

irrigation news



Goulburn Broken

We are now well into the irrigation season with above average rainfalls and increased allocations to those seen in recent years.

Following on from feedback received earlier this year, Goulburn-Murray Water (G-MW) has restructured the existing ten Water Service and Catchment Committees into four Regional Water Service Committees. These new committees cover both surface water and groundwater issues while having the flexibility to set up working groups on specific issues if required.

The new committees are: Loddon-Campaspe Regional Water Services Committee, Goulburn Broken Regional Water Services Committee, Kiewa, Mitta Mitta and Upper Murray Regional Water Services Committee and the King, Ovens and Mid Murray Regional Water Services Committee.

The Goulburn Broken Regional Water Services Committee has been made up of farmers representing all regions within its boundaries. It was created to align with the new management structure and is aimed at delivering better customer service through providing advice to G-MW on our operations, pricing and service standards.

All members of the Goulburn Broken RWSC listed below are available for customers to contact via the local area office on Shepparton 03 5832 9900.

Mark Foletta owns a small cherry orchard and also manages a 10ha vineyard located on the Broken River.

Wayne Spinks is a dryland and irrigation farmer primarily growing lucerne. Wayne has previously been a WSC member and is also a member of the VFF and was heavily involved in the Lake Mokoan Decommissioning project.

David Scott is a farmer on 160ha on the Broken River and has a keen interest in moving towards sustainable land practices within the catchment areas. David was a foundation member of the Upper Broken Land Management Ground and is a member of the BGCMA DryLand Implementation Committee.

Morris Brown is a mixed farmer and has been a long time member of the Goulburn Catchment and Regional WSC.

In addition the following people have been nominated to the committee but not yet formally appointed by the Board:

Craig Madden is a hay and beef farmer with a long-term interest in resource management. Craig has also held numerous positions in catchment and resource management. He is a member of Salinity Program Advisory Council (SPAC), is a member of the Goulburn Broken Catchment and Land Protection Board, the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority and also the Chair of the Regional Assessment Committee, while also being a long-term member and Chair of the G-MW Regional Groundwater Services Committee.

Geoff Sebire is a cherry farmer from Strathbogie and has been a long time member of the Goulburn Catchment and Regional WSC.

G-MW would like to welcome all members on the Goulburn Broken Regional Water Services Committee and looks forward to working with them.

G-MW would also like to wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas.

Groundwater allocations 2010/11

Groundwater aquifer recovery levels generally stabilised in spring 2009, in part due to marginally better winter-spring rainfall across much of G-MW's region. In 2010 significantly improved groundwater recovery has already been observed with most areas receiving above average rainfall between July and November. The progressive improvement in groundwater resource conditions is reflected in the improved seasonal allocations, as shown in the table below.

Groundwater Management Unit	2010/11 Seasonal Allocation*	Applicable RWSC
Loddon Highlands WSPA	**65%	Loddon-Campaspe
Mid Loddon GMA	100%	Loddon-Campaspe
Katunga WSPA	70%	King/Ovens/ Mid Murray
Lower Campaspe Valley WSPA	75%	Loddon-Campaspe
All other GMAs	100%	Various

*% of total licence entitlement volume

**Allocation to be reviewed once November observation bore levels are assessed

GMA – Groundwater Management Area

WSPA – Water Supply Protection Area

Unregulated Rivers and Streams

Recent good winter and spring rain has ensured that many unregulated creeks and rivers have allowed the authority to lift stream rosters and suspensions in recent months. G-MW will continue to monitor stream flows to assess the availability of water for all users, including the environment. Water Use Restrictions are implemented when stream flows fall below levels that can support user demand and a healthy environment.

On stream and off stream licence holders are reminded that the winter harvest period for filling your storage ended at the 31 October 2010, therefore all flows entering your storage must be regulated and passed down stream.

Locust Update

Customers are reminded that they need to monitor their property, and report any locust eggs or activity to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) on the DPI Locust Hotline 1300 135 559.

Regulated river systems allocation update – 15 November 2010

The allocations in the Goulburn and Loddon systems have both increased from 85% high reliability water shares (HRWS) to 100%. The allocation of low-reliability water shares (LRWS) in the Campaspe system has increased from 20% LRWS to 52%, and is in addition to 100% HRWS. The Broken system has 100% HRWS and 100% LRWS, which is an increase of 69% LRWS. There were no changes to allocations in the other systems.

This is the first occasion since 2001/02 that all northern Victorian water systems have had a seasonal allocation of 100% HRWS. It is the first time that the Broken system has reached its maximum possible allocation since 2005/06.

Water System	HRWS	LRWS
Murray	100%	0%
Broken	100%	100%
Goulburn	100%	0%
Campaspe	100%	52%
Loddon	100%	0%
Bullarook	100%	100%

Customers participating in the water trading market are reminded that the Murray-Darling Basin Authority has relaxed the rule controlling allocation trade from upstream of the Barmah Choke to downstream users. The ability to trade across the Barmah Choke will be regularly reviewed by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the rule may be reapplied at any time during the season.

Next allocation update - As allocations to HRWS are 100% in all northern Victorian water systems, the next allocation announcement will be issued on Wednesday 15 December 2010.

G-MW would like to remind customers that water taken from channels, rivers and creeks is untreated water for irrigation or domestic and stock use only and should not be used for human consumption without being treated.

WaterLINE

Most irrigators now place their irrigation orders online at G-MW's WaterLINE. If you would like to know more about this 24/7 service please contact 1300 469 469 and we can walk you through the features and ordering processes.

Rural Support Line 1300 655 969
Lifeline 131 114
Beyondblue 1300 224 636

G-MW can be contacted during normal business hours at any of its offices. Customers may contact G-MW to report emergencies and urgent matters such as reporting of pollution incidents and illegal activities by using the after hours emergency line: **1800 064 184**

CONTACTS

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