

CORURGAN COMMENT

Circ. No 05 – 2023
May 2023



Welcome to the May 2023 Corurgan Comment.

Operations

During April, at the direction of the West Corurgan Board of Management, 2500ML of Internal Off Allocation Water was made available to all Members. Due to rain in April, the demand for this water reduced, so we didn't need to pump the full amount made available by the time that the river dropped below pumping height.

2023/24 Budget

It is time for us to start planning for next season, and of course that includes trying to guess how much water we might need to pump. If you could please forward an Expression of Interest to the office indicating if you will irrigate next year, that would be very helpful in forming a more accurate overall budget. An **EOI form is supplied with this Corurgan Comment** indicating time of year, area, crop type and location.

Please fill out the form and return. This will not only help with our budget but also in prioritizing any maintenance works that might be needed.

Water Pumped

Pumped in April	-	1967 ML (Internal Off Allocation Water)
Year to Date	-	25454 ML (End of Season 2022/23)
Last Year (2021/22)	-	30181 ML

Feasibility Study

We currently continuing with the Pump Station review and finalizing the proposed Stock and Domestic report.

The timeframe for all the final reports to be done is getting closer, with a lot of work going into meeting the deadline on time.

Maintenance

I am currently planning for the upcoming winter maintenance program, if you know of any channel banks or structures that need work done, please call me or your Channel Attendant.

Peter Hamilton
General Manager

Office Administration

Invoicing

May Stock & Domestic invoicing has been prepared and sent out.

Prompt payment would be appreciated.

A big thank you to those who paid the same day! WOW. Thank you.



Auditors

Our Auditors visit the Office on Thursday 11th May.

[Don't forget: AGM - Tues 22nd August]

Maintenance Employee

Congratulations to Brett Molnar, who has been appointed as our new General Maintenance employee. Brett lives in Tocumwal and is an experienced outdoor worker and is looking forward to the diversity the West Corugan role offers.

Brett will start Monday 22.05.2023 - once he has provided 'notice,' and had a mini-break.

Next month I will make sure we have a little EMPLOYEE PROFILE.

Gee, I hope he doesn't barrack for Collingwood! 😊

Best Wishes to Russell Sullivan

Russell required surgery on his knee last month, so has been off work recuperating for the past 4-weeks.

The surgery went well, so we hope to see Russell back on deck on 25th May.

It might need to be a stable, non-moving 'deck', but hopefully back and on the road to full recovery.



Update: Accounts - Feasibility Study

'Keeping you in the loop'.

Our Milestone invoice requesting that the 'Contingency' money of our funding total be released has been sent and approved. Just a bit slow in actually parting with the money!

An additional scope of works, price increases and rain delays necessitated all of this contingency money be made available.

The next Milestone was due 21.04.2023 - Submission of the Draft Feasibility Study Report, but this is quite not completed. This most likely will now be late-May, with the FINAL Report hopefully submitted to the Government late-June/July.

As at 30.04.2023, the Feasibility money has paid invoices to the value of \$694,496.47.



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

We are now into May, and the Modernisation Feasibility Study is nearing completion.

At its April meeting, the West Corugan Board received a final draft of the proposed stock and domestic scheme.

In what has proven to be a very detailed and comprehensive report from the sub consultants – Pinion Advisory – the Board is currently considering the report and its findings. Further information will be provided as the report is formally reviewed.

For those who would like to know a little more about the benefits from a landholders perspective of changing to a piped and pressurised S & D system – please click on the following link - www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZA_GW-YYKml . These are some reflections of landholders who are now connected to the Gunbar Water S & D system – well worth a five-minute look!

Several other project reviews have been completed, including the performance of the pump station, and a review of the discharge pipes from the pumps under the Corowa Rd and into the O'Dwyer Main.

In terms of the (hydraulic) performance of the pumps, the consultant engaged by the project - Phil Szabo from Saturn Engineering in Toowoomba – provided a glowing report on the condition of the pumps (4 of the 5 pumps were reviewed, as the 5th is currently being replaced). His comments were along the lines that he

couldn't believe how well the pumps were performing, given their age and usage. A ringing endorsement of the original design and installation, and of the West Corugan team who have maintained them exceptionally well over the years. This was a very pleasing outcome. There are some minor things that are required, and an electrical review is currently being concluded as well – which when combined, will provide an extremely comprehensive review of the pumps and pump station.

The report on the condition of the discharge pipes from the pump station into the O'Dwyer Main was not as rosy – there are some issues around the condition of the pipes, with some movement at the joins and some leakage. A number of options, from full replacement to repairing with various products, were presented to the Board, which are currently being considered.

The results from the soil coring are yet to be received – but are not far away. This information will be an important 'piece of the puzzle' when trying to quantify the water losses (and ultimately potential water savings) of any modernisation options. We will keep members informed as results come to hand.

Many of you may have seen additional survey teams 'out and about' over the last couple of weeks. They are filling in some data gaps and establishing survey control points and benchmarks across the network to allow any future works (whether they be part of a modernisation project or something else) to be designed, costed and constructed correctly.

A consultant has been engaged to review issues around rainwater runoff and associated drainage issues. They are using LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) imagery to develop a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) over the West Corugan area. This will show rises and depressions in the landscape and identify individual 'catchments' where water is captured and where it flows. We will then be overlaying the West Corugan channel network to see where flow paths intersect with West Corugan infrastructure to determine what is required. Importantly, we then need to 'ground truth' the results, so that we can see if there are existing subways to allow water to pass underneath channels, what size and condition etc these are in. A large and important piece of work – and one that the Board, and no doubt many members, will be keen to see the results of.

One of the last components of the project is to complete a cost-benefit analysis of the various options being considered. This will allow the Board, you as members, and potentially Government to fully understand the range of costs and benefits, and to who they accrue, of various individual options. We are still waiting to receive a final detailed proposal to complete this task – but is not too far off.

The hope and intent are to have a final report on the entire modernisation Feasibility Study to be provided to the Board in June. This report will be the culmination of a huge amount of work completed over the last 6 months. On behalf of the Project Team, I'd like to thank you as members for your involvement and interest to date, the Australian Government for their on-going commitment to, and funding of, this project, and Water Infrastructure NSW for their continued support and high-level management of the project.

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. [Email: aksadvisory@outlook.com](mailto:aksadvisory@outlook.com)

Thank you, Adrian - I love the detail.





And now for something a bit lighter

Keeping someone honest:

The story goes.....

A certain Member was looking to sell some temporary water.

The price was very, very low, but what the heck, he thought he might at least get to go out for dinner.

Naturally, I took the opportunity to remind that perhaps he could buy someone special a beautiful bunch of flowers.

'Yeah, I suppose I could do that too', he said.

I sold the water!

So, Come on (246), did you buy the flowers?!!!



From the April issue.....Just letting you know.....

The Women's Australia Spirit AFL Team WON!

38 points to 27.



Alexandra said she played OK.
She played mid-field and half forward.

Half-forward!!

I think she left out the word 'pocket'!

It rained the entire match!

Cleared a bit at the end.

The Men's Australian Spirit AFL Team GOT FLOGGED!

Alexandra's words, not mine.





Alexandra is the short one....
 Back row LHS,
 5th person, green jumper.



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

Expression of Interest to Irrigate - Season 2023/2024

Contact Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

	Spring			Summer			Autumn		
Laterals	Farm No.	Area (Ha)	Crop Type	Farm No.	Area (Ha)	Crop Type	Farm No.	Area (Ha)	Crop Type
Lateral 1									
Lateral 2									
Lateral 3									
Lateral 4									
Lateral 5									
Lateral 6									
Lateral 7									
Lateral 8									
Lateral 9									
O'Dwyer Main									

Please contact to the office via email: info@corurgan.com.au or Phone Number: (03) 58852392