



Murrumbidgee
Irrigation

2017 WINTER WORKS - MAIN CANAL SHUTDOWN

From 26 May to early August (approximately 11 weeks) there will be no access to irrigation water from the Main Canal, and the supply systems that branch off it, to allow MI to upgrade all major regulating structures.

To minimise the shutdown period MI is coordinating their works with Water NSW, who will be conducting essential repairs at Berembé Weir during this time.

There will be no mid-winter watering available

MI are unable to schedule a winter watering period this year. We are looking at all avenues to minimise the impact on customers but due to the nature of the works only limited options are available.

We encourage customers to consider the value of starting the winter with a full soil water profile and maximising on-farm storage where possible.

The specific reopening date/s will be posted on our website and notified in our customer newsletter when they are known.

Why is the main canal being closed?

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to change the way the business operates. MI is committed to delivering value to our customers. These upgrades will do this by increasing Main Canal flow capacity and flow rates, which will in turn help us to reduce long term costs.

The \$15 million dollar refurbishment of the Main Canal, funded by the Australian Government, is critical to enable MI to maximise the benefits of the \$118 million already invested in automation projects across the network. It will also support any future investment in the network.

Scope of the modernisation works

These works will provide a range of improvements to optimise water delivery by increasing the canal flow capacity and flow rates, as well as providing us with real-time reporting capabilities.

Some of the essential works to the main canal include:

- The installation of over 80 regulator gates, and
- The installation of over 15 offtake gates.

These modernisation works are being undertaken as part of the \$84.9 million in funding under Round Three of the Australian Government's Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP3) in New South Wales.

Other programmed maintenance works

Our annual maintenance program will continue with the staged draining of other sections of the system throughout the year. Affected customers will be notified.

Sturt Canal: 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.

Town water

We are working together with local Councils to ensure town water supplies can be managed throughout this period. Water will be reserved in pools in the Main Canal (for Griffith) and the Gogelderie Branch Canal (for Leeton) for town supply.

Further information

This fact sheet will be updated closer to May and information will be available in our monthly newsletter and on our website www.mirrigration.com.au.

For further information contact customer services on (02) 6962 0200.