



COMPANY OVERVIEW

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited (MI) is one of the largest private irrigation companies in Australia serving over 3,260 landholdings owned by over 2,300 shareholder customers within an area of 378,911 hectares.

Our core business is water distribution. We provide irrigation water and drainage services to an area known as the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA).

The MIA is one of the most diverse and productive regions in Australia. To ensure our sustainability we work to improve water distribution efficiency through innovation, infrastructure upgrades and better business management.

Operations

The MIA covers an area of 378,911 hectares of which over 141,000 ha was irrigated in 2017. The company employs around 180 staff, with offices in the towns of Griffith and Leeton.

MI operates over 1,740km of supply channels, and 1,616km of drainage channels. Of the supply channels, around 250km are cement lined, 100km are piped and the remainder are earthen channels.

The integrated supply and drainage system gives us the strategic advantage of being able re-use a majority of water within the area. The irrigation area operates on a closed system which means no water is returned to the river once it enters the MIA. MI continues to prioritise infrastructure development as a means to improve system efficiency and our service to customers. Our asset refurbishment program includes works to reduce seepage and erosion in our channels as well as upgrading structures such as road bridges and culverts to improve traffic safety. Our asset replacement value is approximately \$500 million, with 28,000 structures under our management.

System

WaterNSW controls the release of water from Burrinjuck and Blowering Dams into the Murrumbidgee River.

We are licensed by the NSW Government to divert water from the Murrumbidgee River and deliver it to our

customers. We comply with an Environmental Protection Licence issued by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

There are two river offtakes within the system, Berembled Weir near Narrandera which feeds into the Main Canal and Gogeldrie Weir near Leeton which diverts water into the Sturt Canal. The Main Canal has a maximum flow capacity of 6,600 ML/day while the Sturt Canal has a capacity of 2,200 ML/day.

History

The MIA was established in 1912 following construction of Burrinjuck Dam, Berembled Weir and 139km of canals. The irrigation scheme was designed to drought proof inland Australia and provide food security for the nation.

The governing body of the MIA for the first 84 years was the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission (WC&IC). The MIA and districts remained a State Government entity until 1999 when it was privatised. The irrigation network is now owned by Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited which in turn is owned by most of the landowners.

General Information

Area of MIA (ha)	378,911
MIA irrigated area - total crop area (ha)	141,000
Number of landholdings	3,267
Number of customers	2,213
Number of shareholders	2,305
A Class	1,095
B Class	715
C Class	495
Company Water Access Licences (GL)	1,152

Water Entitlements (GL)

General Security	602
High Security	284
Stock/Domestic/Towns	27
Conveyance (max)	203
Supplementary	36

Current as at September 2018

Photo: MI Business Centre, Hanwood.

This paper is provided purely as a guide and does not have any legal effect. This paper cannot be relied on in substitution for, and does not affect the interpretation of any contract, rules or other document that is binding on Murrumbidgee Irrigation or a customer.

Customers and Shareholders

The introduction of the Commonwealth Water Act in 2007 required the unbundling of irrigation rights and water delivery rights, resulting in contractual changes for MI's customers. Existing Member and Customer Contracts were replaced with Water Entitlements and Water Delivery Contracts. Customers may enter into either one or both of these contracts with MI. Underpinning the two contracts are a set of complementary Rules, all of which can be found on our website.

MI's Water Access Licences (WALs) are issued by the NSW Government. Customers who hold Water Entitlements (WEs) within MI's WALs have a Water Entitlements Contract with MI. This entitles customers to a Water Allocation Account for managing their annual water allocations.

Customers who hold Delivery Entitlements (DEs) have a Water Delivery Contract. Our channel system has a fixed capacity and Delivery Entitlements is provide a simple and fair way to share the available flow rate during a supply restriction.

In addition, customers holding Water Entitlements may also own shares in MI, in the ratio of one share per megalitre of Water Entitlement held. There are three categories of shares: A, B and C class shares. Only A and B class shareholders with landholdings who also have a Water Delivery Contract are entitled to vote at General Meetings and vote for shareholder-elected directors of MI.

Water Ordering

We order the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area's forecast irrigation water requirements from WaterNSW seven days in advance. This allows enough time for the water to travel from Burrinjuck and Blowering Dams to the river offtakes.

MI customers need to provide a minimum of 48 hours notice of their water order. This allows the MI planning staff sufficient time to ensure there is enough water in the irrigation system to supply their requirements.

Customers place their water order using the EASYWATER online and telephone ordering system.

Modernisation

The company is currently undertaking the most ambitious renewal and expansion program in our history. We are replacing aging water delivery infrastructure, relining and refurbishing channels and automating the main supply canals. These works are aimed at using water efficiently and are mostly funded by the Australian Government under the Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program.

Reporting

Copies of our Annual Reports and Annual Compliance Reports can be found on our website. These documents contain information on our corporate performance, planned infrastructure upgrades and anticipated pricing as well as our environmental licencing reporting.

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