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## SALT INTERCEPTION SCHEME UPDATE

The salt interception scheme for Murtho is moving along well. The Murtho SIS approval submission, which was accepted by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission has five conditions attached. There are still two conditions which have not been dealt with, these are

- Getting the groundwater and surface water models accredited for Noora.
- Table a regional salt disposal management plan.

These will go to the commission on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October for approval.

### Description of works

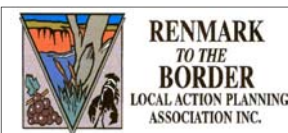
The proposed concept design includes;

- 31 highland wells completed in the upper section of the Lower Loxton Parilla Sands aquifer to a depth of approximately 45 to 70m and pumping around 1 to 2 litres/sec per well;
- 21 floodplain SIS wells completed within the Monoman Formation, to a depth of 20 to 25m pumping at 1 to 2 litres/sec per well
- Approximately 54km of pipeline from 63mm to 450mm in size
- 52 submersible pumps will deliver a total of 68 litres/sec of intercepted groundwater;
- Accompanying monitoring infrastructure

### Estimated Benefits to River EC

A calibrated numerical groundwater flow model was used to estimate the salt load to the Pike River, River Murray and the associated EC impact at Morgan.

A numerical breakdown of the 30-year average salt loads (2006-2035) and EC benefits at Morgan predicted by the modeling is provided in table form on the next page.



## SALT INTERCEPTION SCHEME UPDATE CONT

**Summary of costs and the average salinity impact (2006-2035) with and without the scheme**

Action	Do Nothing		SIS		
	Salt load	EC	Salt Intercepted	EC	Cost
Pre - Clearing	32.0	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre 88	104.5	20.9	97.4	19.8	\$29.600
Post 88	2.0	0.4	2.0	2.0	\$0.598M
Post 88 (prior Commitments)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0M
<b>Total</b>	138.5	27.7	99.4	20.2	\$30.198M

### Design and Construction

SA Water will become responsible for the final design, contract documentation, construction, commissioning, and document preparation phases of the project.

These steps will include

- Establishment of a steering committee to structure a business plan
- Appointing a project team manager
- Tender for Hydrological Design Consultancy
- Tender called for pipeline design and approval
- Ecological investigations into benefits/risks of using Disher Creek as a balancing storage.
- Specifications for drilling consultations

### Strategy

- Open tender for Hydrological Designers
- Select tender call for pipeline design and approvals
- Open tender for drilling
- Open tender for directly drilling river crossing
- Pipeline route and concept design which could be subject to change

## IRRIGATION RECORDING EVALUATION SYSTEM (IRES)

About a month ago a letter was sent out by the Murtho Road Irrigators Association asking you to participate in IRES for the purpose of producing an annual report for the 2006/2007 irrigation season, Calculating Field Application Efficiency and other summary statistics for the district. There are a number of benefits for growers who participate which include: soil water monitoring data validation; analysis of irrigation activities to the valve, variety or root stock level; reconciling irrigation hours to water meter readings; and to have IRES software provided and set up for your property

Your committee encourages best practise irrigation. If it can be shown that we are the best irrigators then our message is listened to. We need to make sure that the Government keeps listening to us – not only in irrigation matters but all issues affecting Murtho. Simon Knowles from Irrigated Crop Management Services has been doing a great job in helping Murtho achieve its goals. We need you to participate.

## WEATHER DATA WORKSHOP

With the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Recourse Management Board setting up a regional Weather Station Network the Improving Irrigation Efficiency project has developed a new training workshop, "Weather Data Interpretation Workshop"

Topics included in the workshop will include

- Generating Climatic Data
- Sensor Specifications
- Assessing Data Using The Internet
- Derived Data Definitions
- Irrigation Management

### Workshops still to be run

<i>Lap District</i>	<i>Workshop Type</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>Renmark to Border</b>	<b>Weather Data Interpretation</b>	<b>Paringa</b>	<b>14/9/2007</b>
<b>Berri</b>	<b>Weather Data Interpretation</b>	<b>Berri</b>	<b>25/9/2007</b>
<b>Riverland West</b>	<b>Weather Data Interpretation</b>	<b>Waikerie</b>	<b>26/9/2007</b>

If you would like to register for one of the following workshops or would like some more information then contact Noel Johnston - Improving Irrigation Efficiency Project on 85 824477 or Jayme Peltz at the Renmark to Border LAP on 85 864346

The South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Recourse Management Board has constructed a

## CONSUMPTION TRACKER

spreadsheet to assist you in plotting your meter readings for the remainder of the 2007/2008 water use year. The spreadsheet requires Microsoft Excel to operate and can be downloaded from the link below

<http://www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au/BoardProjects/IrrigationManagement/ConsumptionTracker.aspx>

The Tracker will also allow you to enter up to 3 meters readings for the last two years. These are automatically plotted as comparisons along side your actual readings for this year. This will allow you to answer the question, if I do what I have done over the last two years, where will that leave me in relation to my restricted allocation.

Once this information has been inputted into the spreadsheet the tracker will automatically put all this information into a graph so you are able to visually see where you are heading with your irrigations against your allocation and your previous years meters readings.

For more information on the Tracker Contact Noel Johnston - Improving Irrigation Efficiency Project on 85 824477 or Jayme Peltz at the Renmark to Border LAP on 85 864346

## RABBIT CONTROL PROGRAM

The Animal Plant Control Authorised Officers from the Natural Resources Management Board will be running a rabbit control program in the Murtho district. The project will be similar to the project that was run at Pike River.

The project will start with the GPSing of all warrens in the coming months.

The laying of bait trails will begin early next year.

Coming into spring is also the time to begin fox baiting, Foxes are out and about this time of year looking to breed so it is very important to start baiting and interrupt their breeding cycle.

For further information regarding the rabbit control project or any fox baiting issues contact;

[Adam Gleeson](#)

[Authorised Officer](#)

[SA MDB NRM Board](#)

[0427 236 726](#)



LAYING TRAILS



WARREN DESTRUCTION USING EXPLOSIVES

## IRRIGATION INFORMATION TOUR

The Renmark to Border LAP will once again be holding an irrigation information tour this year. The tour will be heading to Mildura and then on to Swan Hill and will be held on the 11th and 12th of October.

For more information about the tour contact Jayme at the LAP.

## WATER ALLOCATIONS

There has just been an announcement that water allocations will improve from 13% to 16% in October.

Although this is only a small amount for now we are all praying that allocations will continue to rise in coming months.

### LAP CONTACT DETAILS

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