



MEDIA RELEASE

5 July 2017

Murray Irrigation Limited Removes Rice Growing Rules

The Ricegrowers' Association of Australia (RGA) welcomes Murray Irrigation Limited's (MIL) announcement to no longer place restrictions on the growing of rice in the Murray Valley by removing their Rice Growing Rules. Instead, the MIL Rice Growing Rules will be replaced with Rice Growing Guidelines developed in collaboration with the RGA and Rice Extension.

RGA President, Jeremy Morton said, "Since the commencement of the year, the RGA and its Murray Valley representatives have been working with MIL to seek the removal of these rules, while implementing a framework that not only ensures the current water table levels are maintained but also encourages increased rice production and water use across the system."

"We consider this announcement a significant win for the RGA and MIL rice growers."

The RGA is confident that advancements in rice production technologies and practices, coupled with the current market drivers for water efficiency, will ensure that rice growers continue to use water in an environmentally responsible manner.

Nevertheless, the RGA has an overarching objective to ensure the longevity of rice production and will continue to work with MIL to mitigate any unlikely risk of increases to the water table due to production.

The RGA is also very pleased to see that MIL will remove the Rice Growers Charge, which is levied at \$220 per landholding that is growing rice.

"The removal of the Rice Growers charge represents a significant cost saving for our growers, as many growers own or operate multiple landholdings," said Mr Morton.

Murray Irrigation Limited, together with other irrigation companies, play an important role in monitoring rice water use on farm, with this data being a useful source of information for the rice research and development program. Therefore, the RGA thanks MIL for its commitment to the collection of water use data across all crop types, including rice.

The RGA also thanks MIL for its forward thinking and collaborative approach to decision making.

“As the most significant water user within the Murray Irrigation system, the RGA is confident that the industry and MIL will continue to work closely together to implement strategies that encourage the production of rice within the MIL system.”

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