

13 May 2010
For immediate release

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SEASON CLOSE END OF MAY

Following consultation with growers, Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) has confirmed general access for the 2009-2010 irrigation season for broad-acre customers outside of continuous supply zones will close on 31st May 2010. The current continuous supply service will be suspended and a rostered service put in place to help reduce system losses.

For gazetted horticulture and other customers located in continuous supply zones, MI will undertake a series of rostered supplies between 16th to 24th June, in line with demand and prevailing weather conditions.

MI's Irrigation Services Manager, Mr David Heffer said the proposed rostered waterings will provide efficient delivery of critical supply to horticulture as well as assist in the prevention of frost-damage.

"With water still in short supply we need to do everything possible to minimise losses and maximise effectiveness. We will continue to liaise with the relevant industry groups to determine the most appropriate service and timing," he added.

MI customers who consider they have special needs should contact Irrigation Services in either Griffith or Leeton. All customers are encouraged to plan to ensure they are self sufficient until the start of the 2010/2011 irrigation season which is likely to be early to mid August.

Selected channels will retain water for town and village supplies, although MI will be required to drain most channels during the winter shutdown period to maximise the impact of frost on weed control and to enable access to channels to complete the annual capital works program.

Ends

For further information regarding this media release, contact the MI Irrigation Services Planner, in either Griffith (02 6962 0200) or Leeton (02 6953 0100).