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MEDIA RELEASE

Restrictions likely: demand for irrigation water high

With the forecast for continued extremely hot weather leading up until Christmas, Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) is alerting farmers that irrigation demand will be tight.

If the supply situation deteriorates water orders will be restricted to a share of the flow rate based on delivery entitlements held.

MI is working closely with Water NSW, and Coleambally Irrigation, to manage the situation but at this stage restrictions are likely.

“We are running the system as best we can but looks like there will be restrictions to manage the peak demand,” MI CEO Brett Jones said.

“There is little margin for error with 7-day lag time from major storages.”

MI reminded all irrigators’ that taking water without an approved water order places them in breach of their water delivery contract. All water orders must be lodged 2-days in advance.

“One of our biggest risks is people taking water without ordering it,” Mr Jones explained.

“When the system is operating at capacity a lot of effort goes into planning the delivery of water throughout the entire system. When water is taken from an area of the system without us knowing it threatens our ability to deliver to all other irrigators’.”

Mr Jones said that compliance teams have been, and will continue to be, working throughout this period including overnight.

“Our teams will work in shifts to try and further limit the impact of the water shortage on irrigators’,” he said.

“Narrandera Shire Council have also helped to reduce the impact of the supply shortage on irrigators’ by allowing us to access water from Lake Talbot.”

ENDS

Photo: Irrigation Services Operations Technician Jamie Martignon, Water Delivery Technician Neal McRae and General Manager, Customer Services Sharon Hansen planning for the high irrigation water demand over the coming weeks.

Media Contact: Peter Duncan, Communications Officer, phone 0427 235 646 or 02 6962 0200.