

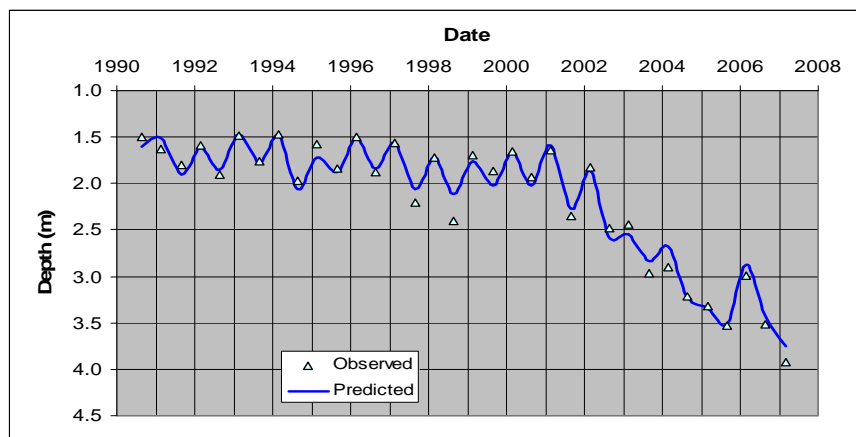
Murrumbidgee Irrigation

Rice growing update for MIA.

19 December 2007.

Due to the continuing drought Murrumbidgee Irrigation understands these are difficult times for farmers of the MIA. With general security allocation at 3%, little rice will be grown in the MIA this season. Annual rice entitlements therefore remain unchanged but are being reviewed at present to take into account current conditions. Once final details are available a further newsletter describing any changes will be provided to growers.

Also due to the drought much discussion has occurred in regard to dropping water tables. The graph below shows the *average* depth of shallow water tables within the MIA since 1990.



The Rice Growing Policy 2006/07 remains in place for the coming season. Clause 3.1, however, has been updated to now read; *“The annual rice approved area of a Landholding is 65 hectares or 30% of the total rice approved area, which ever is the greater. Landholdings which are subdivided will have the annual rice approved area recalculated to 30% of the total rice approved area.”*

Six new Automatic Weather Stations were installed in mid October 2006. In the future these stations will be used to calculate crop water use targets for the whole of the MIA, separating the region into water use zones. A map showing these zones was attached to the Rice Growing Policy sent to all growers in 2006. Below is a table showing calculated rice water use targets for the 06/07 season for the MIA region.

Table 1. Target Rice Water Use figures for AWS's across the MIA

Station	Net ETo (ETo – rainfall)	Target for 2006/07 incl additional 4ML/ha
CSIRO (Griffith)	13.8	17.8
Carrathool	15.6	19.6
Benerembah	13.6	17.6
Yenda	13.7	17.7
Kooba	14.6	18.6
Wamoon	13.5	17.5

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact Sarah Smith on (02) 6962 0200.