

Murray Irrigation – Water Policy Strategy

Vision

A company known for a high performance, no-nonsense operational culture focused on delivering for our farmers, the community and the environment and regarded as a trusted voice in the development of local and national water policy.

Foundations

Water Delivery

Operations

Delivering best-in-class water delivery services to agriculture, government and the environment.

Water Security

Value adding activities

Optimising yield on our water entitlements.

Water Attraction/Retention

Brand

Attracting and retaining water for our region.

Policy Targets

Start of Season Certainty

A known, minimum volume of water is available at the start of every season.

Entitlement Reliability is Ensured

Shareholders and customers are confident their licence yield won't change.

Sustainable Footprint Volume

A known, minimum volume of water remains in MIL's footprint on a permanent basis.

Our Baseline

Start of Season Certainty

QUANTIFY an agreed volume.
DESCRIBE the components. Where can the water be sourced from?
IDENTIFY the approach to achieve the target, including timeframes.

Entitlement Reliability is Ensured

DESCRIBE what's needed to provide confidence that reliability won't change.
IDENTIFY the approach to achieve the target, including timeframes.

Sustainable Footprint Volume

QUANTIFY an agreed volume.
DESCRIBE the components. Where can the water be sourced from?
IDENTIFY the approach to achieve the target, including timeframes.

Key Tasks

RIVER MURRAY OPERATIONS: Improved water retention and increased water use upstream of the choke.

- Bulk river operations protect MIL's start of season volume and sustainable footprint volume, and lock in arrangements that ensure entitlement reliability is protected.
- Environmental water deliveries maximise ecological outcomes, with no negative ecological impact or unreasonable reliance on river operations losses.
- An agreed workplan supports this, based on: system losses; delivery shortfalls; increased downstream development; and increased flows to South Australia.

EXTERNAL TIMING: 'pilot/test' in 2019-2020 if it stays dry; more permanent solution as part of long-term MDB Agreement changes.

SUSTAINABLE DIVERSION LIMITS: Protect MIL's start of season volume and sustainable footprint volume.

- Any remaining water recovery does not breach or undermine MIL's start of season volume or sustainable footprint volume.
- Projects that contribute to sustainable diversion limits do not undermine MIL's start of season volume, sustainable footprint volume or entitlement reliability.
- It is demonstrated and locked-in that pre-requisite policy measures do not change the reliability or yield of licences within MIL's footprint.

EXTERNAL TIMING: 'soft start', 1 July 2019; formal arrangements in water resource plan, end-2019; sustainable diversion limit projects are due mid-2024.

WATER RESOURCE PLAN: Locks in arrangements that ensure entitlement reliability is protected.

- PAUSE THE PLAN – no accreditation of relevant Water Resource Plans until MIL's policy targets have been met and locked in.

EXTERNAL TIMING: currently scheduled to be finalised end-December 2019.

MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN: Implementation supports the achievement of MIL's three policy targets.

- Water trading rules allow all water users to maximise the value and benefit of MIL's start of season certainty.
- Sustainable diversion limits, water trading rules and environmental water use attract and actively encourage additional water into the region.
- PAUSE THE PLAN – no further recovery against the 2750 GL or 450 GL until MIL's policy targets have been met.

EXTERNAL TIMING: trading rules and environmental water use have started; water recovery is scheduled until mid-2024.