

CORURGAN COMMENT

Circ. No 02 – 2023
February 2023



Don't you just hate weeds!

Welcome to the February 2023 Corurgan Comment.

I am currently spending many hours working with the Feasibility Study Project Management team and the Board, as we try and meet each Milestone on time. In January we started the EM31/38 survey. This Survey has progressed well, although some more rain events have caused delays. I expect that this survey will be completed within the next two weeks.

We also undertook a Bathymetric survey of the river course at our Corowa Pump site. A Bathymetric survey, maps the depth of the river course, or anabranch in our case. This was done to assess the reliability of continued water supply if we are to build a new Pump Station to supply the proposed Stock and Domestic system, in low water allocation years.

There is ongoing work being done to design the proposed Stock and Domestic system. Naturally the first question everyone wants to know, is how much it will cost? You can help us determine this by returning your Expression of Interest form, so that we can have a much more accurate number of outlets. Having an accurate number of member interest helps design the capacity of the system and also the costs to build, maintain and operate the new system. Remember that an Expression of Interest is not a binding commitment, it just helps get the design capacity and potential costing more accurate.

Design work on the Modernisation of the main irrigation supply network continues. The Board recently travelled to Shepparton to tour the Rubicon factory. We were amazed at the precise engineering and design of their products. We were equally impressed by their commitment to using Australian sourced materials and components where possible.

Water

Irrigation water demand for summer crops has been very steady.

Pumped in January – 4384 ML

Year to Date - 10780 ML

Maintenance

We are continuing with bank reinstatement works, particularly around structures, and de-silting of channels where needed.

Spraying of access points and Cumbungi will continue.

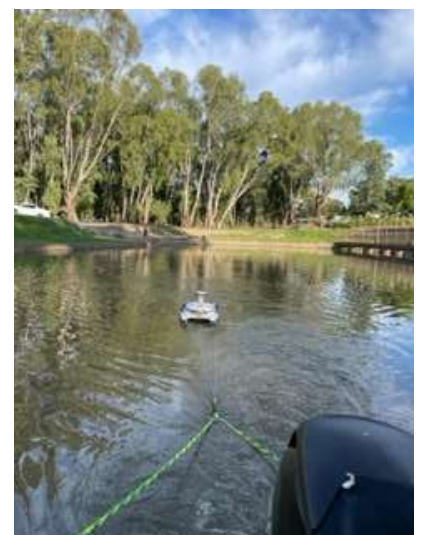
Peter Hamilton
General Manager

Bathymetric survey - Oh yeah!

Peter sitting in a tinnie for three days. What are the chances of a line over the side??



I bet this is the angle of the photo you can't see!!



Office Administration

Monthly invoicing

The January half-yearly fees were emailed or posted out on the 11th January.
Thank you to those who have already paid.



Interest

In the interest of fair play (no pun intended), please be advised the Dep't of Justice Local Court NSW Interest Rates have increased.

Effective from 01.01.2023 interest charged on invoices two months or more in arrears increased from 4.85% to 7.10%.

Example: If you have an invoice dated November 2022 or older, you will now be charged interest on that invoice @ 7.10%. If outstanding \$4,000 then interest = \$23.66 per month. It soon adds up, so please try to maintain your account within terms.

Interest is not charged on Interest.

Gov't reviews this again 30.06.2023.



Water Management System Upgraded (WAM)

In conjunction with the Feasibility Study, historical information has been requested by our Project Manager. From this we have realised that our existing Water Management System (WAM) did not provide some information in enough specific detail. Although our outlets/wheels were numbered indicating the Lateral and wheel number, it was only the main laterals, not the spurs. Our WAM designer has upgraded the software, so that the lateral information is more specific. So, a wheel that was previously L3W0058 is now L3AW0058 and a wheel on the Daysdale Extension where previously was L9W0026 is now L9DW0026.

The O'Dwyer Main is referred to as L00.

Wheel numbers have not changed, just the formatting in our reports.

For those currently irrigating, you will notice this on your Detailed Group Usage Report.

Peter is very pleased with the new reports created. He can see more accurately where water is being used.

Unfortunately, we did need to manually update the wheel number format in everyone's accounts in WAM. This will now show on your Landholder Detail Forms in the new format eg: L3AW0058, not as they currently show 358.

A bit tedious but done now.

Thank you to Jasmeen who did the tedious cutting and pasting.

I will not worry about sending out all new Landholder Detail Forms for everyone to sign just at the moment. This will slowly happen as and when required.

Update: Accounts - Feasibility Study

The need to split the 3rd Milestone funding payment into two payments has been approved, as too, has the need to extend the Final Report.

The rain has just made things impossible to achieve everything in the timeframes originally set.

The new Milestone timeframes are as follows:

Milestone 3 - 31.01.2023- Completion of Progress Report

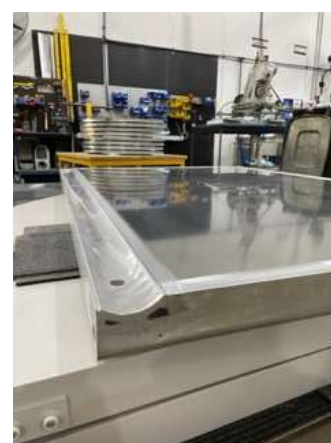
Milestone 4 - 21.04.2023 - Submission of Draft Report

Milestone 5 - 17.05.2023 - Completion of Final Report

The Board of the Directors, Peter Hamilton, Michael McBurnie, and Adrian Smith travelled to Shepparton on Monday 30th January for meetings with Rubicon staff and to tour the Rubicon factory. We hired a 12-seater bus so everyone could travel together and discuss the Feasibility Study as they went.



Michael Hawkins had flashbacks..... He thought he was going on a footy trip! 😊
[Strictly no alcohol on this bus!!]
Everyone thought it was a very positive day and all were extremely impressed with the Rubicon factory and the precision of the engineering in design and manufacture.



Big Thank you to Peter Hamilton who drove from Corowa to Yarrowonga to pick up the bus by 7.00am; from Yarra to Berrigan to collect the Directors and then drove to Shepparton, listened, talked, and concentrated all day, and then drove back to Berrigan, Yarrowonga, and home to Corowa.

*And no Footy Club song to keep him entertained!
Thank you, Peter.*



Our Boys...Up front and very keen.

Expression of Interest - WCPID Members

I realise our request to have the Stock & Domestic EOI forms returned by 16.12.2022 has been and gone, but if you didn't respond and you now would like to, please do so.

Thank you to those who did respond by 16.12.2022.

In order to determine the most accurate design capacity it is best to have as much data as possible.

So, if you are interested feel free to complete the attached EOI form.

Below is the Monthly Report by Adrian Smith, Project Management Group

'The Feasibility Study project continues to move along at an ever-increasing pace!

We have a number of major reports either completed, or close to.

Specifically, the Board has received a report on the potential automation of the West Corugan supply network, and we are getting close to have a major draft on the potential piped Stock and Domestic system. These are likely the two 'biggest ticket' items and will require a lot of consideration as part of the overall Feasibility report.

Many other aspects of the study are progressing well, even though we had some delays because of the wet and the Xmas break.

To remind you, the range of things being considered or addressed include:

- Soil and geotechnical assessments
- Stock and domestic system provision
- Upgrading of existing pumping station
- Supply channel lining
- Assessment of supply channel hydraulic characteristics
- Upgrade/new channel regulators and off-take infrastructure (with automation)
- Compliant farm metering (with automation)
- Supply channel refurbishment
- 'Stacked' water within the supply channel system.
- Reconfiguration or retirement of some of the supply network
- Telemetry and water ordering management systems
- Piped irrigation delivery.

We have also had a couple of items come up which weren't part of the original project scope, which are also being considered – such as the bathymetric survey which Peter was involved with, and the potential expansion to include landholders and communities outside the current West Corugan boundary.

You can be assured that your Board and the Project Team are carefully considering options as they come forward, and that no decisions have been made on any particular aspect of the Study.

We are also very interested and keen to hear from members about your comments and thoughts about the Feasibility Study – about whether we have the 'mix' of items to consider right, other things that you would like addressed, or just generally about your comments about potentially modernising the West Corugan system.

Please feel free to contact myself in the first instance if you have any comments or would like a bit more detail. Here's hoping for a nice warm finish to the season for those with summer crops, and a nice autumn break in a few months' time!

Adrian Smith

Any questions? Contact Adrian - Mobile: 0447 778 515 and/or Email: aksadvisory@outlook.com

Re-zoning West Corugan Update.

We haven't forgotten about the proposal approved at the 2022 AGM to investigate reducing the number of zones from 5 to 4.

We have been a bit busy with the Feasibility Study, but we are now working on the re-zoning and expect to have a proposal to present to Members in next month's Corugan Comment.

Pesky Weeds.

Remember last month the Corurgan Comment had the photo of Ben standing on 'Blow Grass' clogging the channel, well now they have attacked the office.

I have enough trouble trying to keep our little patch of grass looking presentable without tumble weeds all over it.

But I shouldn't complain, at least mine aren't clogging farm drains, pipes, or channels!

Besides, I had the last laugh.... Russell mowed the lawn!



EOI - Last page only
- Member interest.p

Whilst the West Corurgan 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.