

December 2022 update



Murrumbidgee Irrigation

What's happening with the season?

The MIA has experienced a much wetter than usual past six months, with flooding across the region making this an extremely trying time for many customers.

As the flooding has now abated, weather forecasts, in the short term at least, show a reduced likelihood of major rain events. While this is still a challenging period for many customers, the situation is now improving with the decreasing amount of water coming into the system.

We are now in recovery mode and bringing our system back to full capacity, focusing on any immediate access constraints. Getting the system ready for the busy summer water delivery season is our priority, especially in the light of forecast warm and dry weather in the lead up to Christmas.

Flood management took precedence over the past few months. This has meant that many of our machines and resources that would normally have been doing preparatory work, to enable

flows after the Winter Works program, have been diverted.

We anticipate that as we get back to some sort of normality after the floods there may be a period where our system is pinched, and we will experience some constraint issues. In this case, we are asking customers to work with us.

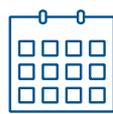
Our latest customer cropping survey data confirms we are set for a big season, with a total crop area of around 98,000 ha expected to be planted.

However, due to the significant rain and flooding events since the survey, the actual figure may be less than this number. How much of a reduction in total crop area will be dependant on sowing and growing conditions during December.



Water delivered

Item (GL)	YTD Nov 22
Water deliveries	24
Enhancements	48



Water delivery - monthly totals

Item (ML)	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22
By month	6,271	3,015	3,590	5,351	24,464
Cumulative	6,271	9,286	12,876	18,227	42,691



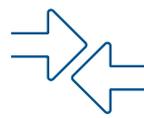
Customer accounts

Allocations are sitting at 60% for general; 95% high security and 100% town licences.



Supplementary water delivered to customers

30GL



Allocation trade volumes YTD

Into region:
35GL
Out of region:
104GL



Landholdings

3,121



Estimated area to be planted to specific crops

1 Dec 2022	
Crop	Total area (ha)
Citrus	9,200
Cotton	20,669
Nuts	10,636
Other crops	622
Other fruits	1,615
Plantation	314
Rice	24,591
Summer cereals	2,703
Summer oilseeds	1,680
Summer pasture	3,279
Vegetables	1,736
Vines	20,835

What's happening with customers?

Automation rollout continues



Our 2022 winter works program included the automation of 140 outlets and 80 regulators in Murrumbidgee and Yenda, as well as the lining of 4 kilometres of channels, as part of our ongoing Automation Project.

Works completed over winter mean that around 85% percent of the system is now automated.

While we didn't get the volume of work done which we would have liked to this winter due to rain events, we got the critical works done. This means some works, such as outlet installations, will continue in season when we can, with a focus on minimising any impacts to supply.

Full automation of the system is expected to be completed by July 2024.

What's happening with the environment?

Fleabane trials



We are participating in a pilot program by the CSIRO, involving the release of a biocontrol agent to help farmers tackle a problem weed, flaxleaf fleabane.

Flaxleaf fleabane is one of the most difficult-to-control weeds in cropping systems and is estimated to affect nearly three million hectares of land in Australia.

CSIRO have identified a rust fungus called *Puccinia Cnicoleracei* in Colombia which infects flaxleaf fleabane and restricts it from growing by destroying the plant's tissues.

The fungus was imported into CSIRO's high-security quarantine facility in Canberra where scientists studied it extensively to ensure its safety for release.

As a result the fungus has been approved by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for introduction to Australia.

What's happening with MI?

One Basin Cooperative Research Centre

Our participation in the One Basin Cooperative Research Centre is a flagship initiative through which MI will take a leadership role in the future proofing of irrigation. The CRC, shaped by industry, will pave the way to transform irrigation regions across Australia through innovation of water, agriculture and energy technology.

Enhanced forecasting and decision-making capacity and pathways to adoption and commercialisation. It brings welcome investment to our region with 10 years of funding and Griffith becoming home to one of the four regional hubs.

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