



## SAFETY FIRST

### Essential Energy reminder

Essential Energy has issued a reminder about how its electricity network may be affected or damaged during storms. Damaged or fallen powerlines can be hard to spot. Indicators of potential damage may include flickering or no power supply, burnt areas in paddocks or roadsides, injured or downed stock, smoke or fallen trees. If you see fallen or damaged powerlines, call Essential Energy on 13 20 80 immediately. Whatever you do, stay clear and under no circumstances touch or attempt to move them.

### Allocation increases to 46 percent

NSW Crown Lands and Water (formerly DPI Water) announced Friday that general security entitlements allocation for the NSW Murray increased to 46 percent for Class C entitlement holders. See:

<https://goo.gl/a14ey7>. There will be no statement on 2 January 2018. Fortnightly assessments and statements for the NSW Murray will resume on Monday 15 January 2018. Subscribe directly here:

<https://goo.gl/XZ8ZAd>.

### Menindee Lakes 'offline'

The total water resource available in the Menindee Lakes system has dropped to 475GL. This means no further water will be called by the MDBA for use in the River Murray system (active storage). In line with the longstanding Murray-Darling Basin Agreement, the MDBA accesses water from Menindee Lakes until the volume falls below 480GL. WaterNSW manages the lakes and flows once this storage threshold is met. The MDBA's access to water in the Menindee Lakes will resume when the volume next exceeds 640GL. Temporary trade with the Murray also typically ceases until the system recovers to above 640GL. For more information, visit:

<https://goo.gl/AHiYWg>.

### Water orders and rice PI

Murray Irrigation is expecting a high demand for water over the next few weeks, especially as rice panicle initiation (PI) approaches. Customers should ensure that water orders are placed at least four days in advance to guarantee delivery. Please also report any issues or concerns by contacting Customer Support on 1300 138 265.

### Early system closure update

Following customer feedback about the proposed early closure of the Mulwala Canal offtake, our project team is reviewing the key project dates. This is a complex issue that needs to be assessed further. Rest assured, Murray Irrigation has taken on customer feedback and is exploring options to minimise customer impact. An announcement will be made early in the new year. Customers who wish to discuss this further should call Customer Support on 1300 138 265.

### Waterbird field day

Ricegrowers' Association, in conjunction with Murrakool Land for Wildlife, is hosting a painted snipe and bittern field day at Tullakool tomorrow (Wednesday 20 December). It will be held at property 'Cambria' on Thomas Road (off Miller Road) from 6.00pm. A BBQ dinner and refreshments will be provided. The evening will help to identify dozens of waterbird and frog species and teach attendees about enhancing on-farm wetland habitats with wildlife ecologist Matt Herring. Bring your own gumboots and binoculars. For more information, contact Roger Knight on 0487 455 511.

### Solar farm comments due Thursday

Comments to the proposed 'Currawarra' and 'Tarleigh' solar farms are due this Thursday 21 December:

<https://goo.gl/yUVzbg>.

### RGA tertiary scholarships

Applications for the 2018 *Greg Graham Memorial Scholarship* (\$10,000) and *Peter Connor Book Award* (\$3,000) close Friday 19 January. Eligibility criteria and application forms can be found at [www.rga.org.au/education/awards-and-scholarships.aspx](http://www.rga.org.au/education/awards-and-scholarships.aspx). For further information, contact RGA on 02 6953 0433 or [rga@rga.org.au](mailto:rga@rga.org.au).

### Customer Support over Christmas

Customer Support staff will continue to operate during the company's Christmas closure from 5.00pm Friday 22 December to 8.30am Monday 8 January 2018. Water deliveries will be uninterrupted and the Water Exchange will be operating as normal. For full details, see previously published information here:

<https://goo.gl/vYra3R>.

This will be the final *Talking Water* for 2017. Our next regular newsletter will be issued on Tuesday 9 January 2018.

### Announced allocation

Class C General Security ..... 46 %  
Water resource distribution ..... 3 %  
(issued against Delivery Entitlements)

### Water availability and usage

(19/12/17)  
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements.....46 %  
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)  
On-Farm Balance..... 384 GL  
On-Farm Usage ..... 298 GL

### Water exchange

8.30am today  
Water for Sale ..... 7,661 ML  
Price Range ..... \$109 - \$350  
Buy Offer ..... \$96  
Yesterday's Sales..... 411 ML  
Price Range ..... \$104 - \$105  
**To buy water call 1300 781 431**

### Water use and trade data

12/12/17 – 18/12/17  
**Murray Water Exchange activity**  
Internal buyers (No. & ML)...20; 3,155ML  
External buyers (No. & ML).....0; 0ML  
Internal sellers (No. & ML)..... 19; 2,830ML  
External sellers (No. & ML).....2; 325ML

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

Net trade 6,564ML (week) 6,793ML (YTD)

### Crop weekly water use

ML used on farm..... 28 GL (67%  
on rice)

### Channel flows today (ML/day)

	Actual	Capacity
Mulwala Canal	4,176	10,000
Wakool Canal	1,119	2,350
Escape flows	0	3,250

### Rainfall and evaporation

12/12/17 – 18/12/17 ..... Rain ..... Evap  
Finley ..... 0.0mm ..... 65.0mm  
Tullakool..... 0.0mm ..... 64.5mm

### Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)  
Dartmouth.....3,429 GL.....89 %  
Hume.....2,273 GL.....76 %  
Lake Victoria.....664 GL.....98 %  
Menindee Lakes .....475 GL.....27 %  
Total Storage.....6,841 GL.....74 %

### Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)  
Murray @ Doctors Point ..... 15,428 ML/d  
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir ..... 11,050 ML/d  
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge..... 1,564 ML/d  
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald..... 3,086 ML/d  
Darling @ Burtundy..... 471 ML/d  
Flow to SA..... 11,923 ML/d  
Murray to the Sea ..... 30 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.