

# CORURGAN COMMENT

Circ. No 08 – 2024  
August 2024



Welcome to the August 2024 Corurgan Comment.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Life Member, Mr Jim Sandral. I had the pleasure to meet and talk with Jim on a many occasions, and he was a regular attendee at our AGM's. Jim gave WCPID 33 years of dedicated service and as such, his knowledge of WCPID was invaluable. We must acknowledge and remember the men and women that had the vision and determination to overcome all the obstacles encountered in firstly getting approvals to build West Corurgan and then individually contributing funds to build our infrastructure. This was an amazing community effort. Jim was there as a founding Member, and oversaw the successful construction and operation of your irrigation district as a Committeeman, Chairman and Director. I would like to extend my sincere condolences to the Sandral family.

We are all aware the Federal Government has in the past years bought over 2000 Gigalitres of water throughout the Murray Darling Basin. This water has been bought through individual buybacks and infrastructure upgrades, under the sales pitch of, *'delivering a healthy working Basin to benefit the environment, Basin communities and current and future generations'*.

I would like to see some of this water used within our district and delivered by our network of irrigation channels instead of sending it all downstream to South Australia and out to sea.

I believe that you, as landholders and farmers have a much better understanding of our local environment than any beaurocrat sitting in Sydney.

**I need you to tell me of any ideas or projects that you think would benefit from environmental water.**

You may have resident Brolgas or wetlands on your property, or native flora such as grasslands that provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. We could supply a base flow to the Billabong Creek. These are all ideas and it does not matter whether it is a small (5ML) or large (100ML) project, it all adds up.

**Get your thinking caps on and give me a call, I am more than happy to come out and discuss any ideas you may have.**

## **Allocation Announcement- (42%)**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July we received a General Security Allocation Announcement (AWD) of **32%** and then on the 15<sup>th</sup> July that AWD was increased by another **7%** to **42% AWD**. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of August there has been no increase in AWD for General Security water entitlement. The next announcement will be 15<sup>th</sup> August.

**The Pumps at Corowa will start on the 10<sup>th</sup> August to start filling the O'Dwyer Main Canal in preparation for the new irrigation season.**

**Please contact your Channel Attendant or me to place any orders for irrigation water.**

**I have a Member of West Corurgan currently wishing to purchase up to 200ML of Permanent Water Entitlement. If any Members would like to sell Permanent Water please contact the office and we can put you in touch.**

## **Current Dam Levels**

Dartmouth Dam – 95%

Hume Dam - 70%

## **Maintenance**

Winter works program  
Rebuild Daysdale Pump shed  
Install new motor and VSD for Pump 1 at Corowa Pump site

Please contact the Office or your Channel Attendant, if you need any assistance with any water related or maintenance matters.

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

## **Office Administration**

### **AUDIT**

Our Annual Audit has been completed.

The Auditor visited the office on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> & Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Yes! 2-days!

The Auditor's final 2023-2024 Financial Report has been forwarded to all our directors for review. It will be provided to all Members prior to the AGM, once signed by our Chair and the Registered Company Auditor, Peter Mogg.

### **INVOICING**

Thank you to those Members who have paid their July half-yearly fees.

For those that haven't.... PROMPT is good! 😊

### **Update: Accounts - Feasibility Study**

Still no news on our Application for Funding, apart from the government asking for some more detail on a couple of points.

### **Sincere Condolences**

It was a sad day to learn of the passing of Mr Jim Sandral.  
Jim died on 14.07.2024, with his funeral held on 18.07.2024.

On behalf of the entire West Corugan community we extend our Sincere Condolences to the Sandral Family.

Why the entire West Corugan community?

Simply because West Corugan and its current Members owe so much to Jim and the original West Corugan Irrigation League Committee who fought so hard to establish a Stock and Domestic and Irrigating Scheme.

Jim was a Founding Member of the Scheme and a Committeeman, Director, Chair, and Life Member. Jim was bestowed Life Membership in 1997 after 33 years of active service.

He was the inaugural Chair of the new West Corugan Board of Management after proclamation of the Scheme in 1976. He was Chair from 1976 to 1981.

His commitment to West Corugan cannot be denied, or undervalued.

In 2017 we held our 50<sup>th</sup> AGM.

Jim helped cut the Celebratory Cake we had made for the occasion.

I have a couple of photos. Not great photos, but nice mementos of a significant occasion.



Patrick Day and Jim Sandral cutting the 50<sup>th</sup> AGM Celebratory Cake.  
Michael Hawkins, Chairman, introducing.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Do not forget – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August, 5:00pm**

Guest Speakers from Rivalea will provide interesting insights.  
Fantastic 2-course dinner (Roast & Dessert) will be provided.

**\*\* West Corurgan is facing challenges we need to discuss, so please make the effort to attend. \*\***

## NEW MODEL RULES

The NEW MODEL RULES are still with Gerard McCarthy, Solicitor, for his expert opinion, but as soon as he has completed his review, I will forward to all Members.

It had been our intention to provide a copy of the NEW MODEL RULES to all Members in July for your review and comment and to then present as a **Resolution** to adopt the NEW MODEL RULES at the 27<sup>th</sup> August AGM.

Unfortunately, things and time have conspired against us.

The NEW RULES must be adopted by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

Another full-member meeting may be required.

Naturally, I will keep you informed.

## **DON'T FORGET - TANKER WATER DELIVERIES**

As we move into the start of the irrigation season, we will lose the ability to call on our three Water Bailiffs to help deliver tanker water if required.

That only leaves Brett and Tony.

As explained previously, we try to group together a few deliveries, so we have a full 'delivery day'.

**Therefore, we request three-days' notice if you require a tanker load of water.**

If we can provide sooner, we will, but the guys plan their work the previous day, so they may already be committed on the day you ring.



## Congratulations

Congratulations to our very own Brett Molnar.

When Brett first started with WCPID I let you know that he was a good golfer, (very good).

Well, he has just gone through the Golf Pennant season undefeated!

And won the pennant!

Yeh, Brett.



## Look What I Found!

Brett and I were in our storage shipping container rearranging boxes, ready for the new batch of boxes, when I found this. It is certainly not current, but I thought some of our members might appreciate the trip down memory lane.

The Calculator involves sliding an inner sleeve up or down depending on the type of Crop or Pasture and the front and back then provide the appropriate salinity levels or tolerances. Simple by effective.



# Soil & Water Salinity Calculator

Use this calculator to convert between common salinity units for soil and water salinity (equivalent values are given in the boxes below). You can also estimate land classes based on **soil salinity** ( $EC_e$ ). The reverse side shows water quality benchmarks and the salinity tolerance of local crops and pastures. For further information perform soil tests & consult your local salinity officer or agronomist.

**dS/m**  
deci-Siemens per metre

↓

**ppm**  
parts per million  
(Total Dissolved Solids)  
mg/l

↓

**µS/cm**  
micro-Siemens per centimetre  
(EC Units)

↓

=

Based on:  
1 dS/m = 1000 EC (µS/cm) = 640 ppm

For this level of **soil salinity** ( $EC_e$ ) your Land Management Class is:

**Class A** 0 – 2 dS/m  
**Low Salinity**

**Class B** 2 – 6 dS/m  
**Moderate**

**Class C** 6 – 15 dS/m  
**High Salinity**

**Class D** Over 15 dS/m  
**Extreme**

affected. May be visible signs.  
**Class A:** No effect on production from salinity.

### Quality Limits for Water Salinity, $EC_w$ (in dS/m)

Distilled Water	0	Absolute limit for people	2.5
Desirable limit for people	0.83	Limit for mixing herbicides	4.7
Tastes salty	1.7	Seawater	55+
Irrigation Water Quality	0-0.8	Good quality, low salinity irrigation water suitable for most conditions	
	0.8-2.3	Use only on well-drained soils with good leaching potential. Avoid irrigation of salt sensitive plants or shallow watertable areas.	
	Over 2.3	Not suitable for irrigation under normal conditions.	
Note 1. If water salinity is high, shandy with low salinity channel water before irrigation			
2. Sodium in water can damage soil structure if SAR is above 5			

1 Megalitre (Ml) = 1 000 000 litres = 1000 cubic metres  
= 100 mm depth over 1 hectare = 0.83 acre foot

### Soil Salinity Tolerance of Crops & Pastures, $EC_e$ (in dS/m)

Select your crop or pasture. Read off the **soil salinity** ( $EC_e$ ) in dS/m. Threshold value is the average **rootzone** soil salinity at which salts begin to affect growth. Beyond this value yield decline can be expected. These values are a **guide only**, and can vary with soil type, leaching potential, irrigation method and stage of plant growth.

Plant Type	Crop or Pasture	Soil Salinity $EC_e$ (in dS/m)	
		Threshold	25% yield loss
<input type="text" value="Perennial Pasture"/>	<input type="text" value="Lucerne"/>	<input type="text" value="2.0"/>	<input type="text" value="6.2"/>



For more information contact Simon Gibbs at NSW Salt Action Denilquin

4th Printing, 1998

White Cl

(03) 5881 9999

## Definition of Aspirations



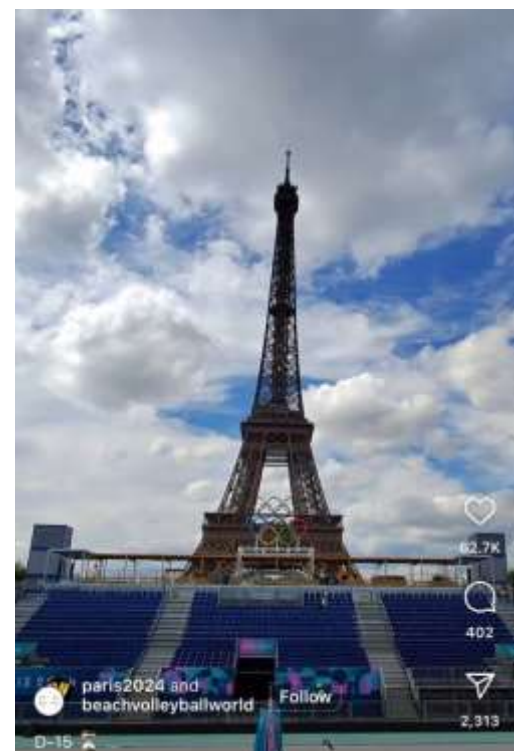
Obviously, Peter, it doesn't pay to have a day-off.

### **Are you Jealous? I am!**

This photo was taken at the site of the Olympic Beach Volleyball.  
And my intrepid daughter was there.

The fact she was only in Europe a total of 7-nights and only on French soil for 4-nights, didn't seem to factor into the equation.  
Beach Volleyball, Trampolining, Athletics and Tennis – all within 3-days.  
She was glad she went!

The Beach Volleyball was at the foot of the Eiffel Tower!



**BE HAPPY** 😊

In keeping with the French Theme.....

Q: Why do the French like eating snails?

A: Because they don't like Fast Food!



*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