13/02/17 Rain Evap
Finley 0.0mm 55.1mm
Tullakool..... 0.4mm 69.2mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Dartmouth..... 3,004 GL..... 78 %
Hume..... 2,450 GL..... 82 %
Lake Victoria..... 467 GL..... 69 %
Menindee Lakes 1,213 GL..... 70 %
Total Storage..... 7,134 GL..... 77 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Murray @ Doctors Point 13,808 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 8,897 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge ... 1,179 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald..... 2,622 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy..... 3,599 ML/d
Flow to SA..... 9,328 ML/d
Murray to the Sea 4 gates open

This information is provided for general reference purposes only. Murray Irrigation takes best endeavours to ensure accuracy. It is collated at 8.00am Tuesdays and is subject to change.