

CORURGAN COMMENT

Circ. No 12 – 2024
December 2024



Have You Voted Yet? Do it Now!

Welcome to the December 2024 Corurgan Comment.

We have sent out the New Rules and Works Plan, I remind all eligible voters that they **must** vote on the resolution to **Accept and Adopt the New West Corurgan Board of Management Rules, as recommended by the West Corurgan Board of Directors.** I encourage all eligible voters to cast their vote as early as possible either by email, post or in person at our Berrigan office.

Early voting will close Friday 7th February.

A General Meeting will be held at the Oaklands RSL Bowling Club on Wednesday 12th February, at 5pm, where the resolution will be formally presented to the Members, those who have not already voted will be able to vote at the General Meeting.

Heavy rain in the last week of October unfortunately postponed harvest for many of our landholders. Berrigan recorded the highest fall, we tipped out a total of 130mm from the gauge at the office and 120mm from the gauge at the Corowa pumps. I hope the remaining winter crop harvest continues as quickly as possible and not too much damage is done. On the positive side of receiving a good dump of rain, and as the old saying goes, ***“with every cloud there is a silver lining”***, this rain has the summer crops jumping out of the ground, there are some very nice stands of lucerne, potatoes are up, corn is in and growing, the rice has been a little slow but looks a lot happier now, and the cotton is starting to get going as well.

WaterNSW and WAMC have submitted their pricing proposal for IPART to review. The pricing proposal put forward by WaterNSW and WAMC is to recover the costs that WaterNSW and WAMC incur for delivery of water, infrastructure maintenance and operation, environmental projects, and regulatory obligations, as determined by Government departments. IPART will review and determine the prices that WaterNSW and WAMC can charge water users for the next 5 years, 01/07/2025 until 30/06/2030. These charges are the **pass-through charges** that are included in your Fixed Government General Security Water Entitlement Fee, Stock and Domestic fixed Government Fee, and Water Consumption Fee.

West Corurgan strongly oppose the pricing proposal put forward by WAMC and WaterNSW.

Please read the submission that Debbie and I have forwarded to IPART opposing the pricing proposal.

Year to date Water Pumped

July	- 0ML
August	- 3445ML
September	- 9049ML
October	- 5552ML
November	- <u>4548ML</u>
YTD Total	- 22594ML

Allocation Announcement- (47%)

Allocation remains at 47% with no increase received on 1st December.

Current Dam Levels

Dartmouth Dam – 88%

Hume Dam - 56%

Maintenance

We are now into general maintenance season, fixing leaks, de-silting and removing weeds. Spraying of Laterals, access tracks and around wheels.

I would like to wish you all, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Peter Hamilton
General Manager

Office Administration



DEBBIE NOT HAPPY!!

As you are aware the West Corugan Office is not a Water Broker.

However, we are more than happy to let members know if we have other members wishing to buy or sell water and the expected price.

We even prepare all the paperwork, especially for internal trades, and simply ask for a signature and/or a credit card. Done!

BUT, what we are NOT HAPPY with is to find ourselves in the difficult position of telling a member that the other member has 'changed their mind' after paperwork has been signed.

Our members act in good faith if Jasmeen or I ring and say, 'We have a buyer for XX ML at XX \$price. They say Yes to the sale and the paperwork is prepared promptly and emailed to both parties. We do this to make the transfer as smooth as possible for both members, and I freely admit, for the Office as well.

Needless to say, 'changes of mind' increase paperwork, disappoint & frustrate members and reflect poorly on the Office. Now, that makes me cross!

West Corugan prides itself on members having confidence in the Office, the Staff, and the Board. Let's not erode that confidence.

So, the moral of this story.....

Think before you buy!

Debbie



Ugly, cross Dragon.

Not cute, 'friendly reminder' Dragon

Invoicing – January Half-yearly fees will be emailed out early in the New Year – hopefully on 9th January. SO, IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR **JULY** HALF-YEARLY FEES, PLEASE DO SO ASAP!!



Update: Accounts - Feasibility Study

Our formal Application to the Government for Modernisation Funding is almost done.

Water Tanker Deliveries

Have you checked the water level in your tanks?

Please do it this week.

Brett & Tony are on leave as from Monday 23 December, so expecting a tanker load of water to be delivered the day before Christmas would be highly problematic.



NEW RULES

HAVE YOU VOTED YET?

Many eligible voters have not yet voted.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILS DATED 21st and 22nd November. (We emailed out over two days).

TO VOTE, ALL YOU WILL NEED TO DO IS, **REPLY EMAIL**, and say:

YES, I vote to accept the Resolution.

The Resolution is:

RESOLUTION:	To Accept and Adopt the New West Corugan Board of Management Rules, as recommended by the West Corugan Board of Directors. Rules effective 1 st March 2025.
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If you prefer to vote by paper, print the Voting Paper included in the Voting' Package' emailed and post back to WCPID.

OR,

You are most welcome to visit the Office and vote at the office.

Early votes must be received by 12 noon, Friday 7th February 2025.

For about 5-minutes I was hopeful that I would not need to chase too hard. Farm (610) was fantastic. They voted immediately! Great response. Thank you Farm (610), you were the first to respond and my little ray of sunshine. Sadly, it has been cloudy ever since!



As at 2.00pm 6 th December we have only received a total of 89 Votes. We need 180!

SO PLEASE VOTE NOW!

A GENERAL MEETING FOR ALL MEMBERS IS STILL REQUIRED TO BE HELD.

DATE: WEDNESDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2025, 5.00PM.

VENUE: OAKLANDS RSL BOWLING CLUB

All Members are invited to attend this General Meeting where the Resolution will be formally presented to Members.

Those eligible voters who have not already voted early may still vote 'on the night'.

Early votes, plus those cast on the night will constitute the Total Votes.
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If you have any questions relating to the New Rules and/or the voting process please don't hesitate to contact the Office.

Remember: We need 2/3 of eligible voters to vote to accept the Board's recommendation to accept the New Rules in order for them to be adopted.

IPART – Price determination period 2025-2030

WaterNSW & the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) have submitted their proposed prices for the 2025-2030 period. IPART will review and in June provide the new prices for 2025-2030.

These prices are then adjusted for CPI each year during that 5-year period.

They do not include IIO fees or their likely price increases over the same period.

Those organisations impacted by the proposed prices have been asked to provide submissions to IPART.

We have sent a submission opposing the proposed prices, as too have MIL and Murray Regional Strategy Group.

Why? Because the proposed price increases – **which are the pass-through charges only** – are huge!!

We are not talking 8-9% increases each year for the next 5-years.

We are talking 22-25% increases every year for the next 5-years!

I stress these are only proposed prices, but we do want Members to be aware that price rises are inevitable, they are coming and they won't be insignificant.

This is another topic we would like to discuss at our February General Meeting, so please try and come on Wednesday 12 February 2025 - 5.00pm - Oaklands RSL.

Below are the links to the proposed prices put forward by WaterNSW and WAMC.
Our actual Submission is provided separately.

[2024-Pricing-proposal-WAMC.PDF](#)

[2024-Pricing-Proposal-WaterNSW.PDF](#)

Staff

- Poor Craig has been laid-up with a bad back for 3-weeks, but has now returned to work.
- Jasmeen is off to India for 2-months.
She leaves on Friday 20th December and returns on Monday 17th February.
Her brother is getting married, so it is an exciting time in the Kaur household.
- And more good news for Jasmeen..... Her Permanent Resident Status was granted in November.
I might add, it took four-years! But great news. Congratulations, Jasmeen.



Christmas Staff & Office Hours

Office Open:

Monday 23 December

Office Closed:

Tuesday 24 December

Wednesday 25 - Christmas Day

Thursday 26 – Boxing Day

Friday 27 December

Monday 30 December

Tuesday 31 December

Wednesday 1 January 2025 – New Year's Day



The Office will re-open Thursday 2 January 2025.

Peter Hamilton will be contactable over the Christmas/NewYear period **in an emergency.**

Otherwise, please contact your Water Bailiff for all water related matters.

Our very own **Geoff Moar** may no longer be a West Corugan Director, but he continues to advocate on behalf of all irrigators in the Murray Region as Chair of the Murray Regional Strategy Group.

He is continually meeting with those that need to know the true 'on-the-ground' situation.

I do know Murray Regional Strategy Group also wrote a Submission to IPART regarding the proposed prices for 2025 to 2030. MRSG strongly opposed the pricing structure presented, as did WCPID.

Thank you, Geoff, for your work and that of the Murray Regional Strategy Group.



WATER

Group welcomes MDBA talk

By Geoff Adams

A NSW water lobby group has been encouraged by its latest meeting with Murray-Darling Basin Authority executives.

Participants attending a workshop in Deniliquin on Thursday, November 21 said they believed senior personnel from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority "are listening to us", and said they did not believe this had previously occurred in such a genuine and transparent manner.

The workshop was organised by the Murray Regional Strategy Group, which hosted the MDBA's chief executive Andrew McConville, and its river management executive director Jacqui Hickey.

They spoke about developments in basin plan implementation, including work being undertaken on the basin plan review, which will be submitted in late 2026.

There was discussion throughout the workshop around constraints management, amid a realisation there are numerous restrictions which could make it impossible to deliver legislated volumes of water from one end of

the system to the other.

"We were extremely grateful to Andrew and Jacqui, who made the effort to talk with us honestly and frankly about the basin plan and work being undertaken on the 2026 review," group chair Geoff Moar said.

"We were also delighted to welcome representatives from local government throughout the region, as well as others from the NSW Government's water department.

"We believe the workshop helped everyone to better understand various aspects of the basin plan, and our desire to work collaboratively with governments to deliver the best possible plan for our environment and communities which rely on the basin for their livelihood," Mr Moar said.

He acknowledged there were positive signs, including some realisation that the 'just add water' focus on delivering environmental water was not the best way to support a sustainable basin.

However, Mr Moar said there was still concern that politics might get in the way of delivering the best



MDBA chief executive Andrew McConville, MDBA river management executive director Jacqui Hickey and Geoff Moar from the Murray Regional Strategy Group at the Deniliquin meeting.

possible plan.

"Water buybacks are not the

best way forward for many reasons, and it is disappointing

that Federal Water Minister Tanya Plibersek continues

this unnecessary focus on buybacks when there are other preferable and achievable solutions.

"While the minister says all options are on the table, in reality that's not what we are seeing," Mr Moar said.

Others who addressed the workshop were Samantha McCallum, Murray-Darling Basin and Intergovernmental at NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water director; Tim Horne, who presented a proposal to overcome issues with Menindee Lakes; and Louise Burge, who gave a comprehensive presentation on unique issues in the NSW Murray and its tributaries and the NSW Murray Valley Adaptive Road Map which provides pathways to improve water delivery.

Mr Moar said they were keen to host Minister Plibersek, and hoped she would respond positively to their invitations.

"As the key decision-maker, it is important she has a more thorough understanding of the system and best ways to achieve the environmental outcomes that everyone wants," Mr Moar said.