

CORURGAN COMMENT



Work has started. Where am I?

Circ. No 06 - 2026
June 2026

Welcome to the June 2026 Corurgan Comment Newsletter.

Winter is here already, the crops are starting to really get going now. The rain has kept everything ticking over nicely, it's a great start to the winter growing season, lets hope it keeps going.

The irrigation season was relatively good, we budgeted on pumping 30,000ML for the season, we ended up pumping 38,945ML. As you can see by the below table showing the 20 year average, the dry Spring contributed to above average water pumped, the hot dry summer also resulted in more water being pumped than average, even though we had less summer crops planted, and the Autumn watering was just under average.

2025/2026	20 Year Average	
22%	59%	Allocation
12527	7515	Spring
18139	15964	Summer
8279	8772	Autumn
38945	32250	Year Total

Next season there is no guarantee that we will be able to deliver irrigation water. NSW DCCEEW has forecast a zero opening allocation, however this could change quite quickly if we get average to above average winter/spring rain in the catchment areas. See last pages.

Current Dam Levels

Dartmouth Dam – 65%

Hume Dam – 25%

We have some big winter works projects on this year. We will replace Lateral 8 Regulator in the O'Dwyer Main Canal. We will be fitting new Aquamonix magflow meters to the remaining four pumps at the Corowa pump site; this is a compliance project that needs to be completed by June 30th 2026.

We have installed a new regulator on Lateral 5D just off the Riverina Hwy. This new regulator is fitted with a rubber flap similar to a Padman style irrigation outlet. We want to trial this as an alternative to using redgum boards to control the flow of water through our regulators. It should give us more flexibility in flow control and should be easier for the Channel Attendants to operate, less back and neck injuries from lifting the heavy boards out.

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

Peter Hamilton

Office Administration

Invoicing

- I remind that the July half-yearly fee invoices will be raised and sent out early July.
- **Please pay all outstanding invoices by 30th June. As we get closer you will be reminded.**

Office

- The Board will meet on Tuesday 16th June for our combined Budget Meeting and June Monthly Meeting. This is a full-day meeting, so I better provide something a bit more sustaining than Tim Tam biscuits!
- The Auditors have been and gone but will be back on 14th and 15th July.

Early Reminder: The AGM will be on TUESDAY 25 AUGUST – 5:00pm. Oaklands RSL Bowling Club.

Lateral 8 Regulator

Replacing the Lateral 8 Regulator during our maintenance window is one of our top priorities.

Design drawings were prepared, Tenders sought and approved by the Board.

West Corugan has finished our work to block off the ODM and prepare the area for trucks to drive over etc, so we are all systems go for the Contractors to start after the long weekend.

- Focus Engineering will be building the actual concrete structure,
- Druitt Earthworks will be doing all the earthworks, and
- Rubicon will be providing the flume gates and telemetrics.

All work is to be completed by 30th July 2026.

This is the first of the work we will be self-funding and paying for from the Future Fund Levy money. I will keep you informed and provide photos of the progress as we go along.

Below are photos of the Regulator (no wonder it is a priority!) and the preparation work we have done.



Yep! Definitely needs replacing!





Started.....



Taking Shape.....



Getting there.....



Looking Good.....



Thank you Tony, Brett and Ben.

I know you all want rain, but.....

This job is important and we only have a short window of opportunity.

Fingers crossed it rains all around, but not on, the Lateral 8 Regulator work site.



More Maintenance – We are in full swing.....



Someone can't drive straight or doesn't know how wide their tractor is!

Wiped out one side of the barriers on Swan Lagoon Road at the end of Lateral 2B.

All Good. Tony is on to it and now look how good they are.

All fixed and painted up a treat! With reflectors!



Sincere Condolences

In the May Corurgan Comment, I said:

'They say bad news comes in three's'.... I sincerely hope not.

Regrettably, my hope was dashed and that little phrase has proven to be true. 😞



Sadly, Simon Phillips, father of Keith Phillips, has passed away.

Simon died suddenly on Thursday 21st May.

His funeral was held 29th May.

Simon and his family have lived, supported and farmed in our West Corurgan community, and Keith and his family now continue his father's hard work, as they also farm within West Corurgan and the surrounding area.

Our Deepest Condolences to Simon's wife Catherine and to Keith and his sister, Jenny, and their extended families.

Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) – Water Markets Reform.

It would seem that, the BOM subscribes to the old adage.... *'Rome wasn't built in a day.'*
Technical issues have delayed parts of their portal being operational, so we have yet to provide the information they need simply to commence the 'Testing Phase'. Grrrr.....
I will keep you informed.....

But I remind.....

Your support in providing the information required will be the key.

End of Season

All the final usage readings have been recorded and final season water usage invoices sent out.
All Group Detailed Statements have also been emailed up to 31.05.2026.
If you need to, or want to, buy water, please do it ASAP.

Water NSW will be closing all External Water Transfers on Tuesday 16th June.

DO NOT ring on the 16th June and say you want to transfer water IN or OUT of West Corugan AND expect it to happen.

That would not go down well.

West Corugan will cease all trades on Friday 19th June.

Water Trades in April 2026

The price of temporary water remained stubbornly high during May.

In **May 2026**, the office processed (ie: finalised):

Internal Trades - 5

External IN Trades - 8

External OUT Trades - 1

The Board also transferred and traded water.

PERMANENT WATER FOR SALE

Three WCPID Members have permanent water to sell.

All three are supportive of West Corugan and are looking to sell within the Scheme.

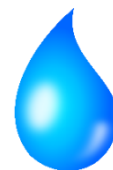
650 Water Entitlements.

200 Water Entitlements.

150 Water Entitlements with Delivery Entitlements.

Will sell in smaller parcels.

If genuinely interested, please contact the Office.



LET'S BE HAPPY..... 😊

In honour of all the dirt Tony and the guys have moved....

Why did the dirt break up with the shovel?
It felt like it was being taken for granite.

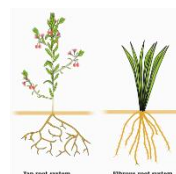


What did the dirt say to the rain?
"You'd better cut it out, or my name will be mud!"

I tried keeping a gardening secret, but the soil kept spilling the dirt.



The soil started a podcast about gardening because it wanted to plant ideas.



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

Outlook for 2026–27

A water availability outlook for the start of the next water year (1 July 2026) is provided below. The outlook is indicative only, not guaranteed, and should be used with caution, particularly when projecting many months ahead. Nevertheless, it aims to help water users with their end of year water management decisions.

Indicative allocations on 1 July 2026 for the 2026–27 water year – Lower Darling

- The Menindee Lakes System is around 34% full, holding some 592 GL as of 14 April 2026. About 224 GL of this volume is stored in Lake Cawndilla.
- The Menindee resource is currently shared with other states, under the Murray Darling Basin Agreement, as the system is holding more than 480 GL.
- Full (100%) allocation can be expected for all higher priority entitlements in 2026–27, including local water utility, domestic and stock and high security access licences.
- Full allocations (100%) for supplementary access licences can be expected and is available subject to announced periods of supplementary access.
- We are closely monitoring the resources and operational conditions, including the delivery constraints from Lake Cawndilla to the Lower Darling when the upper and lower lakes are no longer connected. It is currently anticipated that opening allocations for general security access licences will be low.

Indicative allocations on 1 July 2026 for the 2026–27 water year – NSW Murray

- Full (100%) allocation can be expected for local water utility and domestic and stock access licences, as well as sub-category high security entitlements.
- High security (excluding sub-categories) users can expect their full opening allocation of 97%.
- Conveyance is expected to be allocated in accordance with the plan rules.
- The average general security balance is currently 26%, though individual balances may vary. Individuals can carryover their closing balances up to 50% of their entitlement.
- **The current assessment is predicting no opening allocation for general security water users.** The allocation will be subject to inflow and losses to 30 June 2026 and any forfeiture of allocated water on 1 July 2026.
- The current Barmah-Millewa Environmental Water Allowance account balance is approximately 172 GL, which is currently borrowed to support 2025–26 general security allocations. In accordance with the water sharing plan, the balance will remain fully borrowed on 1 July 2026, with resource improvements providing payback before general security allocations can exceed 30%.

- Full opening allocations (100%) for supplementary access licence holders can be expected and is available subject to announced periods of supplementary access.

Chances of Improvement

The chances of NSW Murray general security allocations, against repeat of historical inflows, are provided in the table below. The simulation is based on a design water use pattern with no consideration of current weather conditions. Accordingly, the results are indicative only, not guaranteed, and should be used with caution.

Simulated general security allocations (%)

Repeat of historical inflow conditions	1 September 2026	1 November 2026
Pre 2004 minimum	0%	0%
Very dry (90% exceedance)	0%	5%
Dry (75% exceedance)	5%	20%
Median (50% exceedance)	15%	30%

Note 1: Forecast incorporates Murrumbidgee regulated end of system flows.

Note 2: Any water carried into 2026–27 water year is to be added to these indicative allocations with individual accounts not exceeding 110%.

River Murray weekly report (for the week ending 8 April 2026)

- Releases from the Menindee Lakes System continue to support demands in the lower Darling and the River Murray system whilst managing water quality risks upstream of Weir 32.
- The flow to South Australia decreased target flow rate of 9,600 ML/day to 9,200 ML/day.
- The release from Yarrowonga Weir decreased from 6,000 ML/day to 5,000 ML/day and will remain at this rate in the coming week.
- The MDBA has released its end-October update to the Annual Operating Outlook: [River Murray System Annual Operating Outlook | Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)

Water sharing plan rules (NSW Murray)

This statement includes plain language information on the plan rules relevant to water allocation below. This is based on our knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. Water users should verify the information as required before making any water management decision.

- Domestic and stock, local water utility, and high security sub-category access licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of their share component at the start of the water year. These licences cannot carry over unused balances into the next water year.

- High security access licences are to receive full allocation of 97% at the start of the water year and cannot carry over any unused balances into the next water year. If general security licences are allocated 97% or more, high security must be increased to 100% of their entitlement.
- Conveyance access licences receive an allocation of 50% after all higher priority categories have been fully allocated and cannot carry over any unused balances into the next water year. These licences are allocated incrementally based on GS allocations.
- General security access licences are to receive allocations after all higher priority categories have been fully allocated, and the conveyance licences have received their 50% allocation. GS accounts can carry over up to 50% of entitlement into the next water year and have a limit of 110% of entitlement.
- Planned environmental water allowances include the Barmah-Millewa Allowance, the Murray Additional Allowance, the River Murray Increased Flows.
- Supplementary water access licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the water year, unless a growth-in-use measure is required. The closing balance cannot be carried over into the next water year.

Useful links

- Water allocation guide – We published a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for these water sources are available at the following link: [Resource assessment process | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation statement – The water allocation statement for all water sources is available at the following link: [Water allocation statements | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – The dashboard on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources is available at the following link: [Allocations dashboard | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water sharing plan – The water sharing plan for these water sources is available at the following link: [Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers Water Sources 2016](#)

Further information

The next water allocation statement for these water sources will be published on **Friday 1 May 2026 at 2:30 pm.**