

CORURGAN COMMENT

Circ. No 11 – 2023
November 2023



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Welcome to the November 2023 Corurgan Comment.

I am back from a road trip up to Darwin to go fishing with my brothers and some good friends. We had a great time, and despite some of Debbie's cheeky comments, I did catch plenty of fish, mostly sharks, hahaha!

A trip like this provides an opportunity to see our vast country and observe the different and variable conditions that farmers and stations have to deal with between here and the 'Top End'. There were plenty of fat cattle up north, and lots of grass from a good wet season last year. We saw camels and wild buffalo, plenty of kangaroos and of course those really big lizards (crocodiles!!).

It was Mango season up there as well, so that was good timing.

Travelling back down through Hillston I noticed harvest was well underway. The crops didn't look too bad, but I would have to say that during the entire trip I did not see any better crops than those growing here within our own district.

The one thing that stood out to me the most during my travels was irrigation. Whenever you came across an irrigation area after travelling for hours or days across wide open plains or rocky scrubby ridges, the richness and vibrance of an irrigation area just jumped out at you. Whether it was mangos up north or vegetables out at Mataranka, cotton out around the Katherine or Bourke, horticulture and viticulture around Griffith, the investment and production in these areas really shows what can be achieved with water.

Back here in our district we received good rain early in October after a fairly dry September. This rain event shut our pumps down for a few days. WaterNSW announced Supplementary water availability from 07/10/2023 until 21/10/2023, this allowed us to pump most of the remaining water on our Supplementary water license, there is only 461ML remaining.

Summer crop plantings have started and it looks like we will have a fairly steady summer demand.

The remaining two trial Slip Meters have been installed, we will monitor their performance over the next two seasons.

Water

Supplementary Water pumped in October – 2152 ML

General Security Water Pumped in October – 1889 ML

Total water pumped in October – 4041 ML

Year to Date – 12713 ML (Including 4599ML of Supplementary Water)

Peter Hamilton
General Manager

Office Administration

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you for your support of the Board.

The turnout for the Feasibility Study Consultative Member Meetings held in Oaklands and Savernake was excellent.

Thank you.

Members were keen to hear the findings of the Feasibility Study and to learn of the likely direction for West Corurgan moving forward.

The Members at both meetings endorsed the Board moving forward to submit an 'Application for Funding' with the Government.

The entire Board was very appreciative of the support and positive feedback they received.

If you would like a bound hard copy of the Power Point slides shown, please contact the office.

Interest

West Corurgan charges interest on outstanding invoices two months overdue from invoice date.

EG: **A July invoice needs to be paid by 30.09.2023** to avoid paying interest.

So, if you haven't paid your July Half-yearly Fee invoices then you have been charged interest.

The interest charged is as per the advertised NSW Supreme Court Pre-Judgement Interest Rate.

Effective 1st July 2023 this has **increased from 7.1% to 8.1%**.

What does this mean: Well if you haven't paid your July half-yearly fees (and sadly there are a few of our Members in this situation) then you will be **charged 8.1% interest**.

EG: 200WE & 200DE = \$3,090 invoice = \$20.86 each month until paid. It soon adds up!

I remind that interest is not charged on a previous interest invoice.



Selling Allocation Water

We have allocation water listed for sale on our website, which has been listed for some time.

If you have advised that you would like to sell water, please review the price you originally were previously willing to sell it for, and if you wish to change the value, please contact the office.

2024 Election of Board Directors

This is another early reminder that the Election of the Board will be held in the first half of next year.

Members are encouraged to consider standing for election.

Call for Nominations will probably be early-to-mid-March.

So, please consider the future of West Corurgan and if you would like to be a part of the decisions that shape that future.

Also, please feel free to speak to any of the current Directors if you have any questions about the role of the Board or being on the Board.

Max Arnold (Chair), Sam Nixon (Deputy), Gordon Fox (Company Secretary), Peter Day, Michael Hawkins, Geoff Moar, James Nixon, Lawry Simpson.

Update: Accounts - Feasibility Study

During October we paid invoices totalling \$21,294.72 (excl GST) related to the Feasibility Study.

As at 31.10.2023, the Feasibility money had paid invoices to the value of **\$1,311,563.40 (excl GST)**.

As at 31.10.2023 the money sitting in the Feasibility Funding Bank Account = \$98,159.54.

The Final Funding Milestone has not yet been submitted - \$81,200 + GST.

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

Hello to all West Corurgan members.

Many of you might be pleased to know this is likely the last you will be hearing from myself in the *Corurgan Comment!*

Whilst it only seems like yesterday when we started work on the Feasibility Study (a bit over 12 months ago now), the good news is that it is in the final throws of completion!

The November Board meeting should see a presentation on the final (albeit important) component of the Feasibility Study – that is the Cost-Benefit Analysis. This report will provide an economic analysis of the various options that have been considered and will provide the Board (and others) with a ‘snapshot’ of the relative dollar value and economic impacts of the proposed modernisation of the Scheme.

Once this final piece of the puzzle is endorsed, it will be a relatively short turn-around to finalise the overall Feasibility Study, and for the Board to then present to the State and Federal Governments.

So, whilst this first stage of the modernisation project winds up, the (potentially) really exciting part of the process may just be beginning - with the opportunity for the Board to discuss potential funding opportunities. This may lead to 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. I have no doubt the Board and your Management Team will keep you well informed about what happens next and have the utmost trust that any decisions the Board ultimately makes will be in the best interest of you as Members and the West Corurgan community generally.

As the project draws to an end, on behalf of the Project Manager – Michael McBurnie - 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. In particular, we’d like to thank those who attended the recent round of Member meetings – which given the short notice, were well attended. The questions, comments and feedback provided gave the Board the ‘shot in the arm’ needed to know Members were generally very happy with the outcomes of the Study and the direction being taken.

It has been a challenging but rewarding process, and whilst it has taken a little longer than originally planned, the quality, caliber, and in-depth nature of the studies will provide a lasting legacy for West Corurgan – no matter what path you, your Management Team and your Board choose.

I would also like to take the opportunity to recognise the Board for the trust they have placed in undertaking the Feasibility Study, for their forward thinking, diligence, and willingness to think ‘outside the square’. No doubt this has been a challenging process for them at times, but from our perspective, they have always acted with the best interests of Members and the Scheme very much at the forefront of their thinking.

Lastly, we’d like to acknowledge the West Corurgan Management team – Peter, Debbie, and Jasmeen. They have worked tirelessly and diligently throughout the Feasibility, providing information, advice, and constructive feedback. You are extremely lucky to have them working on your behalf!

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.

Answer me this.....

Do you think it is a good idea to drive 3,776.8 klm to catch ONE fish!

And not even a huge fish. Just an ordinary fish!

Sure, it was a Queen fish, but even I know that is not as good as a King fish.

Eight days driving and more than 13-days non-stop fishing for ONE fish.

Peter assures me he had heaps 'on the line'.

Yeah. Yeah. Heard that before. Sounds like justification to me.

Did I mention **ONE** fish!!

And he calls himself a fisherman. Phiff!



Revenge is Sweet

You may remember a certain Director's blue Toyota Landcruiser being bogged back in April of this year.
He made the Corurgan Comment.
Well, Revenge is Sweet.
That same Director needed to rescue our beloved Water Bailiff, Ben Kerr, out of a very sticky situation.
Apparently, Ben wasn't going anywhere!
Actually, he was..... sideways into the channel!

Oh, the indignity of it all.
Pulled out backwards by a tractor!
Not only that... Pulled out backwards by a tractor driven by a Director!! 😊



However, my question is who hasn't controlled their Patterson's Curse!?
Because that, sure as hell, isn't Lavender!



Berrigan Races

Congratulations to the organisers of the Berrigan Races.
It was a lovely day.
Not too windy, so all the lovely hats stayed in place.
Not too hot, so all the handsome gents in jackets and ties didn't melt.

And speaking of handsome gentlemen.....
Our very own Richard Nixon (128) won GENTLEMAN OF THE DAY in the Fashion on the Field competition.
He looked very smart. I think it was the orange tie with matching orange rose in the lapel that got him over the line.
Very 'on-trend' was our Richard.
Not too many men can carry-off an orange tie and orange rose with such aplomb.
Congratulation, Richard.

Lesley Moar (225) and I got off to a flying start in the betting stakes by picking the winner of the first race – Tottnaham Hotspur (thank you Ange Postecoglou for the connection).
Sadly, our financial success for the day did not progress from there.
But it was fun to have a flutter.
Mr Ball, the Bookie, was very happy to see our naive faces before each race! 😊
Until next year.....



The Power of the Editor

In the past I have resorted to Nepotism once or twice as I used (abused) my position as 'Editor' of the Corurgan Comment. 😊

But only for good! Your good.

Did I not provide a great article, written by a qualified Dietician, on the benefits of Walnuts? 

Did I not lift your spirits and enlighten you on the existence of the AFL Australian Spirits Football Teams about to play Aussie Rules in France? (The women won!)

The fact that my daughter wrote the walnut article and played in the women's team was only a small component of sharing this information. Truly. 😊

I was thinking of you guys. 😊

Well, nepotism strikes again. But once again, only for good. Your good. Promise.

Now, I know we have a couple of keen golfers.

Farm (91) springs to mind.

So, this article is all for you.

Actually, the article is applicable to everyone.

Anyone working for extended periods and needing to stay mentally sharp could benefit.

We don't want accidents happening because you are dehydrated or lacking energy.

Read on.....



Note: In the Berry Oats Recipe, the list of ingredients is missing the Oats!!

Let me tell you how pleased Alexandra was to learn of that!

Add 1/2 cup of rolled oats. The Traditional Oats, not the 2-minute oats.



[This recipe is for one serve.]

I made this recipe, and you don't need two bananas for one serve.

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