



# Murrumbidgee Irrigation

## DPI Water Allocations

AS AT 15 FEBRUARY 2018

Stock & Domestic	100%
Town	100%
High Security	95%
General Security	34%
*MI Additional to eligible customers	4%

## Storages at 28 February 2018

Burrinjuck	47%
Blowering	38%

## EASYWATER

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# NEWS IN BRIEF

FEBRUARY 2018 Newsletter

## Extended winter shutdown

We have commenced modernisation works throughout the south-western part of our network as part of our shift to automation. Some works will be done throughout the current irrigation season. This includes Bilbul and smaller structures in Widgelli, Wah Wah, Tabbita and Benerembah, as well as provisions to pump around structures to enable construction activity while we continue to deliver water.

To complete the major works there will be an extended 2018 winter shutdown period for this part of the network. Areas impacted include the Sturt Canal and Benerembah channel systems, as well as the Tabbita and Wah Wah districts. This program of works is around double the amount of work completed in 2017, and forms part of the largest suite of works undertaken in the region in over 100 years. That said, this year's works will not be as noticeable to the community, with no expected impact to town water supply.

We understand that the shutdown will have varying impacts on customers and our engagement teams will be working with you to minimise these impacts.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the modernisation works or expansion opportunities please call (02) 6962 0200.

## Yanco renewal project gets go ahead

Yanco Village will soon reap the benefits of our extensive modernisation program, with \$10 million worth of projects given the green light last week. Planned works include the Yanco Stock & Domestic Pipeline and Earthen Channel Rehabilitation projects.

The works will provide opportunities to realign the network to current customer needs. This will involve considerable land rehabilitation and beautification works where channels are removed or piped. A low pressure pumped pipeline and gravity piped system of channels will allow for the removal of open channels. Benefits include a safer environment through the removal of narrow crossings, improved aesthetics, better water control and a reduction in escape water and maintenance.

We have engaged with Yanco customers to determine what they wanted to do, and this consultation will continue throughout the implementation of the project. Modernisation works like these deliver value to all customers through operating and maintenance savings and lower future refurbishment costs, helping us reduce long term costs and keep prices down. For more information please contact us on 6962 0200.



Photo: The channels in Yanco village are scheduled for rehabilitation works.

Our privacy statement can be downloaded from our website: [www.mirrigation.com.au](http://www.mirrigation.com.au)

Contact MI if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter.

## Customer services - making it easier to do business with us

### Introducing our new phone system

Our new system, which was installed last year, has helped us to better understand the volume of calls we receive and call response times.

This data showed us that some customers were waiting for up to ten minutes for their calls to be answered, and that others were hanging up in frustration.

To make it easier for our customers to do business with us, we are introducing the automated answering component of our new phone system. This means from March you will be able to help us prioritise customer calls.

By identifying yourself as a customer your calls will become our first priority and be answered quicker, and then directed to where they should be.

### MDB Plan under threat

Many of you would have seen recent media reports regarding threats to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

The Greens disallowance motion on the Northern Basin Review (NBR) Amendment passing the Senate was a disappointing outcome.

The way forward is now unclear and has made reform weary communities like ours uncertain about the outcome.

There is still hope that common sense will prevail and the NBR amendment can occur later this year. The Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDL) amendments, in relation to the Southern Basin, also need to be considered by parliament in May.

We are calling on our State and Federal politicians to put their political differences aside and get the Plan back on track. This means working together to find a way to allow the NBR amendments to occur, and committing to allow passage of the SDL adjustment amendments.

Through both the National Irrigators' Council and NSW Irrigators' Council we will be increasing our visibility and political engagement on this issue, in the lead up to the SDL adjustment amendments being considered by parliament in May.

## Vandalism and theft of MI infrastructure: we need your help to identify the culprits

Police have been notified about a series of recent thefts and vandalism incidents involving our infrastructure.

Solar panels and batteries from automated structures have been stolen from a number of sites in the MIA.

Vandalism and theft of company property is costly, and these costs are ultimately borne by customers. Vandals also place their own lives in danger by interfering with electrical equipment.

Our staff continue to strategically monitor sites across the region and we have now resorted to using tracking equipment to identify the culprits.

Please report any unusual activity in and around irrigation infrastructure immediately to:

- Police 1800 333 000 Crime Stoppers, and to
- MI Griffith 6962 0200 (AH: 6962 0262) or
- MI Leeton 69530 100 (AH: 6953 0146).



*Photo: Recent examples of vandalism and theft to MI infrastructure.*



## NIC leadership fund

The National Irrigators Council (NIC) have received funding from the Commonwealth Government's Leadership in Agricultural Industries Fund which enables individuals from NIC Member organisations to undertake leadership training from three programs:

1. Australia Institute of Company Directors, Company Directors Course;
2. Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, Trail emerging leaders program; or
3. The Peter Cullen trust.

In each case the person wishing to undertake the program will need the support of the NIC member organisation.

The aim of the Leadership in Agricultural Industries fund is to assist with developing industry leadership capacity and capability within their organisation and across their agricultural industry.

For more information see the background information sheet on our website under 'other related news.'

## MI Hanwood site - new rural street address

MI has been allocated the rural street address:

- 86 Research Station Road, HANWOOD NSW 2680

This replaces our previous lot number. It will be soon prominently displayed at the front of the building to allow visitors to easily locate us.

Our postal address remains  
Locked Bag 6010, GRIFFITH NSW 2680

## NSW Farmers tertiary scholarships

Five \$4000 scholarships are on offer from the NSW Farmers' Association for eligible students committed to enhancing agriculture and rural communities. Applications close Monday 5 March 2018. For more information, visit: [www.nswfarmers.org.au](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au).

## Safety message: mobile phone use while driving

To keep yourself and other road users safe, your full attention is needed when driving. Driving while using a mobile phone held in your hand is illegal - even if you're stopped in traffic.

This means you can't:

- Hold the phone next to or near your ear with your hand
- Write, send or read a text message
- Turn your phone on or off, or
- Operate any other function on your phone.

The only way you should use a mobile phone while you are driving is with a properly installed hands-free kit.

Taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds when driving at 50 km/h means you travel for 27 metres effectively blind.

Other dangerous of using a phone while driving are:

- Riskier decision making due to a lack of concentration
- Slower reaction times and leading to less control with braking
- You may wander out of your lane, or off the road, and
- You are not alert to the hazards in your surroundings.