



Newsletter

January 2024

From the CEO

WMI pumped 11,020 ML of water between July and December 2023, 63% more than the same period last year. This is not surprising as we have moved into a drier and warmer year following last year's summer floods.

A risk of a delivery shortfall usually increases with full Murray allocations, high user demand, a warmer/drier summer and reducing Murray River choke capacity. Despite all these factors water delivery risks in 2023-24 are expected to remain manageable due to the availability of water in the Menindee Lakes, higher inflows and the forecast filling of Lake Victoria.

In the longer term the MDBA and Basin States have progressed four options aimed at mitigating the delivery shortfall risk. They are:

1. Increased use of Murray Irrigation Ltd infrastructure
2. Enhanced use of the VIC Mid-Murray storages
3. Enhanced use of Murrumbidgee Weirs; and
4. Improving the timing of transfers to Lake Victoria

Each option requires further detailed development to determine if they are viable and sustainable.

It is interesting to note that Victoria has recently adopted a new approach to delivery entitlements in the Murray and other regulated systems in response to increasing delivery risks downstream of the Murray choke.

WMI continues to advocate for better river management, an equal share of the River Murray with Victoria and progress on delivery shortfall mitigation options.

2023 AGM update

The WMI AGM was held on 28 November 2023.

All business proposed was successfully completed, including:

- Appointment of two Member Directors (Mick Goodrem as Curlwaa Director and Michael Mobilio as Coomealla Director); and
- Consideration of the 2023 Audited Financial Statements and auditor's report.

The meeting also acknowledged retiring Coomealla Director Kevin Watson for his 21 years of service including 7 years as Chair.

The WMI Board, at their first meeting following the AGM, re-elected:

- David Whitbread as Chair; and
- Allison McTaggart as Deputy Chair.

The Board and management would like to thank all shareholders who attended or submitted proxies for the 29th AGM proceedings.

Shareholders can access the AGM minutes and presentation in the shareholder portal on the WMI's website.

Second Quarter Invoice 2023/24

due for payment:

4.30pm on

Thursday 15 February 2024

On-call Officer

24 hours / 365 days

Ph: 0428 596 428

Office Hours: 9.00am to 4.30pm

Monday to Friday, excl public holidays

Contact us:

T: (03) 5027 4953

E: enquiries@westernmurray.com.au

www.westernmurray.com.au

Upcoming office closures:

Australia Day: 26 January

Easter: 29 March to 1 April

ANZAC Day: 25 April

Water ordering & accuracy is important

To ensure WMI supply system works effectively, accurate water orders must be placed by irrigation customers (with meters 80mm and above).

It is important that a water order is placed correctly before commencing irrigation and that the flow rate and duration is adhered to. Over ordering can cause other irrigators' orders to be rejected, under ordering

can overload the system causing a loss of water pressure or in the case of Buronga cause the pump station to shut down due to a leakage warning.

If a meter isn't recording correctly an estimate of water use will be used for billing purposes. Estimates are based on water ordered and/or historical use.

Please continue to keep outlets clean

WMI has invested significant resources in downsizing or removing outlets as part of the new charging system. As well the warm weather has seen an abundance of plant growth including weeds and snakes.

Customers are reminded to keep outlets free of weeds, equipment and rubbish, ensuring easy and safe access for our operations staff.

Second Quarterly Invoice Due for Payment

The second quarter invoice for 2023/24 is now available and due for payment on or before Thursday 15 February 2024.

In response to customer feedback, WMI has simplified the invoice and statement. Simply refer to the **statement** for details on current and outstanding (if applicable) amounts payable.

Please contact the office before the due date if there are any difficulties in prompt payment of accounts.

Additional Water Fee Reminder

Water usage above allocation is billed quarterly at \$1,200/ML (or part thereof). Please ensure you **always have a positive water allocation balance**. Customers should contact the friendly office staff for more information.

Usage Above Delivery Allowance Fee Reminder

Usage Above Delivery Allowance Fee (casual user) is now billed quarterly.

The annual temporary transfer of delivery allowance from one customer to another customer in the same irrigation area is possible, at any time throughout the year.

A temporary transfer means the customer who receives the delivery allowance enjoys the reduced cost of using water (for one season) by reducing the impact of the higher Usage Above Delivery Allowance Fee (casual user).

The new delivery allowance trading system is more flexible and reactive for customers exceeding their water allocation in any one quarter, i.e. providing the customer going over allocation trades in delivery allowance (and successfully completes the process) before the last business day of that quarter (30 September, 31 December, 31 March, 30 June) they will not incur the Usage Above Delivery Allowance Fee.

Customers wishing to buy and/or sell both delivery allowance (and water allocation) may list a quantity and price on WMI's customer portal.

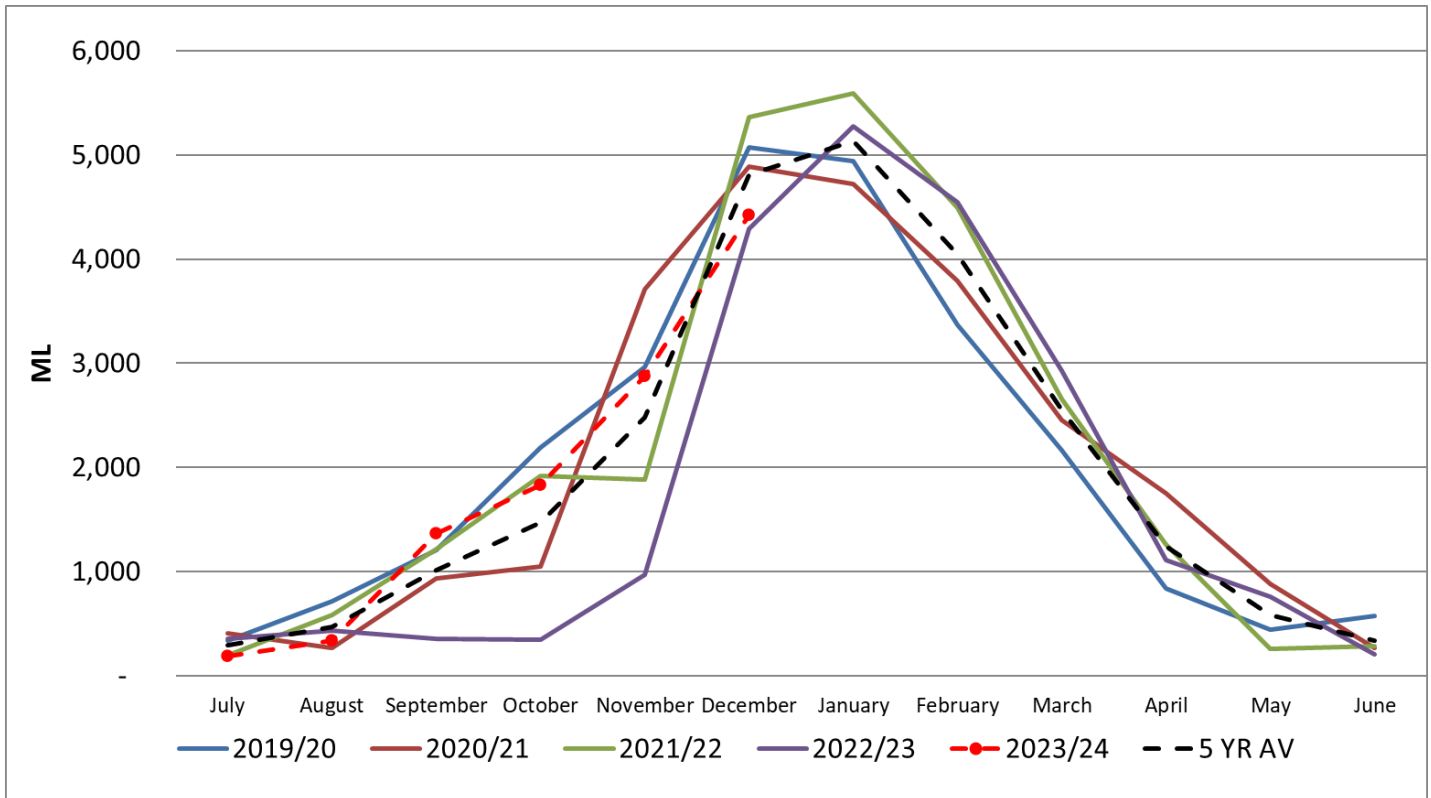
WMI staff are happy to assist customers understand the temporary transfer system.



Newsletter

January 2024

Total Water Pumped Over 5 Years; including Year to Date



Climate Outlook: February to April 2024

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting average rainfall for Sunraysia and above average minimum and maximum temperatures for most of Australia for the February to April period:

