

# CORURGAN COMMENT

Circ. No 01 – 2024  
January 2024



New Year 2024..... Let's Go!

Welcome to the January 2024 Corurgan Comment.

Happy New Year to all West Corurgan Members and your families, I hope it is another great year for you all.

2024 will start off very busy for West Corurgan. The Amendment to the Water Management Act has come into effect, converting all Private Irrigation Districts to Private Water Corporations. West Corurgan will need to undertake new **Board Elections by June 2024** and draft **New general internal governance Rules (new Model Rules)** for our new corporation. These New Rules will need to comply with the Water Management Act and will need to be approved by the Members of West Corurgan at our next AGM in **August 2024**. We will provide the New Rules to Members prior to the next AGM.

Unfortunately, it has been brought to my attention that in a few locations across our network of channels, landholders have undertaken works that have altered the height of our channel banks. I would remind Members that these works need to be authorised by West Corurgan and must not undermine the integrity of the channel banks and capacity of channels, or interfere with operations and supply of water to other Members. Please contact me before undertaking any works that will impact on our infrastructure.

## Interference with WCPID Network Infrastructure

It is illegal to interfere with any structure or channel; Section 346 of the Water Management Act 2000 demands severe penalties in regard to:

- a. Unauthorised use of water
- b. Interference with water flow or structures
- c. Pollution of water
- d. Damage to any and all infrastructure

Half yearly fees will be sent out to all Members at the start of January, I thank all the Members that have paid the previous half yearly fees, but I will take this opportunity to remind Members that have not paid their fees, or have outstanding accounts of any sort, that interest will be charged and Water Delivery can be discontinued until the outstanding account is paid. I would hope not to be put in a position where I would need to enforce the below policies. Please pay your accounts on time.

## Accounts in Arrears

### Interest Charged

In accordance with the Water Management Act 2000 No. 92, Clause 356, the West Corurgan Board of Management reserves the right to charge interest on overdue rates and charges at a rate not exceeding the rate of interest payable at the time on an unpaid judgement of the Supreme Court. Interest is charged if any rates or charges in respect of that holding or grouping, have been unpaid for a period of 1-month or more after the due date of payment.

[15 July 2020]

## Water Delivery Discontinued

In accordance with the Water Management Act 2000 No. 92, Clause 178 (b), the West Corugan Board of Management reserves the right to refuse to deliver water to a holding, or discontinue delivery of water to a holding, if any rates or charges in respect of that holding, or grouping, have been unpaid for a period of 2-months or more after the due date of payment. [15 July 2020]

### Water

**Total General Security water pumped in November – 7015 ML**  
**Year to Date – 24250 ML** (Including 4779ML of Supplementary Water)

If you have any questions, please come into see me or give me a call.

**Peter Hamilton**  
**General Manager**

### Office Administration

#### Invoicing

The Half-yearly fees for January have been sent out.

I remind that as West Corugan really only has two opportunities to have income coming in, July & January half-yearly fees, so prompt payment is always appreciated.



#### Landholder Details Forms

Sadly, we are still chasing signed Landholder Detail Forms to be returned.

Reminders have been sent.

Remember, if you were previously in Zone 5, you will have received an updated Landholder Detail Form following the merging of Zone 5 into Zone 4.

PLEASE check your paperwork and sign and return ASAP.

### BOARD ELECTIONS

I also remind that due to the NSW Dept' of Planning and Environment's amendment to the Water Management Act, the introduction of new Model Rules for Private Irrigation Districts is soon to be implemented.

In conjunction with this, a Board election must be held prior to 30 June 2024.

Our previous Board timeframe would have been November 2024, so six-months earlier.

Jasmeen & I are currently preparing the Preliminary Roll for the election.

Julie Guest, our Returning Officer, will visit the office on 18<sup>th</sup> January to review the Preliminary Roll.

It is anticipated the **Preliminary Roll will be on display to view in the office from 9<sup>th</sup> February.**

It will be on display for 14-days.

I will confirm.

So, if you haven't given thought to standing for a position on the Board, now is the time to do so.

A **Call for Nominations** will be made **early March** once the Returning Officer declares the **Final Roll.**

I would like to encourage our female farmers and female members to also consider nominating.

The Board is not just for men.

West Corugan is a diverse and inclusive employer, and this also applies to its Board.

Yes, in the past it has been an all-male Board, but that doesn't mean we don't have fantastic female farmers or partners of farmers within the Scheme that know about water, water allocations, wages, insurance, pivot irrigators, buying/selling capital assets and budgeting the books. These functions and skills are a large part of what the Board does, just as it is a large part of running any farm.

So, think about it.



### Selling Allocation Water

We have allocation water listed for sale on our website, which has been listed for some time. If you have advised that you would like to sell water, please review the price you originally were willing to sell it for, and if you wish to change the value, please contact the office.

### Selling Permanent Water

A West Corugan Member has advised that he has 100 ML permanent water to sell. If you are interested, please contact the office and we will put both parties together to discuss.

**WE ARE NOT WATER BROKERS!  
BUT ARE HAPPY TO ADVISE WEST CORURGAN MEMBERS OF WATER OPPORTUNITIES WHEN THEY  
ARISE AND TO ASSIST WITH THE APPROPRIATE PAPERWORK.**

**WE STRONGLY ADVISE THAT YOU  
SEEK LEGAL ADVICE WHEN BUYING OR SELLING PERMANENT WATER.**

### Update: Accounts - Feasibility Study

During December we paid invoices totalling \$68,500 (excl GST) related to the Feasibility Study. As at 31.12.2023, the Feasibility money had paid invoices to the value of **\$1,392,672.96 (excl GST)**. As at 31.12.2023 the balance of the Gov't Feasibility Funding Bank Account = \$9,217.10. The Final Funding Milestone has not yet been submitted - \$81,200 + GST.

### Oh No. Now you've done it.

Sounds like Peter has taken over my mantle as the DRAGON.

Folks, this is not good.

Me being cross is one thing.... Peter being cross is a whole different ballgame!

So go back to the top of the Newsletter and read it again.

**And definitely don't chop into our channel banks!!**



### Stretches

How did we go with all those stretches I gave you last month?

Are you as 'loose as a goose'?

No sore backs?

10-minutes morning and night will do wonders.



## Trivia

### Where is it now?.....

When in Melbourne I tend to stay in Southbank.  
Whilst regularly walking around the area, guess what I see?  
It's big, it's yellow and was controversial in its day.

A: The 'YELLOW PERIL' SCULPTURE

The correct title for the work of art is 'THE VAULT'.



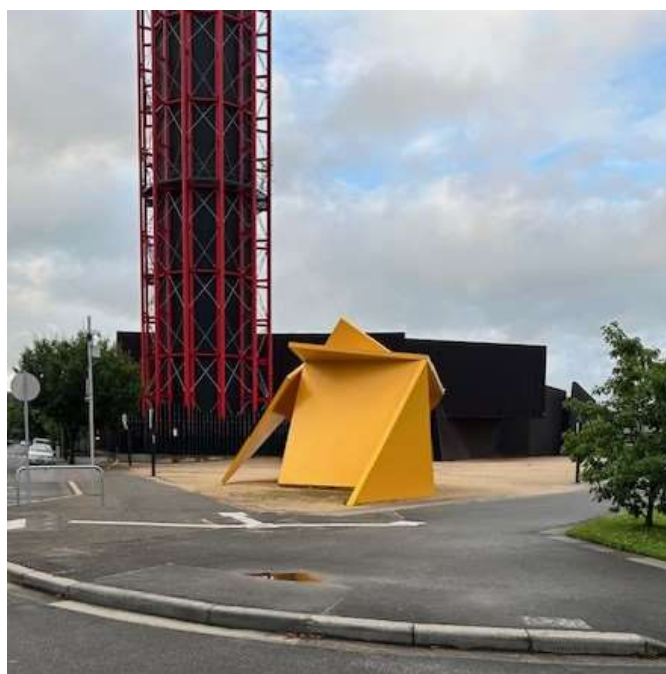
After several moves around the city (mainly by Council trying to hide it), it now sits forlornly on the corner of Dodds & Grant Streets, Southbank, near the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art & The Malthouse Theatre.

No signage, no big plaque, just a yellow metal sculpture sitting alone on a big block of crushed gravel.

The Vault was commissioned by the Melbourne City Council in 1980 to take 'pride of place' in the new City Square, but its unveiling gave rise to one of Melbourne's biggest art controversies, despite meeting the brief the Council wanted – 'grand, interlocking, bold, visually simple, and a strong focal point'.

The design was originally chosen because it complemented the new City Square (Federation Square) with its geometric design. But alas, the yellow metal sculpture caused a storm of protest and didn't even last seven months before being dismantled.

At the time, the cost of \$70,000 was thought to be excessive and a waste of Council money.



*Interestingly, in 2017 the 'Yellow Peril' was granted Heritage Protection!*



*Whilst the West Corugan Newsletter is primarily provided to keep Members informed of all water matters relating to the WCPID Scheme, you will note it also has a lighter side. It is this lighter side that should be read in the spirit for which it is intended and with 'tongue firmly planted in one's cheek'!* 😊 Debbie