

# May 2022 update



Murrumbidgee Irrigation

## What's happening with the season?

This season has been very similar to the previous with significant access to Supplementary Water followed by high (100%) river allocations and carry over from 2020/21 becoming part of the allocation earlier this season.

We are expecting a spill to the Government resource set as there will be water remaining in our licences that cannot be carried over to next year.

Customers across the MIA have taken advantage of the great conditions to produce a wide range of food and fibre crops, including a larger rice and cotton crop than last season, and similar sized crops for citrus, nuts, and vines.

Our recent customer cropping survey is indicating another big winter cropping season ahead.

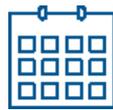
This means we will be working with customers to make full use of our modernised network to meet the winter demand and deliver water, when customers need it in the best way possible.

Our Winter Works over the next few months will ensure that we are ready to go for a big season ahead.



### Water delivered

Item (GL)	YTD April
Water deliveries	619
Enhancements	37



### Water delivery - monthly totals

Item (ML)	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22
By month	2,933	36,297	31,353	85,701	44,156	148,682	89,799	110,947	47,245	21,883
Cumulative	2,933	39,212	70,566	156,267	200,423	349,105	438,904	549,851	597,096	618,979



### Customer accounts

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



### Supplementary water delivered to customers

43 GL



### Allocation trade volumes YTD

Into region:  
124 GL  
Out of region:  
216 GL



### Landholdings

3,125



## Area planted to specific crops

YTD 1 May 2022	
Crop	Total area (ha)
Citrus	7,289
Cotton	14,927
Nuts	6,763
Other crops	195
Other fruits	900
Plantation	83
Rice	23,632
Summer cereals	1,072
Summer oilseeds	155
Summer pasture	831
Vegetables	1,966
Vines	16,875
Winter cereals	47,414
Winter oilseeds	4,231
Winter pasture	3,730

NB: YTD refers to year to date from 1 July 2021.

## What's happening with customers?

### Automating the MIA



In January we welcomed the announcement of \$124 million in funding under the State led Off-farm Efficiency Program, to finalise our automation works. The project, which is expected to be delivered by June 2023, will upgrade 1,500 metered outlets, automate 360 regulators, and refurbish 20 kilometres of open earth channels

This project will complete the modernisation of the MIA and provide customers with a modern, reliable and efficient water supply. The funding is a key enabler to improving farm productivity and crop yields that support the continued growth and prosperity of customers. These works are key to ensuring that we are ready to support customers through seasons of vastly changing water availability whilst ensuring our system runs efficiently.

The automation works this year will run in parallel with our winter maintenance works to minimise supply interruptions.

## Reservoirs improve water delivery flexibility

As part of our Automation program, we will be commencing work in August on the 5,000 ML Roach's surge reservoir, near the Main Canal in Yanco.

Strategically located surge reservoirs in conjunction with the move to full automation will enable us to further improve our water delivery flexibility for customers, who are requesting higher flow rates, the ability to start and close at short notice and 24-hour access to these services.

This will reduce ordering times to ensure that crops receive water precisely when required.

It will also decrease shut off notification times by pushing excess water into the reservoirs, resulting in a reduction in crop water logging, significant increases in yield, and minimal in system water losses.

## What's happening with the environment?

### 583ML environmental water delivered across the MIA

As part of the Basin Plan, the environment now has its own water to irrigate environmental sites.

Every year we work with the environmental water holders to deliver environmental water when and where it is needed across our network.

Our delivery system has ensured that 583ML reached identified environmental target areas so far this season. This is considerably less than the previous year, due to the MIA experiencing a wetter than usual past 12 months, with a mild spring followed by a series of rain events throughout summer and autumn.

Most of this season's environmental water was delivered to Nericon Swamp, an important bird breeding site just outside of Griffith.

## What's happening with MI?

### Corporate Plan changes

MI exists to enable regional productivity through irrigation, and our job is simple – to deliver water in the best way possible.

Our Corporate Plan sets out how we will succeed, and we recently took the opportunity to review the current plan to assess whether we needed to do things differently.

The MI Board have agreed to make some adjustments to articulate the challenges of climate variability more clearly on the business.

#### Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited

Tel: 02 6962 0200  
www.mirrigration.com.au  
info@mirrigration.com.au

#### Hanwood office

86 Research Station Road  
Hanwood NSW 2680

#### Leeton office

Dunn Avenue  
Leeton NSW 2705

#### Postal

Locked Bag 6010  
Griffith NSW 2680