

CORURGAN COMMENT



Circ. No 02 - 2026
February 2026

Welcome to the February 2026 Corugan Comment Newsletter.

The hot dry weather continues, I hope everyone is trying to keep cool as best you can. Irrigation demand has increased during January as a result of the hot weather and no rain. Summer corn crops are starting to mature and fill, potatoes are being harvested and cotton is really growing now. The Channel Attendants have commenced a February Stock and Domestic dam fill, if you require Stock and Domestic water please give your Channel Attendant a call so that we can be as efficient as possible with delivering this water.

The MBDA has started a review of the current Basin Plan. We all have an opportunity to engage with this review and give submissions to the MBDA on how the current Basin Plan is performing and how it could be improved. West Corugan will be working with Murray Regional Strategy Group (MRSG) to form a high level submission to the MBDA in response to the Basin Plan review. I will also be attending a roundtable meeting in Sydney to discuss the Basin Plan review on the 16th February. I have attached a recent media release and links from the MBDA for you to read.



Media release

5 February 2026

Public views sought on the Basin's next chapter

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) has released a Discussion Paper to support public consultation on the Basin Plan Review. In accordance with the Water Act 2007, the Authority is required to review the Basin Plan before the end of 2026.

“Today’s release of the Discussion Paper kicks off the Basin Plan Review” MDBA Chief Executive Andrew McConville said.

“Through the Discussion Paper the Authority has explored progress that has been made to date and considered some of the issues and challenges for the Basin as we look forward over the next decade.”

Mr McConville said that the intention is for the Discussion Paper to help inform communities that depend on a healthy working Basin to then make submissions to the Review.

“The Basin Plan has delivered real benefits, and we are starting to see improvements in some of the Basin’s most important rivers and wetlands.

“But the evidence is also clear that climate change, ageing infrastructure, disconnected floodplains, declining native fish and poor water quality mean we need to do some things differently.

“Looking ahead we need a Plan that supports greater adaptation to a changing climate.”

Mr McConville explained that the release of the Discussion Paper is the start of the consultation process on the Basin Plan Review.

“We’ve been transparent about the evidence we’ve gathered from governments, basin communities and industries, First Nations and scientists, to get to this point. We’ve used this evidence to propose ideas and actions for the future – now we want to know what the community thinks of that.

“At this point it is a discussion, not a set of decisions. Nothing in the Review is yet settled, and we want to have a genuine conversation with communities, informed by their lived experience.”

Consultation on the Discussion Paper will run for 12 weeks from 5 February 2026 until 1 May 2026, during which the Authority will be encouraging individuals, communities, peak bodies and anyone with an interest in achieving better outcomes for the Basin, to make a submission.

“Our consultation over the coming few months will be extensive. We will be out in the Basin listening to people to understand what is working, what isn’t and what might need to change. We will be explaining what is in the Discussion Paper and outlining how people might get involved by making a submission,” said Mr McConville.

At the conclusion of the public consultation period, the submissions received will help inform the Authority as it develops the Review which is to be finalised and delivered to the Commonwealth Government before the end of the year.

Minister for the Environment and Water, Senator Murray Watt said that a healthy Murray-Darling Basin means resilient ecosystems, stronger industries, thriving communities and opportunities for future generations.

“Our challenge in the Basin is to balance competing pressures: reducing stress on major ecological systems, supporting Basin economies and communities, and adapting to a drying climate with increased scarcity and competition for water,” Minister Watt said.

“For well over a decade, the Basin Plan has been the blueprint for restoring the health of the Murray–Darling Basin while supporting communities and industry.

“As we near its final stages we want to be clear on what has worked and take honest and frank feedback on what can be improved.

“The Review will inform the future of the Basin Plan, to secure long-term sustainability for the environment and for Basin communities.

“I encourage everyone in the Basin to get involved in the Review to have your say on how the Basin should be managed.”

A copy of the Discussion Paper can be downloaded from the MDBA website: <https://www.mdba.gov.au/publications-and-data/publications/2026-basin-plan-review-discussion-paper>

Further information on the Review and how to make a submission can be found on the MDBA website from 5 February 2026 at: <https://getinvolved.mdba.gov.au/2026basinplanreview>

Allocation Announcement – Year to Date – 20% @ 01.02.2026

July – 1%
August – 2%
September – 7%
October – 8%
November -2%
December – 0%
January – 0%
February – 0%

Water Pumped

August – 1382 ML
September – 4475 ML
October – 6447 ML
November – 2602ML
December – 4721ML
January 2026 – 6390ML

Current Dam Levels

Dartmouth Dam – 70%
Hume Dam – 28%

As always, if you notice any maintenance works that need to be taken care of, please contact your Channel Attendant.

Peter Hamilton
General Manager

Office Administration

January Half-yearly Invoicing

These invoices were emailed or posted out on Friday 9th January.
Thank you to those Members who have already paid.

Office

Reminder: With Jasmeen away until possibly late-February or early-March, the office is down to one. So please be understanding if the paperwork for a trade doesn't arrive the same day. I will be working hard to ensure that it does, but it may be the next day.

Water – Tanker Deliveries

Funny how 10-days of near 40-degrees temperatures will deplete the 'ol water tank. So, have you checked yours recently, particularly as the warm weather continues? We do our best, but please try and provide three-days' notice when ordering tanker water.



Know your Available Water

Many of our farmers may be thinking about irrigating in March. Great, not a problem. But please continue to check your available water?

We do have temporary water for sale.

Most are smaller parcels, but we can put a couple of trades together to obtain the volume you may need or want. Remember, the Board has discounted the Internal Transfer Fee to \$20 to encourage buying water internally. This keeps our water moving and helps those with, say, only 100WE @ 20% allocation, to sell their 20ML. 3 trades together will still only cost the same as the original transfer fee.

Water Trades in January 2026

There have been quite a few External transfers INTO West Corurgan as the bigger water users chase the higher volumes they need.

In **January 2026** we processed:

Internal Trades - 9

External IN Trades - 8

External OUT Trades - 2

PERMANENT WATER FOR SALE

A WCPID Member has permanent water to sell.

He is looking to sell within the Scheme.

650 Water Entitlements.

Will sell in smaller parcels.

If genuinely interested, please contact the Office.



Sunscreen

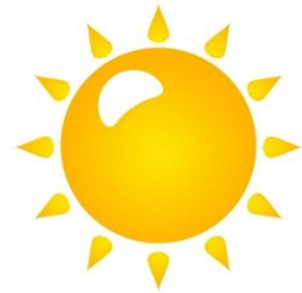
Obviously, the West Corurgan guys need sunscreen, but with the shocking results from the Choice Sunscreen Testing, I was extra careful when purchasing it this year. I made sure 50+ meant we got 50+ protection.

I thought you might be interested in the following chart.



SPF 50+ CLAIMS

16 out of 20 sunscreens failed to meet their SPF claims in CHOICE testing



0-10s



4

Ultra Violette Lean Screen SPF 50+ Mineral Mattifying Zinc Skinscreen

- Claimed SPF
- Measured SPF
- Exceeds SPF 50

IN THE 20s

 <p>24</p> <p>Neutrogena Sheer Zinc Dry-Touch Lotion SPF 50</p>	 <p>24</p> <p>Cancer Council Ultra Sunscreen SPF 50+</p>	 <p>26</p> <p>Aldi Ombra Everyday Sunscreen Lotion 50+</p>	
 <p>26</p> <p>Bondi Sands SPF 50+ Zinc Mineral Body Lotion</p>	 <p>27</p> <p>Woolworths Sunscreen Everyday Tube SPF 50+</p>	 <p>27</p> <p>Cancer Council Everyday Value Sunscreen SPF 50</p>	 <p>28</p> <p>Banana Boat Baby Zinc Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50+</p>

IN THE 30s

 <p>32</p> <p>Bondi Sands SPF 50+ Fragrance Free Sunscreen</p>	 <p>33</p> <p>Cancer Council Kids Clear Zinc SPF 50+</p>	 <p>35</p> <p>Banana Boat Sport Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50+</p>	 <p>38</p> <p>Invisible Zinc Face + Body Mineral Sunscreen SPF 50</p>
--	--	--	---

IN THE 40s

 <p>40</p> <p>Sun Bum Premium Moisturising Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50+</p>	 <p>40</p> <p>Nivea Sun Protect and Moisture Lock SPF 50+ Sunscreen</p>	 <p>41</p> <p>Nivea Sun Kids Ultra Protect and Play Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50+</p>	 <p>43</p> <p>Coles SPF 50+ Sunscreen Ultra Tube</p>
---	---	--	--

50+

 <p>51</p> <p>Mecca Cosmetica To Save Body SPF 50+ Hydrating Sunscreen</p>	 <p>52</p> <p>Cancer Council Kids Sunscreen 50+</p>	 <p>56</p> <p>Neutrogena Ultra Sheer Body Lotion SPF 50</p>	 <p>72</p> <p>La Roche-Posay Anthelios Wet Skin Sunscreen 50+</p>
--	---	---	---

<https://www.choice.com.au/health-and-body/beauty-and-personal-care/skin-care-and-cosmetics/articles/sunscreen-test>

New Segment..... Golden Rules

One of our farmers visiting the office inspired this new segment.
Thank you Farm (79).

Don't he just hate it when you go to get something and it is not in the place it should be, always is, or where everyone knows where to find it!
Grrrrr.....

**So, GOLDEN RULE:
Put things back where you got it from!**

***** Let me know if you have any rules that you think should be given GOLDEN status *****

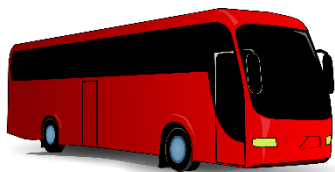
LET'S BE HAPPY..... 😊

For my sheep farmers.....

Did you hear about the lamb that couldn't see?
Someone pulled the wool over his eyes.



Engineers have made a car that can run on mint.
Hopefully, they can make buses that can run on thyme!



+



=



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

