

Murray Irrigation announces resource distribution

Murray Irrigation has managed its upgraded operations and has been able to draw on its conveyance water to provide a much-needed resource distribution to its shareholder customers.

The five percent resource distribution, announced yesterday, is welcomed news for irrigators as the Murray Valley again failed to attract any water allocation from the Department of Industry – Water this week.

The distribution will be made available to delivery entitlement holders (shareholders of the company) over the coming week.

CEO Michael Renehan said the company has now received sufficient conveyance water to mitigate the risks in providing this resource distribution.

“Our board has approved its early release based on the company being able to manage its delivery risks for next season,” Mr Renehan said.

“The timing is important to our farmers who need water to finish off their winter crops and plan for the season ahead in these very dry and warm conditions.

“The effectiveness of the resource distribution will be maximised by continuing with modified channel operating procedures, working with low channel levels, an agreement with customers for four day ordering notice and pulsing stock and domestic supplies.”

Mr Renehan said the distribution has also been made possible by using the company’s PIIOP upgraded infrastructure to maintain water in the system, rather than drain it.

“Our winter works are now complete and we have delivered approximately 58GL of carryover and purchased water this season,” he said.

“We are seeing improved efficiencies in our operations and we’re working with WaterNSW to maximise the benefits to Murray Irrigation shareholders.

“We’re also working closely with government to determine if there are any commercial opportunities that can yield additional water for our customers.”

Mr Renehan said maximum benefit is obtained from resource distributions when water is used within the Murray Irrigation footprint.

“We encourage the on-farm use of this water to keep both our customers’ business operations and our region productive,” he said.

Ends.

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