



NEWS IN BRIEF

January 2012



MDB Plan Submission

Submissions close on
16 April 2012.

For the latest Basin Plan information, you can also visit our website www.mirrigation.com.au

MI Scholarship & Cadetships

Applications close 5pm,
5 February 2012.

Appointment of new Chief Executive Officer

• *Mr Raveen Jaduram has been appointed as MI's new Chief Executive Officer*
Raveen has held several operational and chief executive roles in the New Zealand water industry including senior positions at Watercare Services Limited, Manukau Water Limited and Metro Water. We look forward to welcoming Raveen and his family to the MIA. Geoff Beard will continue as Acting Chief Executive until Raveen commences at a date to be confirmed shortly.

Basin Plan update

• *Submissions due 16 April 2012*

Over 10,000 people from all over the MIA attended the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) consultation meeting in Griffith on 15 December. The demonstration of strength and unity in our community certainly left an impression on those in attendance, including Minister Tony Burke and Federal Opposition Leader, Tony Abbott. We will continue to work with our peak irrigation representatives (National Irrigators' Council and NSW Irrigators' Council) as well as the Murrumbidgee Valley Stakeholder Group to ensure the final Basin Plan strikes a proper balance between the environment and communities.

• *What you can do:*

- Read the proposed Basin Plan and make a submission to the MDBA by **16 April 2012**. Further information can be found on the MDBA's website <http://www.mdba.gov.au/have-your-say/make-submission/invitation-for-public-submissions>.
- Attend a submission writing workshop. For those who would like some assistance, the Murrumbidgee Valley Stakeholder Group will be holding submission writing workshops in February/March. Details of the workshops will be advertised by the group and placed on our website when dates and venues are confirmed.
- Write to state and federal politicians. Contact details can be found on our website www.mirrigation.com.au/mdbplan.htm. Let them know how the Basin Plan will affect you and your business. Provide alternative solutions or constructive changes to the current draft plan where possible.

If you have any questions about the draft Basin Plan or the submission process please contact our Policy Officer, Elizabeth Watson on 6962 0200 or email elizabeth.watson@mirrigation.com.au.

MI Scholarships and Cadetships Program

• *University students invited to apply for our Scholarships and Cadetships Program*
Applications are now open for our 2012 Scholarship/ Cadetship Program. The program reflects our Corporate Plan commitment to enhance our community through initiatives to attract and retain professional skills in the area. The selection process is merit based in response to specific eligibility criteria. Preference is given to MI customers and their families. Applications close on **5 February 2012**. For more information contact our HR Coordinator on 6962 0200 or visit our website.

EASYWATER

Freecall: 1800 822 450

Web: www.mirrigation.com.au

Allocations

Stock & Domestic	100%
Town	100%
High Security	100%
General Security*	105%
*Includes 5% savings enhancement (7/12/11)	

Storages

Burrinjuck	86.5%
Blowering	87.3%
Eucumbene	53.4%
(9/1/12)	

Rainfall & Evapotranspiration

(December)	Rainfall	Evap.
Yanco	22.4	264.0
Griffith	17.8	266.2
Benerembah	25.0	252.8
Wah Wah	18.2	296.4
(1/12/11 – 1/1/12) mm		

NCP Submissions

Network Consultation Paper submissions close on 29 February 2012.

Network Service Plan

- *Call for submissions on Network Consultation Paper (NCP)*

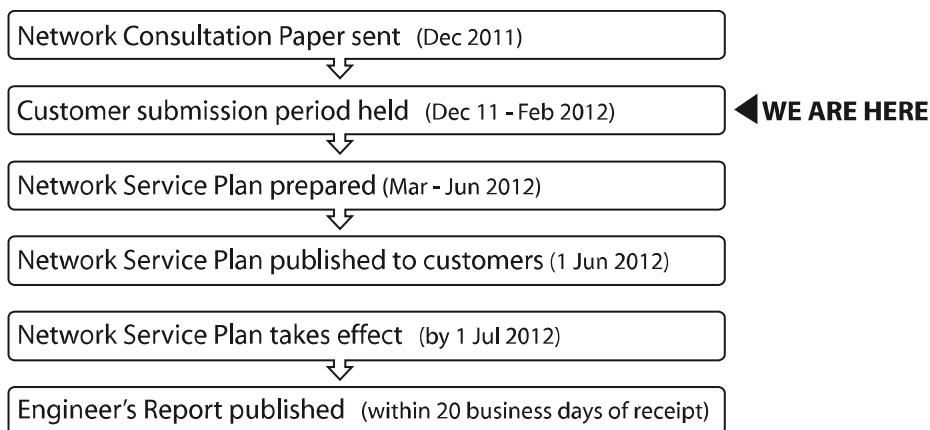
By now all customers should have received a copy of the Network Consultation Paper (NCP). The paper outlines our proposed infrastructure plans and levels of service as well as our anticipated infrastructure charges for the next five years.

Please take the time to read through the consultation paper and provide us with your feedback on the plans outlined, or any additional / alternative plans you would like us to consider.

An optional submission template was provided with your consultation paper. Our customer administration staff can be contacted on 6962 0200 to answer enquiries and to help you with your submission.

Submissions must be received by **5pm on 29 February 2012** and can be made individually or through your local peak body or commodity group. Please ensure that the one page cover sheet (also provided) is filled out and attached to your submission.

- *NCP Timeline summary*



PIIOP funding announcement

- *Up to \$164 million awarded for six integrated water infrastructure projects*

On 12 December 2011, MI was offered funding for up to \$164 million (inc GST) for six integrated water infrastructure projects across the MIA under Round Two of the NSW Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP).

We welcome this long-awaited announcement. It provides an opportunity to show how water saving projects can recover water for the environment without reducing the productive capacity of our community.

The projects will be delivered under the MIA Renewal Alliance and will include modernisation works in Hanwood, Bilbul, Leeton, Yenda as well as the Wah Wah stock and domestic and Northern Branch Canal areas.

Unfortunately, it appears that funding for the majority of on-farm projects submitted as part of MI's application have been unsuccessful. Customers who applied for on-farm projects will be advised of the outcome as soon as we receive the details of the funding agreement.