



**Murrumbidgee  
Irrigation**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

29 May 2018

### **Winter works irrigation interruption – town supply unaffected**

Murrumbidgee Irrigation will be undertaking an even bigger program of modernisation works this winter, with a focus on minimising impacts to water supply where possible.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation CEO, Brett Jones, said that there would be no impact on town water supplies, and irrigators on the Main Canal would have ongoing intermittent supply access throughout June and July.

“We are operating the Main Canal differently this winter to allow us to be more responsive to irrigators critical water needs,” he said.

“Rather than shutting down the system, we will let irrigators know when water is not available in their section.”

The Sturt Canal and South-Western parts of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area water delivery network will have an eleven-week shutdown, from the end of May, to enable modernisation and maintenance works, re-commencing supply in mid-August. This includes Benerembah, Wah Wah, Tabbita and Warburn.

The 2018 modernisation program forms part of the largest suite of works undertaken in the area in over 100 years, and takes the total investment by the Australian Government in our region, to support the implementation of the Basin Plan, to almost \$348 million.

Mr Jones explained that some of the modernisation works commenced in season, as part of the Company’s shift to automation.

“We have also made provisions to pump around structures while we continue to deliver water where we can,” he said.

“The works are critical to enable us to maximise the benefits of the projects already completed across the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. It will also support any future investment in the network.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reduce our operating costs, increase flow capacity and improve supply reliability.”

Works may involve changed traffic conditions in some areas.

Other than the upgrade of regulators in North Kooba, and some channel rehabilitation works, there are no major works scheduled on the Main Canal this year. Sections will be lowered intermittently to allow for inspections and programmed maintenance works.

The Sturt Canal and South-Western parts of the water delivery network will have limited winter water available for critical crop needs from 19-27 June.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation is working with Australian Government support to deliver projects that will optimise economic, social and environmental outcomes in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area.

Further information is available on our website [www.mirrigation.com.au](http://www.mirrigation.com.au). If you have any questions please call Murrumbidgee Irrigation (02) 6962 0200.

*\*This Project has been funded by the Australian Government as represented by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Funding Agreement under Round 3 of the Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program in NSW.*

**ENDS**

*Photo: MI CEO Brett Jones and MI General Manager Asset Delivery, Jody Rudd inspecting a regulator on the Main Canal ahead of the winter works*

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