

irrigation news

GOLBURN-MURRAY
WATER



Loddon Campaspe

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 Loddon Campaspe 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 Loddon Campaspe RWSC listed below are available for customers to contact via the local area office on Pyramid Hill 03 5455 7100 or Rochester on 03 5484 0400.

Andrew Maher operates a family business in the Serpentine area producing lucerne, cereals and canola. Andrew accesses groundwater for irrigation and stock and domestic purposes and played an integral role in the development of the Mid Loddon Groundwater Management Area Local Management Rules. Andrew will also become a customer of the East Loddon Pipeline.

Norm Suckling runs a mixed farming business in the upper Loddon catchment near Newlyn, primarily producing potatoes. Norm is a groundwater user and also has access to unregulated surface water. Norm has shown great commitment in representing customers on committees such as the Spring Hill WSPA Committee and the Loddon Valley GMA Committee. More recently, Norm has been appointed by the Hon Tim Holding, Minister for Water, to represent customers on the Loddon Highlands WSPA Consultative Committee. Norm's understanding of groundwater will play a key role in the development of the draft Loddon Highlands Management Plan.

John McKinstry is a regulated river diverter on the Campaspe River and was the previous Campaspe Catchment Committee Chairman. John also accesses groundwater in the Campaspe deep lead to irrigate a productive lucerne enterprise. John farms at Barnadown and has been an irrigator for 46 years since the construction of the Eppalock Dam.

Garry Addlem is a regulated river diverter and operates a mixed farming enterprise near Serpentine. Garry is a member of the Loddon Water Districts WSC and played a key role in the development of the Mid Loddon Groundwater Management Area Local Management Rules. Garry also represents customers on the East Loddon Pipeline Project Reference Committee.

Russell McKay operates a mixed farming business in the Newlyn area, producing primarily potatoes and beef cattle. Russell has groundwater and unregulated surface water access for irrigation and stock and domestic purposes. He is a previous Loddon Catchment Committee member and has great knowledge of surface water and groundwater systems. In addition, Russell has represented customers in the development of the Spring Hill GMA Rules and will be a valued contributor in the future Loddon Highlands Management Plan with his recent Ministerial appointment to the Loddon Highlands WSPA Consultative Committee.

In addition **Allan Rothacker** has been nominated to the committee but not yet formally appointed by the Board. Allan was the previous chair of the Loddon Catchment Committee and is on the Goulburn Systems WSC. He is a farmer at Bridgewater operating a cropping/sheep enterprise.

G-MW would like to welcome all members on the Loddon Campaspe Regional Water Services Committee and looks forward to working with them into the future.

G-MW would also like to take this opportunity 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	100% (*65% Forrest Hill Zone)	Loddon-Campaspe
Mid Loddon GMA	100%	Loddon-Campaspe
Lower Campaspe Valley WSPA	75%	Loddon-Campaspe

*% 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 streams' flows to assess water availability 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 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

Loddon Operations
24 Barber Street, Pyramid Hill 3575
(03) 5455 7100

Campaspe Operations
41 High Street, Rochester 3561
(03) 5484 0400

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