

# May 2021 update



Murrumbidgee Irrigation

## What's happening with the season?

This season has seen early significant access to Supplementary Water followed by high (100%) river allocations, which means that carry over from last season has become part of the allocation. Near to full carry over is expected for next year given the wet seasonal conditions, full soil moisture profiles and full allocations. Our Factsheet on *Managing your water account* provides more detail on just how it all works.

Customers across the MIA have taken advantage of the great conditions to produce a wide range of food and fibre crops, including a larger rice crop than has been possible in recent seasons. The diversity and quality of the produce from our region, including winter and summer cereals, nuts, fodder, aquaculture, citrus and cotton, is testament to the value of irrigation to not only NSW, but our national economy.

Our recent customer survey is also indicating a big winter cropping season ahead. This means we will be working with our customers to make full use of our modernised network to meet the winter demand and deliver your water, when you need it in the best way possible.

Our Winter Works over the next few months will ensure that we are ready to go for a big season ahead.



### Water delivered

Item (GL)	YTD Apr
Water deliveries	693
Enhancements	39



### Water delivery - monthly totals

(ML)	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21
By month	2,024	39,939	44,932	57,309	105,422	134,311	136,071	85,482	53,856	33,945
Cumulative	2,024	41,963	86,895	144,204	249,626	383,937	520,008	605,490	659,346	693,291



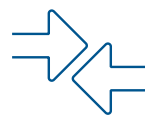
### Customer accounts

Allocations are sitting at 100% for general; high security and town licences



### Supplementary water delivered to customers

29GL



### Allocation trade volumes YTD

Into region:  
110 GL  
Out of region:  
205 GL



### Landholdings

3,171



## Area planted to specific crops

YTD 1 Apr 2021	
Crop	Total area (ha)
Citrus	7,729
Cotton	7,931
Nuts	7,209
Other crops	182
Other fruits	1,041
Plantation	93
Rice	19,129
Summer cereals	1,741
Summer oilseeds	476
Summer pasture	1,095
Vegetables	1,388
Vines	17,551
Winter cereals	54,322
Winter oilseeds	1,377
Winter pasture	4,139

NB: YTD refers to year to date from 1 July 2020.

## What's happening with customers?

### Using data to better effect

Customers are benefitting from better use of data as we develop tools and systems to apply insights gained in the field. One example is the use of hydrology data to predict where weed build up is occurring in channels before it is actually visible and before it starts to disrupt flows. MI's maintenance teams are then guided by this information, so their work is much more targeted and preventative in nature. All of this leads to a better quality of service and water delivery for our customers.

### Roaches Reservoir

Work on a Yanco enroute reservoir beginning this winter will benefit irrigators by complementing the automation works already completed across the MIA. We are actively working with the Commonwealth Government for funding of the 5,000ML Roaches Reservoir, which once completed, will enable MI to be even more flexible, efficient and responsive to the needs of irrigators and town water users.

Irrigators are set to benefit as this capacity – which is twice the size of Bray's Dam (2,300ML) and much larger than our Yenda Storage (700ML) – will support sudden changes in demand through our integrated channel network. It will also facilitate higher flowrates to irrigators at peak times better leveraging the investment by irrigators in technology. The project will support increased farm productivity by reducing ordering and shutdown timeframes without impacting other levels of service or delivery efficiency.

## What's happening with the environment?

### 3,182ML environmental water delivered across the MIA

As part of the Basin Plan, the environment now has its own water to irrigate environmental sites. Every year we work with the environmental water holders to deliver environmental water when and where it is needed across our network. This season has seen our delivery system ensure 3,182ML reaches identified environmental target areas. In February, for example, 300ML of environmental water was delivered to Campbell's Swamp helping deliver positive outcomes for important wildlife habitats.

### MI and Griffith City Council working together

Our region benefits when we work collaboratively with local government to support community, safety and water delivery outcomes. Recently we were able to assist Griffith City Council with the cleaning out of the raw water dam at the top of Scenic Hill. The dam provides raw water to Griffith's green spaces, parks, and sports ovals.

MI equipment cleaning dam at the top of Scenic Hill, Griffith



## What's happening with MI? Strategic direction on track

The Board has taken the opportunity to review MI's corporate strategy and found it on track as the organisation continues to use data to have the most impact and to focus on being customer centric in its approach. It was valuable to have both outgoing Director Kaye Dalton and new Director Steve Whan contributing at the strategy workshop. This overlap was designed to assist with a smooth transition and maximise the corporate wisdom of all Directors. A strong and experienced Board is essential as we focus on meeting ongoing challenges such as implementing the Sustainable Diversion Limits Projects and reviews of water policy.

#### Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited

Tel: 02 6962 0200  
www.mirrigration.com.au  
info@mirrigration.com.au

#### Hanwood office

86 Research Station Road  
Hanwood NSW 2680

#### Leeton office

Dunn Avenue  
Leeton NSW 2705

#### Postal

Locked Bag 6010  
Griffith NSW 2680