



Murrumbidgee Irrigation

DPI Water Allocations

Stock & Domestic	100%
Town	100%
High Security	100%
General Security	100%

+4% MI addition allocation to eligible customers

Storages at 28 February 2017

Burrinjuck	73%
Blowering	76%

EASYWATER

www.mirrigation.com.au
Freecall 1800 822 450

Our privacy statement can be downloaded from our website: www.mirrigation.com.au

Contact MI if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter.

NEWS IN BRIEF

FEBRUARY 2017 Newsletter

Main Canal Shutdown

We will be draining the Main Canal at the end of May 2017. This is to allow for modernisation works and other critical maintenance.

Town supply will not be impacted but customers should plan their winter water needs around the Main Canal remaining empty for the entire winter shut down period - ie. until the end of July.

The Sturt Canal will not be drained, but will still have sections closed at certain periods of the 2017 winter shutdown to allow for annual maintenance works.

Further information is now available on our website www.mirrigation.com.au/Modernisation/Modernisation-Projects/Main-Canal-shutdown-2017

Automation pilot project

We are partnering with the Irrigation Research Extension Committee (IREC) to deliver a pilot automation project which has the potential to be expanded across the MIA.

Trial sites have been established on irrigation properties adjacent to our channel in Division 3, with automated gates fitted to existing metered outlets.

Results from the trial will be available by the end of June and will be used to inform future investment, including as part of round three of the Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operator's Program (PIIOP3).

Pricing review update

Thank you to our Customer Focus Group members who have been hosting small group discussions on our pricing principles over the last few months. We have received some very constructive feedback on our proposed pricing structure. In response to the feedback we are revising how we charge for casual use and also considering a specific transition strategy for customers who may be impacted by the changes.

We will be writing to all customers again in March with more detail on the revised pricing structure. Generally, customers with a large number of outlets and/or very few Delivery Entitlements will see the most change to their prices. Our Pricing Engagement Team will be contacting these customers directly to discuss how we can work with them to reset their business.

The new prices are expected to be finalised at the end of April 2017. They will be published in our schedule of charges in June to commence on 1 July 2017.

For further information or if you have questions, please call our customer services line on 02 6962 0200 or send us an email to info@mirrigation.com.au.

Internal Surplus Water for Wah Wah & Mirrool Creek customers

Internal Surplus (non HOU) water is available for Wah Wah and Mirrool Creek customers until further notice. As usual, orders must be lodged via EASYWATER. Customers should also be mindful that Algal levels may be elevated in these supply systems.

MI Customers showcase innovation

We were pleased to host members of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources, on a tour of our irrigation network last week.

The members used the visit to acquire background knowledge in preparation for an inquiry into water use efficiency in Australian agriculture.

Thank you to the customers we visited who helped us show the committee firsthand the benefits of investment in infrastructure and what a dynamic and diverse area we live in.



PHOTO: WA Liberal MP Rick Wilson (left) and NSW Labor MP Meryl Swanson talking with MIARA manager Peter Scheiwe.

MIA Modernisation Works update

Conversions of Dethridge Outlets in Bilbul and Yenda has now been completed allowing these meters to be read remotely. In early March we will be installing “real time” communication pedestals and meters to a number of sites along the Northern Branch Canal. This will enable these sites to be integrated into the new network.

As we prepare for our winter program of works we are also looking for sites that may be brought forward for completion prior to winter. As always, affected customers will be consulted prior to works to ensure any impact to their operations is minimised.

Road closures continue

Access to our Hanwood Office is via alternative routes for another four months, due to the construction of a new roundabout being carried out by Griffith City Council.

Please remain patient and drive cautiously during the construction period. Where possible, please use sealed roads.

For further information see www.facebook.com/griffithcitycouncil or phone Murrumbidgee Irrigation on (02) 6962 0200.

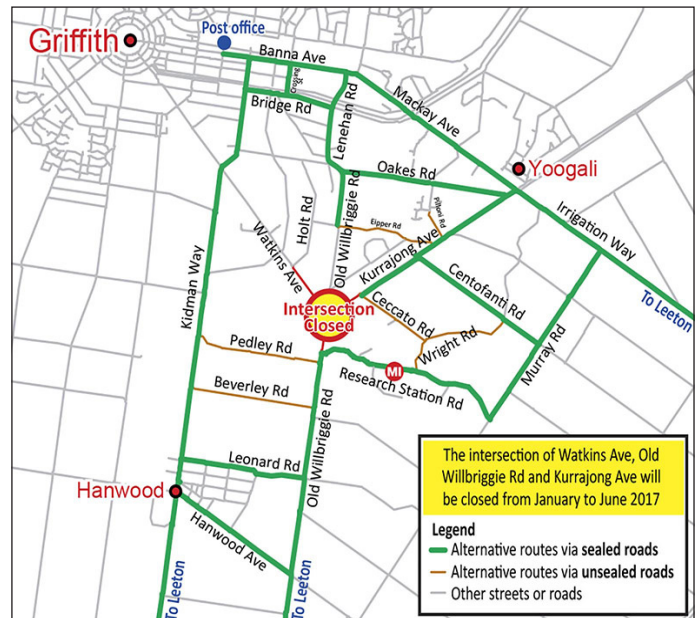
On-farm update

The opportunity to increase productivity by improving on-farm efficiency remains open to all eligible customers who have not already registered their interest. Under this program, on-farm works will be undertaken in exchange for transferring water entitlements to the Australian Government.

Eligible activities include conversion to high-tech irrigation, soil moisture monitoring, laser levelling, stock and domestic systems, and on farm metering.

Interested customers, who haven't already done so, are encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) as soon as possible.

Please refer to the Modernisation section of our website www.mirrigration.com.au for further information, or contact MI's On-farm Team: Phone - (02) 6962 0200 Email - onfarm@mirrigration.com.au





Quad bike safety

Quad bikes are a popular farm vehicle, however, since 2001 there have been more than 220 deaths across Australia involving quad bikes on farms. If you use, or are considering using a quad bike, find out what you need to do to stay safe.

What you need to do:

- Before you purchase a quad bike – use the farm vehicle pre-purchase checklist to select the safest vehicle for the task and/or terrain
- Consider completing a rider-training course
- Ensure accessories are suitable for use with your quad bike
- Wear a suitable helmet, and
- Don't let children under 16 years operate or ride as passengers on adult-sized quad bikes.

NSW Quad Bike Safety Improvement Program

The NSW quad bike safety improvement program offers support to NSW farmers to undertake harm prevention activities associated with on-farm use of quad bikes.

The program includes a time and funds limited, small business quad bike safety package to reduce tragedies and injuries on NSW farms.

For further information see www.safework.nsw.gov.au/health-and-safety/safety-topics-a-z/quad-bikes

INDUSTRY NEWS

Assistance for fire affected farmers

Assistance is available for fire affected farmers to help with livestock. This includes vet assistance, destruction, burial and fodder. For assistance with livestock, fodder or to report damage please phone 1800 814 647

Rice Industry Field Day

The 2017 Rice Industry Field Day will be held on Thursday 9 March at 'Old Coree' Jerilderie, starting at 9am.

This event will focus on research and innovation in the rice growing business and includes:

- Field walks to research sites
- Session on business and innovation
- World market update from SunRice
- Trade displays
- International rice researcher, Russell Reinke, and
- TV Chef, Zoe Bingley-Pullin.

For more details see the flyer on the RGA website (www.rga.org.au) or contact Leah Garnett from Rice Extension on 0455 0558 035 or lgarnett@rga.org.au.