

# CORURGAN

# COMMENT

Circ. No 06 - 2025  
June 2025



Welcome to the June 2025 Corurgan Comment.

Our application to the NSW Government for \$154,680,255 of funding for our Modernisation Project has suddenly started to move. The application includes two major projects.

1. **A stand-alone Piped and pressurised Stock and Domestic system**
2. **Modernisation and upgrading of the West Corurgan Irrigation supply system.**

The NSW Government released our application for public comment on the 19/05/2025 until 30/05/2025.

Thank you to the Members that participated in the “Have Your Say” public feedback link. Our application will now be taken to the NSW Expert Panel on June 11<sup>th</sup> for assessment. As part of this assessment, any public comment received will be taken into consideration. If our application is assessed by The NSW Expert Panel as successful and it is recommended that the NSW Government supports our application, it will then proceed to the Federal Government for approval.

We will keep you informed of the decision the NSW Expert Panel makes as soon as we know.

The Corowa Pumps were turned off on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May, and all water was delivered by the 20<sup>th</sup> May. 63156ML of water was pumped this irrigation season; the largest volume since 2012/13 (65091ML). It was another very busy irrigation season.

## **Year to date Water Pumped**

July	- 0ML
August	- 3445ML
September	- 9049ML
October	- 5552ML
November	- 4548ML
December	- 7350ML
January	- 9510ML
February	- 8058ML
March	- 8408ML
April	- 4688ML
May	- 2548ML
<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>- 63156ML</b>

## **Current Dam Levels**

Dartmouth Dam – 71%  
Hume Dam – 29%

We are currently undertaking our winter maintenance program. I will be trialing a direct injection of chemical to the O’Dwyer Main for submerged ribbon weed via a Drone and spraying via a Drone on Lateral 8. This is a continuation of last year’s trial Drone spraying program.

Channel bank repairs, desilting and repairs to concrete structures are the priority this winter. If you do have any maintenance works that you think could be done before next irrigation season, please give me a call.

**Peter Hamilton**  
**General Manager**

## Office Administration

### Outstanding invoicing

It would be appreciated if all outstanding invoices could be paid by 30 June 2025.

Outstanding invoices will be invoices dated in April 2025 or older.

Please check your emails from January for the January half-year fee invoices and from May for those with Stock & Domestic licences.

Those who irrigate, you should not have any April or older Water Usages invoices still owing.

Sadly, a few do. You have been contacted and reminded, so prompt payment would be appreciated.



### Final Water Usage ML invoices

All end of season Water Usage ML invoices have been raised and emailed out on 30.05.2025.

All Group Detailed Statements have been finalised to **26.05.2025** and sent out 26.05.2025.

Any trades after this date, or still in the 'pipeline', will not show on this Group Statement.

We will send out FINAL Group Detail Statements once Peter '**closes off**' our **Water Access Management system for the year. This will be Friday 20 June.**

If you have a trade happening, prompt payment of all invoices is requested, both to WCPID and to the SELLER.



### Thank you

Thank you to those Members who responded to our email seeking feedback on your preferred proportional split (DE's or ML Usage fee or both) when deciding on a possible new levy.

You might argue that Members were only ever going to suggest an option that suits them.

Well, that was not the case.

Members realise that to improve all aspects of the Scheme is to benefit everyone, regardless of whether or not you irrigate. Members recognised that if the pumps breakdown, then we cannot do a dam-fill, regardless of if you irrigate or not. Members also recognised that a charge on the DE's provides a known income figure. A charge on the ML Usage Fee may fluctuate based on the ML used in any one season, so does not provide a known income figure. This is important when trying to raise funds and budget for future projects.

Others would argue we just need to recognise that fact and plan for a couple years longer.

It is these aspects of any decision that the Board will discuss at their Budget Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

So, thank you for those Member who expressed their thoughts. Engagement is always appreciated.



### Thank you

Thank you to those Members who responded to our email asking you to click on the link to NSW Government and 'Have your Say' and provide positive feedback about our proposed Modernisation Projects. Hopefully, through that Public Consultation process, the NSW Government will appreciate how vital West Corugan is to the Region.

That Public Consultation process has now closed, and our application has moved to the 'Expert Panel'. (Don't Ask!).

## General Policy Booklet

The review of our General Policy Booklet took a bit of a 'back seat' in May (Peter away and office very busy), and unfortunately June is not looking too flash either – (Budget and Auditor).

But we really only need a day of 'clear air', so I am still hopeful. Fingers Crossed.



## The Budget & 2025-2026 Schedule of Fees & Charges

The Board will meet on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June to discuss and prepare the 2025-2026 Budget. We will NOT have the FINAL 2025-2026 fees from IPART and WaterNSW by this time. Grrrr. IPART have provided an Information Paper advising their draft thoughts for the next three years. [This year is the end of the previous 5-year determination by IPART.]

WaterNSW submitted astronomical price increases for the 5-year determination period 2025-2030, but IPART have come back with a Draft for a period of 3-years only with a 1.9% price increase plus any CPI inflation increase for 2025-26 and plus CPI for the next two years.

Another component of the Water NSW fee structure is the WAMC prices. [Water Administration Ministerial Corporation. This is a statutory body responsible for water resource management in NSW]. We do not know by how much WaterNSW may increase this component of their fees. We do know that IPART's draft recommendation on the WAMC figures is a 7.7% increase for 2025-2026. BUT

They have opened the WAMC figures for public submissions, which doesn't close until 1<sup>st</sup> July! IPART has also said that the new WAMC figures will not commence until 1 October 2025. But this is a component of our fee structure. Our Schedule of Fees & Charges needs to go out before then, as too, do our July Half-yearly Network Access fees and our pass-through Government Fees.

**Bottomline:** Both components will not be known before 30.06.2025 and certainly, not before we prepare our budget on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June.

### So, I am just letting you know:

- the Half-yearly fees invoiced in July may be delayed. Still invoiced in July, but not as early as past years.
- Also, the 2025-2026 Schedule of Fees & Charges may also be issued late in July. Or it may be issued but then amended.
- Fees may need to be split into Quarters, depending on when we receive the final WaterNSW fees for 2025-20256



Frustrating!!

The ACCC is aware of this situation and has sent out an email advising that we will still be compliant with the regulations even if we publish late, as it is not our fault. We are relying on a State Agency, and it is the State Agency who is not providing the figures on time.

*The ACCC understands that IPART may be delayed in finalising its 2025 pricing determinations for WaterNSW and the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation. (WAMC)*

*Where there is delay on the part of the regulator, we understand infrastructure operators who impose or pass through charges determined or approved by the regulator to their customers may also face delays in listing the relevant 'pass through' charges on their schedule of charges.*

*Where such a delay results in an operator not being able to update, publish and distribute its schedule in time, as required by the rules, then rule 15(7) provides that an operator is taken to comply with the relevant timing requirements in rule 15 if:*

- *A schedule of charge includes charges that are required to be approved or determined by a State Agency or the ACCC; and*
- *The timing of the determination or approval of the charges prevents the operator from meeting the timing requirements in rule 15; and*
- *The operator performs the required actions as soon as practicable after the charges are determined or approved.*

From our budget point of view, it will be prepared based on a few assumptions and then amended in July once all figures are known.

As always, I will keep you informed. A second Corurgan Comment may come out late June.

### **Water Transfers:**

Busy! Busy! Busy!

Jasmeen has had to insert more pages into our Trade Folder!

West Corurgan has NO internal Water available to sell.

Remember, if you do buy or sell water, **please sign and return the paperwork promptly.**

Confirmation of the payment is also requested.

### **O'Dwyer Main Channel Sign.**

Tony Jolley our Maintenance Supervisor is not happy with me.

The sign.

He wanted to know who took the photo of the sign I put in last month's Corurgan Comment.

A: Me

Problem: The sign looks crooked.

Tony spent hours putting up the sign and used a spirit level six different ways to make sure it was straight and level. Only to have my photo make it look crooked. Not happy. 🙄

He was only slightly mollified when I explained I took the photo whilst leaning over the fence in thick, long grass, worried about snakes.

(Farm (175), did I mention the thick long grass!!). 😊

Mr David O'Dwyer, whose family the sign is dedicated to, came into the office to say, Thank you. He appreciated the sign being upgraded and re-erected.



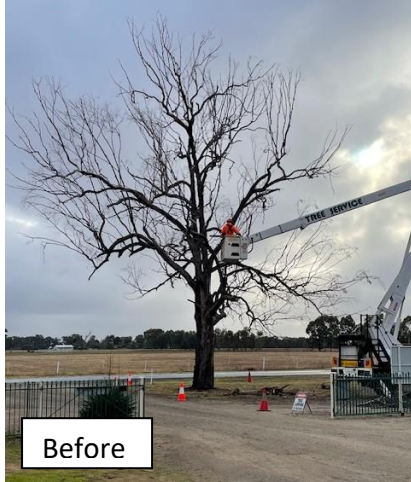
## Dead Tree Gone

If you usually drive to the West Corugan Office looking for the dead tree out the front so you know when to turn, well, you are now in trouble.

Dead Tree Gone!

We were scared a branch was going to drop, probably on a visitor's car, or on a director's Ute during a Board Meeting!

So, thank you to the Berrigan Shire. Dead Tree Gone. Sort of!



Unfortunately, the Contractors left a little stump in the ground. Low enough not to be seen, but high enough to slam into and not drive over. Grrrrr.

I think we will need reflectors and a witch's hat! Poor Man's Solution! 😊



## WEEDS!

Unfortunately, the section on weeds has too many pictures to allow the entire June Corugan Comment to be uploaded onto our website.

So, a PART 2 of the June Corugan Comment was created for the section on Weeds. The website will list June PART 1 and PART 2.

LET'S BE HAPPY..... 😊



*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