

CORURGAN COMMENT

Circ. No 09 – 2023
September 2023



Welcome to the September 2023 Corugan Comment.

I would like to thank all of the Members that attended the 56th Annual General Meeting on Tuesday the 22nd of August. The evening ran very smoothly, our new Chairman, Max Arnold kept us on time as we went through the Agenda.

The Members that attended the AGM unanimously voted to accept the resolution outlined below:

Resolution: *To Accept and Adopt the West Corugan Board of Directors' proposal to reduce the number of zones within West Corugan Private Irrigation District from five to four. The existing boundary between zone four and zone five is to be removed, combining the two zones into one zone, hereafter referred to as Zone 4. Each remaining zone will continue to have equal representation of two Directors on the West Corugan Board. A maximum of eight Directors to be elected.*

A map is on display in the Berrigan office showing the new zone layout.

Michael McBurnie and Adrian Smith presented a report on the Feasibility Study that WCPID has undertaken over the last year. The report outlined all of the categories that have been investigated and gave some preliminary results. A more detailed report will be given at a series of upcoming meetings. Dates and venues will be announced very soon.

I would like to thank the Oaklands RSL Club for the use of their excellent venue, the meal was delicious and the service provided by the catering staff was great. Special thanks to Leeanne for co-ordinating the event and the set-up of the room for us. Thank you to Ken Mollison for opening up early for me.

In the interest of keeping Members fully informed, please be advised that during 2022 and 2023 the Department of Planning and Environment has undertaken a review of the Water Management Amendment Act 2010 (NSW) specifically relating to Private Irrigation Districts and Private Water Trusts. The key aims of the review were to:

- cut red tape by reducing the need to seek the NSW Governor's or the Water Minister's approval for administrative matters
- give Schemes more flexibility to make and amend their own rules

The review is expected to be completed and **changes to be implemented by December 2023.**

The review has provided one obvious change for Private Irrigation District's.

Within the Act, PID's will now be known as Private Water Corporations.

Let me stress, our Business Name does not change and we are not a corporation in an accounting or taxation sense.

It is a title that applies only within the Water Management Act.

[We did advise the Dep't that we thought this was a very confusing choice of words to use.]

New rules have been developed in line with the two key objectives and a template of the model rules provided to all PID's so as to make it easier for them to implement these new rules. Many of which were previously in the Water Management Act anyway, but which now will form the complete West Corurgan Rules or Policy Book.

As part of the Amendments these **new rules must be adopted by the Members. Therefore, they will be presented at the 2024 AGM for Member acceptance.**

Naturally, they will be distributed to all Members prior to August 2024 for review and comment.

Another requirement is that a Board election must be held.

West Corurgan's Board elections were scheduled for the second-half of 2024, but we have been advised the **new elections must be finalised by June 2024.** Therefore, we will **commence the election process mid-January 2024.**

For those interested in standing for Board election please keep this earlier timeframe in mind.

We have received the template of Rules for Private Water Corporations only this week, but we will now proceed to compile the Rules specifically to West Corurgan. This will be an extensive task.

I will continue to keep Members informed.

Water

August pumping – 1434ML (Supplementary Water)

Year to Date – 2446ML (Supplementary Water)

Peter Hamilton
General Manager

Office Administration

I'm Back!

Boy, was the 5.24am alarm hard to take the first morning.

Office

Jasmeen has been busy during my absence with finalising the audit, preparing for the AGM, all office requirements and dealing with increased water trades.

A big thank you to Jasmeen.

It makes it so much easier not to come back to a huge backlog of work.



AUGUST AGM

Although I was unable to attend, Jameen & Peter advised that our 2023 AGM was well attended and went well.

I was pleased to hear that Members accepted and adopted the West Corurgan Board of Directors' proposal to reduce the number of zones within West Corurgan Private Irrigation District from five to four.

An election of the Board will be held early/mid next year.

Thank you to Michael McBurnie and Adrian Smith for providing the feasibility study update.

The Minutes for the 2023 AGM will be provided to Members once the Board has approved (to the best of their recollection) at the September Board Meeting.

The official Minutes will be ratified by Members at the 2024 AGM.

Thank you once again to the Leeanne Dalitz and the Members of the Oaklands RSL Bowling Club.

P.S. I also heard the projector and microphone were a great addition to our little 'get together', so that was also pleasing to hear.

All in all, I think I will book a holiday for August again next year. 😊😊

Debbie

Wanting to Sell Allocation (temporary) Water?

If you have allocation water you are thinking of selling, let the office know and we can place it on our website, or we may already know of a Member wishing to buy water.

WE ARE NOT WATER BROKERS but are happy to connect both parties.

The cost of an internal temporary transfer is \$55.00, charged to the Purchaser.

Update: Accounts - Feasibility Study

As at 31.08.2023, the Feasibility money has paid invoices to the value of **\$1,223,868.98**.

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

Hello to all West Corurgan members.

It is an exciting time for West Corurgan!

After an exhaustive 12 months, the Feasibility Study on potential modernisation of your Scheme is just about complete. All the sub-projects have finished, and the final report is being prepared as this newsletter 'goes to print'!

Those of you who attended the recent Annual General Meeting would have got a 'sneak peek' into the range of investigations completed – and hopefully were left with a good feeling about the level of detail, thoroughness and breadth of investigations completed.

As indicated at the AGM and in the previous 'Corurgan Comment', there will be a series of smaller 'local' meetings where we encourage (and invite) members to come along and hear a lot more detail on the outcomes of the study. The Board and the Project team are keen to understand your thoughts, and what you think West Corurgan should consider/implement or change (if anything) as a result of this work. Four meetings have been scheduled, corresponding to your four voting zones.

What are you going to be presented with?

Members will be provided with more detail about the work completed, the likely costs and benefits, and what your Board's *vision* is for a potentially modernised West Corurgan Scheme. We will also outline the next (potential) steps in putting a modernisation project in place. We will be seeking your questions, thoughts, comments, and suggestions – both for and against.

What is in front of you as a member is possibly a once in a generation opportunity to see a significant investment in modernising your Scheme – to secure a productive and profitable system, delivering irrigation and stock and domestic water reliably and efficiently for the next 50-plus years. But with any such opportunity comes risks and costs. Your Board wants you to have the necessary information to allow you to make the best-informed decisions possible.

A specific meeting invite will be sent to all Members shortly. It is planned for these meetings to take place in the last week of September into the first week of October – but look out for the meeting invite when it arrives in your inbox or mailbox shortly!

As the project draws to an end, 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.

Adrain Smith

Rumour (as fact).

I heard a rumour.....

A certain West Corugan Member is open to bribery.

True.

The currency?

Sponge Cake!

Preferably light and fluffy with cream!

And

Rumour further has it, the bribe was paid!

Extortion within WCPID. Shocking.



WOW! - Look how high it is!!



Peter Bolt's new Ute



Peter's new ute.

Let's hope he can manage to not get bogged for at least a week.

Last year Peter won the Award for 'Champion At Getting Bogged'!

Say no more.

Looks nice and clean. No wonder he likes it so much.

I must say, he thought he looked pretty good in his new ute.

Russell visited the office.....

It looks like retirement is agreeing with him.



Pyjamas and slippers???



I think he was taking the 'mickey' out of the guys.



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