

CORURGAN COMMENT

Circ. No 03 – 2023
March 2023



OK, we don't get snow!
But we do get four seasons
Autumn, here we come!

Welcome to the March 2023 Corurgan Comment.

Autumn seems to have arrived quickly this year, however it has been a drier start than this time last year. Irrigation demand continues to be steady with most summer crops planted a little later than normal. As we go into the Autumn I remind members that if they would like to irrigate pastures or pre-water for winter crops call your Channel Attendant and give plenty of notice of your intention to irrigate. This will help in planning the delivery of water to your outlet when you want it. I have to place an order for water with WaterNSW 7-days in advance and sometimes it will take us upto 10-days from when we pump the water into our system at Corowa, and get it down dry channels to some of the furthest outlets.

Work on the Feasibility Study continues with Geotechnical core samples about to be taken in areas that are suspected of having potential leakage.

The proposal to **Reduce the number of Zones from 5 to 4** is now available for members to have a look at and comment on. This proposal will be brought to the next AGM as an Ordinary Resolution for members to vote on. Debbie has provided more information below.

Water

Irrigation water demand for summer crops has been very steady.

Pumped in February	-	4723 ML
Year to Date	-	15503 ML

Maintenance

We have been very busy this month fixing yabby holes and leaks around structures, de-silting channels and installing wheels.

Blow Grass continues to be a nuisance.

Peter Hamilton
General Manager

Office Administration

Condolences

On behalf of the West Corurgan Board of Directors and the Management and Staff of West Corurgan, we would like to pass on our sincere condolences to **Lindsay Norman** and family, following the passing of his wife, Noreen, last month.

Lindsay is a stalwart of West Corurgan and served as a Director of West Corurgan for fifteen years from 1997 to 2012.

Commitment of that degree is only ever possible with the ongoing and generous support of your partner.

Our thoughts are with Lindsay and his family.



Proposal to Reduce the number of Zones from five (5) to four (4)

The Members at the August 2022 AGM voted for the Board to review the current five West Corurgan zones with the view of reducing from five to four zones.

To refresh everyone's memory, below is an extract from the Minutes taken at the 2022 AGM:

Start Extract

James Nixon explained proposal to reduced electoral zones from 5 to 4.

No Director currently on the Board from zone 5.

Would make four zones still within the same West Corurgan footprint.

Q: Keith Phillips asked where zone 5 is situated?

A: River (Laterals 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) to the Riverina Hwy and down to Lateral 5C, Warmatta Road.

Q: Richard Nixon asked if still x2 Directors per zone or x3 each for the new zones?

A: James said No, still x2 Directors for each zone = x8 total.

Debbie explained the Water Management Act allows for up to 10 Directors.

Debbie further explained that in reviewing the Act, West Corurgan believes we are able to change the zones, with member approval, without the need to advise the NSW Water Minister.

Q: Shaune Moloney asked if the Board had an opinion one way or the other?

A: Geoff Moar (Director) explained that when have x10 Directors on a Board then it becomes more cumbersome, and meetings take too long. It currently takes from 7.00pm to approx. 11.00/11.30pm for a monthly Board meeting.

He believes if add x2 more Directors the meetings may take too long.

Geoff explained that with farm amalgamation and properties having been purchased by existing families, we probably have only one third of people in the system as we had when the Scheme was established.

The last time we had x10 Directors was 2012.

The Board strongly believes that in the past 10 years the Board has still represented zone 5 in a fair and equitable manner regardless of zone 5 not having Board representation.

General discussion ensued.

Debbie explained that legal advice is being sought, specifically around the number of votes in each zone. Currently the zones are not equal in the number of votes held in each zone and this would still be the case, depending on how zone five was 'absorbed'.

Debbie explained the reason the Board was bringing this to the Member's attention now - at the 2022 AGM, is because the next election year is 2024. Any changes to zones would need to be finalised before then.

Shaune Moloney felt the idea had merit and was not opposed to investigating further.

James Nixon asked Shaune if he would like to put forward a Motion to approve the Board further investigating the proposal to reduce the number of zones in West Corurgan from five (5) to four (4)?

Motion: *To accept the Board's recommendation to further investigate the proposal to reduce the total number of zones within the West Corurgan footprint from five zones to four zones. Each zone to have two Director representatives on the Board.*

Moved: Shaune Moloney **Seconded:** Jackson Schifferle **Carried:** unanimously

End Extract.

Following on from this, it was felt a simple modification was the best way to proceed, rather than amending all five zones.

Consequently, the proposed change, and the proposal approved by the Board at their February 2023 Board Meeting, was to remove the boundary between zone 4 and 5.

If the Ordinary Resolution to amend the number of zones is adopted by Members, all zone 5 Members will become zone 4 Members.

Each four zones will have two Director representatives and each zone will have the right to vote for two (2) Directors.

The number of votes in any one zone does not impact/influence the vote, as each zone can only have a maximum of two Directors, regardless of the number of votes within each zone.

Two maps are provided to assist in showing the change:

- the Original (current) Zone Boundaries (yellow), and
- the Proposed change (pink).

I do have A3 size maps in the office, and the original large map hanging on the wall, if anyone would prefer to visit the office.

So, what happens now?

- This proposal remains open for Members to comment.
- The proposed Resolution will be drafted and circulated to Members, along with the Board's reasoning behind their recommendation to change (although this is covered, to some degree, above in the extract from the 2022 AGM discussions).
- The final Resolution will be advertised to Members at least 28-days prior to the AGM.
- The Resolution/Motion will be voted upon at the 2023 AGM by those eligible Members in attendance.
- A majority vote of eligible Members in attendance will pass the Resolution.



Map - Original x5
Zones - A4.pdf



Map - Proposal to
reduce zones - Rem

Update: Accounts - Feasibility Study

Our Milestone 3 invoice has now been approved and should be paid very shortly.

The next Milestone is due 21.04.2023 - Submission of the Draft Feasibility Study Report.

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

'The Feasibility Study continues to move along at a rapid pace.

We were granted a small extension of time to address several additional matters the Board has raised – we are now looking at completion of the study in April.

A number of components of the project are nearing completion.

The final draft of the supply network automation report has been submitted – outlining the benefits and costs of upgrading infrastructure such as regulators, and automation of the system. The report provided by the sub-consultants (Rubicon Water) is comprehensive and contains a lot of detail for the Board to consider.

The proposed Stock and Domestic (S & D) pipe system report is also nearing completion. Again, the sub-consultants (Pinion Advisory) have completed a substantial volume of work and are continuing to 'refine and optimise' the potential pipeline route in order to minimise costs, whilst maintaining adequate flow and pressure within the system. For the information of members, we received a significant amount of interest from landholders outside the West Corugan footprint to connect to a pipeline – and the consultant will be including those individuals within an optimised design. We have also consulted widely with local, State and Federal Government agencies and organisations – including some commodity groups - to determine further outside interest in the potential S & D scheme. A draft of the final report will be presented to the Board shortly.

The EM31 and EM38 surveys were completed early February, after being delayed because of the wet conditions late last year. This information is being used to target potential 'high loss' zones across the channel network – in particular along the O'Dwyer Main. Over the course of the next few weeks, soil specialists will be taking soil cores, and doing some associated drilling, to allow us to better understand the losses from the channel system – and this information will form an important component of the overall study.

West Corugan and the Project team hosted a brief visit from our State agency (NSW DPIE) funding partner. Whilst we have regular progress meetings with both State and Federal Government departments involved with the project, there is nothing like seeing things on-ground – especially for the people who work out of Sydney or Canberra! Overall, the Agencies are very happy with the progress of the study and are eagerly awaiting a draft final report to review in early April! Thanks to Peter Hamilton for doing much of the organising, and to landholders Geoff Moar and Tom Lyons who hosted us on the tour – it was well received by the agency staff, and they got a clear message about the importance and value of West Corugan!

Finally, as always, if individual members have any questions, comments or concerns over the Feasibility Study, please feel free to contact myself in the first instance on 0447 778 515. We are keen to hear members views, ideas, and perspectives on the potential modernisation of the West Corugan scheme, so please do not hesitate to make contact.

Best Regards

Adrian Smith, on behalf of the Modernisation Feasibility Project Team.

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

Maintenance Employee

After eleven years, Russell Sullivan has decided to resign from West Corugan. Russell's last day will be Friday 30.06.2023.

In the meantime, we need to employ and train a new employee.

Russell is currently part of our Maintenance Team, so we are looking to employ a General Maintenance person to be involved with all aspects of maintaining our channel system.

I have included a copy of the advertisement.

If you know of anyone who might be interested, please let them know and encourage them to contact Peter Hamilton - 0448 852 392.



Be Careful

Poor ol' Ben had a fight with a barbwire fence.
He lost!
After lots of #\$\$%^@ and a tetanus shot, he is fine.
So, my message to all my farmers is, **PLEASE BE CAREFUL.**



And now for something a bit lighter

Our General Manager has been in the Corugan Comment previously with his bad jokes, but this month he has excelled.

[Farm (118) likes bad jokes.]

Our illustrious leader has submitted the following:

Although, I would suggest that after this is in the public domain, he may not be long for this mortal world. I am sure something bad will happen to his morning weeties!

I was cooking up some Potted Meat at home the other night and my 17-yr daughter asked me what I was cooking?

I said, 'Potted Meat'.

She wanted to know what was in it, because it smelled great, and she was 'STARVING'.

I said, 'Slow cooked corned beef, shins and tongue!'

She said, 'YUK! I'm not eating that.'

That's disgusting. I can't eat tongue; it's come out of the cow's mouth!

I said, 'OK',

I cooked her an egg!! 😊



Oh, you evil, evil man!

Good, but evil. 😊



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



General Maintenance Vacancy

After 11 years of service one of our valued employees is retiring so, West Corurgan Private Irrigation District is now seeking a person to fill a maintenance vacancy.

Duties will include, but not limited to:
General labouring, herbicide application, concrete work, some welding and fabrication, operation and maintenance of trucks and excavators.

On-going job training will be provided.
Must be able to work alone and as part of a team.

A HC licence is highly desirable or willingness to obtain.
The successful applicant will be required to work from the West Corurgan Depot in Berrigan as part of our small, team-oriented company.

Commencement salary is negotiable, commensurate with existing qualifications and skills of the successful applicant.
A work Ute will be supplied.

**Applications in writing close on
17th March 2023 and should be addressed to:**

**Peter Hamilton
(General Manager)**

**West Corurgan Private Irrigation District
PO Box 156, Berrigan 2712**

Phone: (03) 5885 2392 Email: info@corurgan.com.au