

CORURGAN COMMENT

Circ. No 12 – 2023
December 2023



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Welcome to the December 2023 Corurgan Comment.

Harvest of the winter crops is underway and planting of summer crops has been completed. However, during mid and late November our irrigation district received rain from widespread thunderstorms, (thankfully not as much as Deniliquin), this has obviously slowed harvest down, and reduced the demand for irrigation water. We stopped pumping irrigation water on two occasions during November, due to these rain events.

Water

Total General Security water pumped in November – 4388 ML

Year to Date – 17235 ML (Including 4779ML of Supplementary Water)

Blow grass is again causing problems throughout the district, if you see a build up, please contact your Channel Attendant or the Office, so that we can keep on top of it. Brett is continuing to spray Cumbungi and Tony has been busy de-silting and removing aquatic weeds from Lateral 8 and Lateral 5.

I congratulate Brett for successfully gaining his HC truck license, this will help with tanker deliveries and moving plant around the district.

The NSW Premier, Chris Minns and NSW Minister for Agriculture, Tara Moriarty, have recently announced a **\$250 million Drought Ready and Resilient Fund** and a **\$120 million Drought Infrastructure Fund**. These funds may be of assistance to Members of WCPID.

Applications can be made through the NSW Rural Assistance Authority (RAA).

Who can access the loan?

*The **Drought Ready and Resilient Fund loan** is available to eligible sole traders, partnerships, trusts or private companies who operate in the primary production sector in NSW.*

To be eligible, applicants must earn at least 50% of gross income or at least \$75,000 in one year from the primary production business or be a bona fide primary production enterprise.

Detailed eligibility criteria is provided in the Drought Ready and Resilient Fund program guidelines on the [RAA website](#).

What can the loan be used for?

Drought Ready and Resilient Fund loans can be used for a broad range of products, activities and services, including:

- *the purchase and transportation of fodder and water*
- *livestock feeding equipment*
- *veterinary and animal welfare professional services*
- *genetic banking*

- *fencing and containment pens*
- *shade structures*
- *planting of trees*
- *farm income diversification projects*
- *pest and weed control*
- *solar power conversion*
- *soil conservation and earthworks*
- *training and development*
- *infrastructure repairs and maintenance*
- *the purchase and installation of new on-farm infrastructure.*

Detailed eligible activities are provided in the Drought Ready and Resilient Fund program guidelines on the [RAA website](#).

What are the loan terms?

Loans are up to a maximum of \$250,000.

A concessional interest rate is applied to Drought Ready and Resilient Fund loans. The interest rate changes monthly and is published on the [RAA website](#). The rate applied to the loan is determined on the date the loan is first drawn down and is fixed for the life of the loan.

Loans can be repaid monthly, quarterly, bi-annually, or annually over a term of five or ten years.

What is required to apply?

When you lodge an application for a loan, you will need:

- *financial statements and taxation returns of the primary production enterprise and related individuals for the past three years*
- *Local Government Area rates notice*
- *signed mortgagee consent form (if applicable)*
- *Farm Business Resilience Plan (or equivalent) for your primary production enterprise*
- *trust deed (if applicable)*
- *monthly cash flow budget for the next 12 months.*

How to apply:

Applications for the Drought Ready and Resilient Fund can be made online via the [RAA website](#).

December means Christmas, it seems to come along quicker and quicker every year, this year being no exception!

On behalf of the Board of Management, and the staff, I wish all the members of West Corugan Private Irrigation District, and your families, a very Merry Christmas.

Peter Hamilton
General Manager

Office Administration

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

No, I did not forget to change the wording from last month's Corurgan Comment.

I want to say Thank You again.

Thank you to those previously Zone 5 Members, who are now Zone 4 Members, and who so promptly returned their signed updated Landholder Detail Forms.

Zone 5 Members required their records to be amended to Zone 4.

Sadly, the more difficult part is getting the amended Landholder Detail Forms signed and returned!

So, whilst this is a Thank you, it is also a FRIENDLY REMINDER.

[I know you love my Friendly Reminders] 😊

It was quite a bit of work to amend all the individual farm details (not just Groups), so it would be appreciated if we could have it all finalised before Christmas.

SO, PLEASE, IF YOU WERE IN ZONE 5, CHECK YOUR MAIL AND SIGN AND RETURN THE UPDATED LANDHOLDER DETAIL FORM(S).

We even provided a stamped-addressed envelope, so no excuses.

Ooops! No excuses Sorry! Apart from HARVEST!! 😊

Thank
You



Office Hours Over Christmas

The West Corurgan Office will close early on Friday 22nd December and will re-open on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

Water Bailiffs Over Christmas

Water Bailiffs will continue working as per their Roster.

Northern Run – 0407 152 051 – Ben or Peter Bolt alternating

Southern Run – 0409 079 894 – Craig or Peter Bolt alternating

General Manager

Peter is available in an EMERGENCY – 0448 852 392



Water Tanker

We will NOT be in a position to drop everything and deliver a tanker load of water.

So, PLAN AHEAD!

If you know you have guests visiting over the Christmas/New Year period, please check your water levels, check that your tanks don't leak, and check your pumps are in good working order.

If you know your tanks leaks and/or your tank pump is a bit dodgy then get it fixed now.

Check the true level of your tanks and fill them early.

Ringin Friday 22nd December at 12 noon will not get the response you want to hear.



Selling Allocation Water

We still 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 willing to sell it for, and if you wish the change the value, please contact the office.

Congratulations to Brett

Well Done, Brett.

On Tuesday 28.11.2023 Brett successfully completed the driving test for his HC Licence.

So, now you will see Brett in the prime mover delivering tanker water.

Another string to his bow and greater flexibility for West Corurgan. WIN. WIN.



Update: Accounts - Feasibility Study

During November we paid invoices totalling \$12,609.55 (excl GST) related to the Feasibility Study. As at 30.11.2023, the Feasibility money had paid invoices to the value of **\$1,324,172.96 (excl GST)**. As at 30.11.2023 the balance of the Gov't Feasibility Funding Bank Account = \$84,567.10. 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,

Those of you who are regular readers of the *Corurgan Comment* might recall from the last edition that I expected that to be my last contribution!

Well, the good (or otherwise!) news is that it wasn't – but this one should (definitely) be!

There is not too much more to report!

As I mentioned in the previous edition, the Cost-Benefit analysis is the last major piece of work to be completed. A draft was presented to the Board at its November meeting. The Board requested a bit more information and analysis to be done. This is now complete, and a final (draft) has been provided to the Board for their review and endorsement.

With this now (all but) finalised, the Feasibility Study report should also be concluded very shortly – with it due for submission to the funding bodies by mid-December. Concurrently, following on from the strong endorsement of Members at the October Member meetings, an application to the Commonwealth is also being developed for potential funding of 'priority works'.

This application will be assessed by a range of State and Federal Agencies. And whilst I do not speak on behalf of the Board, I can be confident in saying that any potential funding and/or water entitlement return for the environment will not be agreed to by the Board without speaking again to you as Members. As I have mentioned a number of times, in any of the decision's the Board has made in relation to this modernisation project, I can be unequivocal in saying that impacts on Members (both positive and negative) have always been at the forefront of their thinking. I am confident that should things proceed, this will be no different!

Whilst the majority of irrigators are not overly happy with the outcome of the recent legislative changes to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan (the so-called 'Restoring our Rivers' Bill), the proposed changes to the delivery timeframes of water recovery projects may actually help West Corurgan if ultimately you decide to enter into an Agreement with the Commonwealth. Before the new Bill, projects had to be completed by June 2024 – and given the scale of the potential West Corurgan project, this would have been impossible to achieve. Extending the delivery timeframes out to the end of 2026 will certainly allow West Corurgan enough time to implement a modernisation project should it be approved and accepted.

Should anyone want to know a bit more about the proposed legislative changes – you can use this link to access a Fact Sheet from the Department - [Water amendment \(Restoring Our Rivers\) Bill 2023 Fact Sheet - DCCEEW](#)

As always, we'd like to thank the Australian Government for their on-going commitment to, and funding of, this project, Water Infrastructure NSW for their continued support and high-level management, and to you, the Members, for your ongoing interest in the project.

Finally, wishing you a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable festive season, and hope your harvest goes as well as you had hoped!

Adrian Smith

Please look after yourselves

Harvest has been in full swing for a few weeks now, and apart from a mini break at the end of November due to the rain, everyone has been sitting in trucks and headers for far too long. Everyone is starting to feel very weary.

To help you loosen up after long days sitting, I have provided a sheet of stretches that are easy to follow and will really help. (Refer last page).

Actually, they are great for everyone, farmer or not.



The Power of the Editor

Nepotism is Back! Again!

More accurately, Alexandra, my daughter, is back.

After leaving Australia on New Years Day 2011 at the tender age of 18.5yo to study and play College tennis in America, then more study in London, and with only infrequent trips home during all this time, she is finally returning home on 20th January 2024. YAY!

Not that I am counting the days or anything! 😊

More good news, she has a job in Melbourne, so relatively easy to catch up with.

Let's hope she continues to write articles that we can all benefit from.



Christmas is nearly on our doorstep, so It would be remiss of me not to provide some light-hearted relief as you whistle a carol or two.

Good Bad Jokes

What happens to Christmas Elves when they are naughty?
Santa gives them the sack!



Why was the Snowman sorting through the carrots?
He was picking his nose.



What do you get when you cross a Snowman with a Vampire?
Frostbite



And One for my sheep farmers.....

What do you get if a sheep walks under a rain cloud?
A sheep who is 'under the weather'.



This joke is a great 'play on words' on so many levels.



Christmas Recipe

Maybe use Alexandra's healthy 'Carrot Cake Bites' recipe from last month's CC, only **dye the coconut with red and green food colouring**.

Hey Presto, you have a festive, healthy, bite-size treat for your guests.

CARROT CAKE BITES

Recipe from Sports Dietitian Australia (SDA)
Refuel Magazine.

Energy booster.

MAKES 12 BALLS

- 1½ cups almond meal
- ½ cup raisins
- 1 medium carrot, finely grated, squeeze out the juice
- 1 tbsp peanut butter
- 1 tbsp honey
- 1 tbsp linseeds
- 1 tsp ginger
- ½ tsp cinnamon

OPTIONAL:
desiccated coconut, to coat

1. Place all ingredients in a bowl (except coconut) and mix until well combined.
2. Roll a tbsp. of mixture into a ball and repeat for remaining mixture. Place on a tray or baking paper.
3. Place coconut in a shallow bowl and roll each ball in the coconut to coat.
4. Place in a sealable container and store in fridge to set.
5. Enjoy as pre round snack or during a round. >



Adult Puzzle

Keep your guests entertained with a **Christmas Sudoku Puzzle**.
Bet they haven't done a Sudoku like this before!

Farm (110) – I heard that!

There will be no disparaging comments about my puzzles or what I can do with them!!



Name: _____ Date: _____

Reindeer Sudoku

		E			
		M			X
L			B		
	B				M
		L			
			M		E

BLIXEM

				R	
	S				
	H		E		
				A	
R					S
	A	E		H	

DASHER

DANCER

	C				
N			D		
C					N
E	D				
A	E			C	D

SLEIGH

S					
	G	I	S		
				S	
G			H		
				L	E
			G		



I sincerely hope everyone has a lovely Christmas with family & friends.

*And to all the men; just smile and say, 'Thank you' when you receive new jocks and socks!
Unless of course you receive STEP ONE jocks, in which case give a Big Hug, because they are the best!*

Or so I am told.



Debbie

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

STRETCHING EXERCISES

