



End of season system closure

Mulwala Canal and Wakool Canal offtakes will close at 8.00am on Wednesday 8 May to commence major off-season works. The comprehensive response to the *Autumn Irrigation Intentions Survey* has been a key planning resource for the winter works program. The major off-season works will be the last in the PIOP program which has seen Murray Irrigation's largest major infrastructure upgrade.

To manage the system closure effectively, the Water Delivery team is focusing on:

- **Retaining water in the system** – where channels do not need to be drained, water will be kept in the channels to reduce filling time next season
- **Progressing with in-season works where possible** – where no intention or demand is registered, channels will be drained early to facilitate early works schedules
- **Delivering customer orders** – all orders made by the cut-off will be delivered.

Read more in last week's *Talking Water* [here](#).

You spoke, we listened

A range of valuable feedback was collated at the Customer Focus Group meetings held last month. Murray Irrigation last week released this bulletin to highlight the most significant messages, which is available through [here](#).

Allocation announcement

General security entitlements for the NSW Murray remain at zero percent. To access the last Department of Industry – Water (Dol-Water) announcement, [click here](#).

The next general security allocation statement for the region is scheduled for Monday 1 April. Customers who wish to receive Dol-Water allocations directly are encouraged to [click here](#). Murray Irrigation will cease to retransmit the announcements at the **close of this season**.

Management planning underway

The head of the River Management Division for the MDBA, Andrew Reynolds, said in a recent release that with the promise of drier than usual conditions and lower availability of water, they are focusing on conserving use, especially in Lake Dartmouth which holds one third of the Basin's water. Read more [here](#).

Farm safety – where to start

Growers focused on improving safety culture can use [this guide](#) from *Farm Safety Australia* for practical tips on improving workshop safety.

Decentralisation of MDBA jobs

Some 104 jobs will be created across the Murray-Darling Basin with a third of the MDBA's jobs being moved to NSW. To read the Ministerial release [click here](#).

Shop for MILCast products online

MILCast staff are passionate about providing tailored customer support. For assistance or advice on options, call the MILCast team on 03 5888 3051 or email milcast@murrayirrigation.com.au. In the meantime, customers can use the [MILCast website](#) to research on-farm infrastructure products using shop drawings, product specifications, prices and product images.

Safe and Secure Water Program

It is not too late to apply for grants under the NSW Government's *Safe and Secure Water Program*. Established to address key risks to regional water safety and security in NSW, the program will provide safe, secure and sustainable water and wastewater services to regional NSW. Read more about the program [here](#).

Climatic outlook for March to May

The Bureau of Meteorology predicts below average rainfall and above average day and night time temperatures across eastern Australia from now until the end of May. Read more [here](#).

Dol-Water releases and updates

Click these links to find [advice from new Snowy Advisory Committee on water flows](#) and a positive report on the [review into the NSW Water Reform Action plan](#).

Free chemical application course

A free Chemical Application Level 3 is available through AgSkilled. The two-day course will cover powered and hand-held application pesticides and clarify the legislative requirements to apply, transport and store chemicals safely. Participants will receive a certificate of accreditation.

Where: Wakool RS Club.

When: 1 and 2 April 2019, starting at 8.30am and concluding at 4.30pm.

Registrations close this Friday 22 March. To register, contact Troy Mauger, *Rice Extension*, on 0417 375 168 or tmauger@rga.org.au.

Announced allocation

Class C General Security 0%
Water resource distribution 10%
(issued against Delivery Entitlements)

Water availability and deliveries

(19/03/19)
YTD deliveries 429 GL
Weekly deliveries 7,776 ML
Weekly crop usage .. summer crops (44%)
On-farm balance 90,101 ML
WE in customer accounts 830,799 WE
Vol. % remaining 11%

Channel flows today

Wakool Offtake 243 ML
Mulwala Offtake 1,371 ML
Billabong Escape 70 ML
Edward River Escape 243 ML
Perricoota Escape 0 ML
Wakool River Escape 0 ML

Water trade data

Net trade week 104 ML
Net trade YTD 73,314 ML

Water exchange data

(12/01/19 – 18/03/19)
Internal listings (No. & ML) ... 28; 1,495 ML
External listings (No. & ML) 1; 7 ML
Int. purchases (No. & ML) ... 41; 1,431 ML
Ext. purchases (No. & ML) 1; 150 ML

Water for sale (19/03/19) 4,019 ML
Weighted average sale price \$486.69
Price range \$497 - \$800
Buy offer range \$441 - \$315

Rainfall and evaporation

12/02/19 – 18/03/19 Rain Evap
Finley 0mm 53.3mm
Tullakool 0mm 52.9mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth 2,443 GL 63 %
Hume 690 GL 23 %
Lake Victoria 273 GL 40 %
Menindee Lakes 24 GL 1 %
Total Storage 3,430 GL 37 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Doctors Point 10,836 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra. Weir 8,838 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy Bridge 2,722 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald 439 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy 1 ML/d
Flow to SA 7,704 ML/d
Murray to the sea 5 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.