

# Talking Water

Wednesday 19 April 2017



Murray Irrigation

## SAFETY FIRST

### Harvest safety

With rice harvest now underway, there is a significant increase in heavy vehicles on the road. Some of the vehicles can be over width, slow moving farm machinery. This creates an increase in hazardous circumstances for road users. Please be vigilant at all times and take care when approaching or passing heavy vehicles.

### Plan for end of irrigation season

Murray Irrigation will close the Mulwala and Wakool Canal offtakes at 8.00am on Monday 8 May. We will be conducting a modified drainage procedure from this date, with off-allocation deliveries to commence on an **opportunistic basis**. To guarantee supply, all customers must have their irrigation programs finalised by Monday 8 May. Murray Irrigation cannot guarantee supply after this date. Customers are strongly encouraged to give advanced notice of irrigation demand, including any changes to orders, to assist with channel operations. Customers should also ensure dams are filled for stock and domestic use prior to Monday 8 May. For more information, contact Customer Support on T. 1300 138 265.

### Berrigan Main Canal offtake

The Berrigan Main Canal offtake will be closed on Monday 1 May to allow early drainage, with PIIOP Round 3 construction works to commence on Monday 8 May. To guarantee water delivery, **customers in Divisions 3, 4, 5 and 6** should complete irrigation programs prior to Monday 1 May. Off-allocation deliveries **may** be available on an **opportunistic basis** after this closure, however, an accelerated drainage program will be implemented immediately. For more information, contact Customer Support on T. 1300 138 265.

### Outlook for 2017/18 irrigation season

DPI Water yesterday released an update to its preliminary outlook for the 2017/18 irrigation season. The outlook indicates a NSW Murray general security opening allocation of four percent in both 'dry' and 'very dry' conditions, rising to 53 percent by November (under average conditions). To view the full outlook, see the 'Water Resources Updates' section of Murray Irrigation's website, or call Customer Support on T. 1300 138 265.

### External trade closures

Customers are advised of the following dates for the close of external annual trade for the 2016/17 season:

- Interstate trade (to or from Victoria or South Australia) – forms must be received at Murray Irrigation by **5.00pm Thursday 27 April**.
- External trade (to or from Murray Irrigation) – forms must be received at Murray Irrigation by **5.00pm Tuesday 30 May**.

### Water Exchange closure

The Murray Irrigation Water Exchange will close at 5.00pm Friday 2 June. Water can be sold or purchased and annual delivery entitlements traded up until this date.

**Internal annual transfers** will close at 5.00pm on Friday 9 June – to allow balancing of water allocation accounts for volume and annual delivery entitlements prior to close of season.

Further details will be provided in a special *Talking Water* in early May. For more information, contact Customer Support on T. 1300 138 265.

### Watering of Tuppall Creek

Ephemeral creeks are waterways that experience wet and dry periods. Since river regulation, the frequency of creek flows has greatly reduced and many of these systems are now dry or water-stressed. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is working with communities to provide water to some creeks using Murray Irrigation infrastructure, including to Tuppall Creek where managed flows are restoring a more regular wet and dry cycle. This has resulted in improved water quality, plant growth and overall system health. An autumn watering event is currently underway in the Tuppall Creek. For further information, contact Emma Wilson (OEH) on T. 02 6022 0617.

### ANZAC Day office closures

All Murray Irrigation offices will be closed next Tuesday 25 April for the ANZAC Day public holiday. Murray Irrigation's Water Exchange telephone and internet services will remain open. Water deliveries are not affected, with Channel Attendants and Customer Support staff working as normal. *Talking Water* will be sent to customers on Wednesday 26 April. For more information, please contact Customer Support on T. 1300 138 265.

Michael Renehan, CEO

### Announced allocation

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

### Water availability and usage

(19/04/17)

Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements.....37 %  
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)  
On-Farm Balance.....296 GL  
On-Farm Usage .....791 GL

### Water exchange

8.30am today

Water for Sale .....12,016 ML  
Price Range .....\$36 - \$125  
Buy Offer .....\$32  
Yesterday's Sales.....1,769 ML  
Price Range .....\$34 - \$38

To buy water call 1300 781 431

### Water use and trade data

11/04/17 – 18/04/17

#### Murray Water Exchange activity

Internal buyers (No. & ML)...42; 4,380ML  
External buyers (No. & ML)...3; 3,773ML  
Internal sellers (No. & ML)...32; 7,846ML  
External sellers (No. & ML)...2; 307ML

#### Trade to and from licence (excl. Govt.)

Net trade....888ML(week)....8,262ML(YTD)

#### Crop weekly water use

ML used on farm.....27GL (52% on annual pasture)

### Channel flows today (ML/day)

	Actual	Capacity
Mulwala Canal	4,048	10,000
Wakool Canal	655	2,350
Escape flows	600	3,250

### Rainfall and evaporation

12/04/17 – 18/04/17 ..... Rain ..... Evap  
Finley .....0.0mm .....17.3mm  
Tullakool.....0.0mm .....22.5mm

### Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Dartmouth.....3,000 GL.....78 %  
Hume.....1,779 GL.....59 %  
Lake Victoria.....334 GL.....49 %  
Menindee Lakes .....817 GL.....47 %  
Total Storage.....5,930 GL.....64 %

### Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)

Murray @ Doctors Point .....10,702 ML/d  
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir .....7,142 ML/d  
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge ..1,544 ML/d  
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald.....1,285 ML/d  
Darling @ Burtundy.....880 ML/d  
Flow to SA.....5,231 ML/d  
Murray to the Sea .....17 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.*