



**Murrumbidgee  
Irrigation**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **MI working to meet critical winter water needs**

Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) has been working with growers, and industry, to maximise water availability for critical winter needs throughout the upcoming extended irrigation shutdown.

MI Chairman, Frank Sergi, said he was pleased to be working together with customers and the community to achieve the best outcomes for everyone.

“This is a once in a life time opportunity to modernise our Main Canal and set up the region for the future,” he said.

“We are committed to delivering value to our customers. These modernisation works will reduce our operating costs and increase Main Canal capacity and flow rates.”

Draining the Main Canal will commence from 26 May and it will not be completely re-filled until August.

“Given the extent of the shutdown we have been working with local Councils for some time to ensure Town Water Supply needs can be met,” explained MI General Manager, Operations Alan Shea.

“With Town Water Supply secure we are now working with customer and commodity group stakeholders to identify opportunities to hold up water for critical winter needs and minimise shutdown times in different parts of the network.”

Meetings have been held with the Griffith and Leeton Citrus associations, recognising the particular winter water needs of the evergreen crop and associated frost risk.

Graham Minchin, President of the Leeton Citrus Growers Inc., said that while the extended shutdown was not ideal, he appreciated MI working with them to ensure their critical water needs were managed.

“We understand the need to undertake these works now, and the future benefits to growers,” he said.

“It has been a challenge in relation to having no access to water for up to eleven weeks. But, MI has worked with us and we can see that they are doing their best to limit any impacts.”

John Sergi, Griffith and District Citrus Growers Inc. president, advised citrus growers to ensure that they fill their water profile before the end of May and top up in the available windows.

“For guidance in managing your frost and water needs over this period we encourage you to contact your local association,” Mr Sergi said.

Mr Shea said that MI’s main objectives, now that town water supply was secure, was to provide opportunities for critical water needs and re-opening the season on-time.

“To assist us customers should limit non-critical use when water is available during the shutdown,” he added.

Regular updates are being provided on MI’s website [www.mirrigation.com.au](http://www.mirrigation.com.au). For more information on frost mitigation in citrus contact your local association.

#### **ENDS**

Photo: (L-R) Chris Schirippa (GDCG), Vito Mancini (GDCG), Alan Shea (MI Operations GM), Frank Sergi (MI Chairman), John Sergi (President of GDCG), Jim Hillyer (LCG), Mario Marin (GDCG) and Graham Minchin (President LCG).

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