

Talking Water

Tuesday 27 February 2018



Murray Irrigation

Talking Water audio format

You can now listen to a recording of *Talking Water* on your smart device: www.murrayirrigation.com.au/media/talking-water/.

SAFETY FIRST

Quad bike safety rebates

It's recognised that quad bikes can be dangerous when not operated safely. To help mitigate the dangers, the NSW Quad Bike Safety Improvement Program supports harm prevention activities associated with the use of quad bikes in rural workplaces. The program, funded by SafeWork NSW, offers eligible businesses two rebates worth up to \$1,000 each for any combination of quad bike safety solutions. Workers employed by eligible businesses can also access a helmet rebate. For full details: <https://goo.gl/f1pRfy>.

MoU to strengthen water compliance

Work to strengthen water compliance and enforcement continues with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority last week signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the NSW Natural Resources Access Regulator. Under the agreement, the two bodies will share information and intelligence, conduct joint investigations, build capability and capacity, report transparently and work to continuously improve compliance across the Basin. For details, see: <https://goo.gl/vRSc8X>.

Our modernisation continues

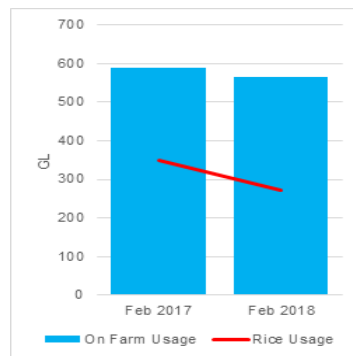
More than 200 contractors will be working across the footprint this year to upgrade 18 major sites as part of the company's federally-funded PIOP 3 project. The works will provide a greater level of control in our main canals and merge with earlier upgrades to deliver increased flow rates and order flexibility to our customers where they want it, on time and in full. Here's a map of the construction sites: <https://goo.gl/BqAuKN>.

Preparing for PIOP 3 works

The Mulwala Canal offtake will close on Monday 1 May to allow for PIOP 3 works. Customers should factor this closure date into their end of season planning. The system is expected to reopen early August (exact date to be confirmed). If you think you will be affected by the early closure call 1300 138 265.

On-farm usage update

Murray Irrigation has so far delivered 566GL to customers on-farm this irrigation season, with 48 percent of that water used on rice. This compares to 590GL delivered at this time last year (59 percent on rice).



No allocation update this week

There will be no water allocation statement from NSW Crown Lands and Water this Thursday 1 March. As we are now past the peak irrigation season, allocation updates will be issued monthly, with the next announcement due Thursday 15 March. The mid-March release will contain preliminary water availability outlook information for 2018-19. But why wait to get it from us? You can get the announcement sent straight to you here: <https://goo.gl/XZ8ZAd>.

SRI seeking farming photos

Southern Riverina Irrigators is seeking photos that showcase the local farming industry. This can be anything from harvest and crop photos to images of farm or family. You can send photos to: admin@southernriverinairrigators.com.au.

NSW Farmers tertiary scholarships

Five \$4000 scholarships are on offer from the NSW Farmers' Association for eligible students committed to enhancing agriculture and rural communities. Applications close Monday 5 March 2018. For more information, visit: www.nswfarmers.org.au.

Finley field walk and branch meeting

Rice Extension is holding a field walk at the Rice Research Finley site (1km north of Finley on the Newell Highway) from 3.30pm this Thursday 1 March.

The rice field walk will be followed by the Finley RGA branch meeting from 5.30pm at the Finley Football Grounds. For further information, contact Extension Officer Troy Mauger on 0417 375 168.

Announced allocation

Class C General Security 49 %
Water resource distribution 8 %
(issued against Delivery Entitlements)

Water availability and usage

(27/02/18)
Vol. remaining % of entitlements 30 %
On-farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-farm balance 251 GL
On-farm usage 566 GL

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for sale 7,820 ML
Price range \$115 - \$350
Buy offer \$107
Yesterday's sales 800 ML
Price range \$112 - \$115
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Water use and trade data

20/02/18 – 26/02/18

Murray Water Exchange activity

Internal buyers (No. & ML) ... 43; 4,346ML
External buyers (No. & ML) ... 0; 0ML
Internal sellers (No. & ML) ... 23; 3,756ML
External sellers (No. & ML) ... 5; 590ML

Trade to and from licence (excl. Govt.)
Net trade 2,969ML (week) 22,228ML (YTD)

Crop weekly water use

GL used on farm 15 GL (72% on rice)

Channel flows today (ML/day)

	Actual	Capacity
Mulwala Canal	3,025	10,000
Wakool Canal	689	2,350
Escape flows	200	3,250

Rainfall and evaporation

20/02/18 – 26/02/18 Rain Evap
Finley 0.0mm 63.6mm
Tullakool 0.0mm 67.6mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth 3,425 GL 89 %
Hume 1,611 GL 54 %
Lake Victoria 390 GL 58 %
Menindee Lakes 319 GL 18 %
Total Storage 5,745 GL 62 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Doctors Point 11,930 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra Weir 7,808 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge 2,115 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald 234 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy 36 ML/d
Flow to SA 6,477 ML/d
Murray to the sea 7 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.