



Western Murray Irrigation Ltd

Newsletter

January 2020

From the CEO

The continuing dry and hot conditions in the second quarter of 2019/20 has resulted in a 7% increase above the 5-year average of the volume of water pumped by WMI.

The climate outlook for February to April indicates above average maximum and minimum temperatures across most of Australia, though the outlook for rainfall is mostly neutral (neither above or below the average).

River water quality over the summer months has been poor as a result of high levels of bryozoans (plumatella), silt and blue-green algae. Snails remain a problem at several customer outlets. Our hydrogen peroxide treatment will resume when flows begin to reduce around end February/March, and over time it is expected to reduce some of the organic build-up.

Smoke from the devastating bushfires (triggering sensitive fire detection systems) and grid power surges present ongoing challenges to pump stations though WMI staff are managing these well.

Our Curlwaa and Coomealla generators are fully operational and on stand-by with staff training completed. Staff also recently completed fire warden and fire extinguisher training.



Staff recently completed fire management training at the Coomealla depot.

25th AGM update

The WMI AGM was held on 26 November 2019.

All the business proposed was successfully completed including:

- Appointment of two member directors (Justin Kassulke as Curlwaa director and Kevin Watson as Coomealla director); and
- Consideration of the 2019 Audited Financial Statements and auditor's report.

WMI's inaugural Chairman from 1995, Mr Ian Murdoch, gave an informative talk at the conclusion of the AGM about his experience with the privatisation process and thoughts for the future which was carried by acclamation.

WMI Board and management would like to sincerely thank all shareholders who attended or submitted proxies for the 25th AGM proceedings.

A copy of the 2019 Annual Report was mailed to each shareholder and is also available on the website.



Second Quarter Invoice 2019/20
Due for payment:
4.30pm on
Friday 14 February 2020

On-call Officer
24 hours/365 days
Ph: 0428 596 428

Office Hours: 9:00am to 4:30pm
Monday to Friday, ex. public holidays
Contact us:
T: (03) 5027 4953
F: (03) 5027 4880

www: westernmurray.com.au
E: enquiries@westernmurray.com.au

Upcoming office closures:

Australia Day
Monday 27 January 2020

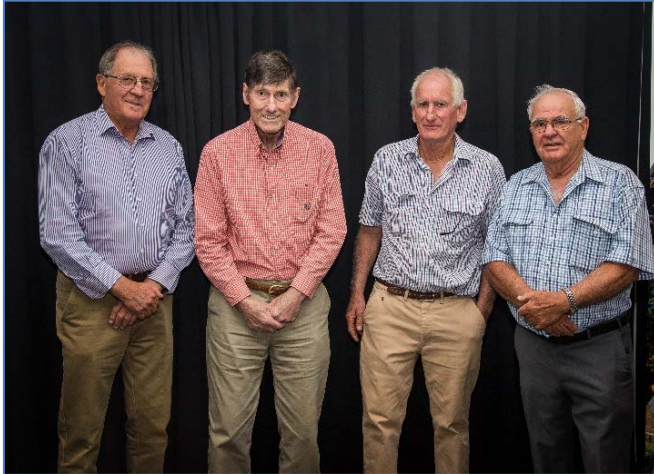
Easter
Friday 10 April 2020 and
Monday 13 April 2020



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Inaugural WMI directors (1995) present at the AGM
L to R: Howard Jones; Col Thompson; Ian Murdoch
and Rod Taylor.



Chair, Kevin Watson, and CEO, Judith Damiani present
to shareholders at the 2019 AGM.

Board elects Kevin Watson as Chair

The WMI Board, at their first meeting following the AGM, held on 5 December 2019 elected:

- Kevin Watson as Chair; and
- Justin Kassulke as Deputy Chair.

Recruitment of an Independent Chair

As part of the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan, The WMI Board has undertaken an executive search for WMI's inaugural Independent Chair to steer the organisation through its next phase of innovation and growth.

New staff

Customers may have already noticed some new staff members. They are:

- Chloe McLeish, Finance Officer; and
- Wes Marks, Operations Supervisor.

They are keen to learn about your business and provide the best possible service, so if you are in the



WMI shareholders attended the 25th AGM and
commemorative dinner.

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office, or see them out in the field, please introduce yourself.

Metering & Telemetry project update

(updated 17 January 2020)

WMI continues the installation of new meters and telemetry units at eligible sites. Around 40% of Coomealla meters are now installed.

Customers with completed installations will receive documentation including a one-page meter user guide.

The telemetry system is expected to commence proof of performance testing mid-January.

WMI is currently upgrading its *Order Water* page to include live data and make it easier to use.

WMI would like to thank all customers who have cooperated during the installation, in particular, Ian Murdoch who pulled out some vines to make the process safer and the site more practical.



Thanks to Ian Murdoch who voluntarily pulled some vines and posts to assist the installation process.

WMI appointed to service Mourquong irrigation area

WMI has been appointed by Mourquong Co-operative Rural Society Ltd to service its irrigation and drainage infrastructure as well as customer billing and enquiries commencing 15 November 2019.

WMI has 25 years of experience in managing irrigation supply for over 400 customers in the Coomealla, Curlwaa and Buronga irrigation areas. The WMI staff will bring their extensive knowledge to review and improve the Mourquong system in line with industry best practice over time working closely with the Mourquong Cooperative Directors.

WMI and Mourquong Co-operative have also signed a Heads of Agreement which formalises the intention to enter into negotiations for WMI to acquire the Mourquong Co-operative assets.



Vince DeMaria, Mourquong Co-operative Director/Secretary, and Kevin Watson, WMI Chair.

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Second quarterly invoice due for payment

The second quarter invoice for 2019/20 is now available and due for payment on or before Friday 14 February 2020.

Please contact the office before the due date if there are any difficulties in prompt payment of accounts.

Additional Water Fee reminder

Water usage above allocation is billed quarterly at \$1,200/ML (currently under review).

With the dry weather persisting, please ensure you **always have a positive water allocation in your account**, in order to meet your needs for the current irrigation season.

Customers should contact the friendly office staff for more information.

Blue Green Algae Alerts

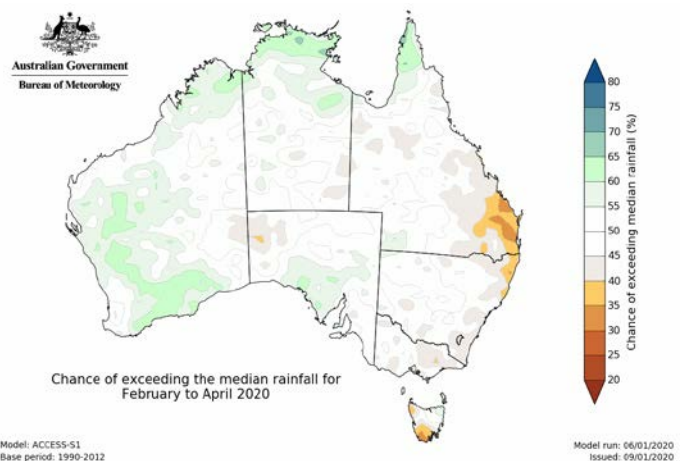
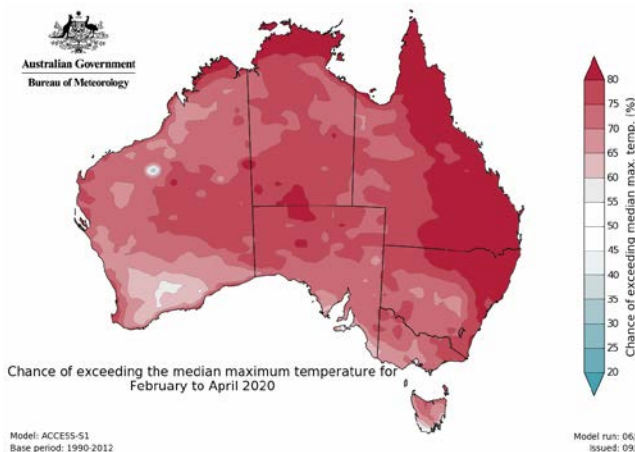
WaterNSW provides algal alerts on their website: www.waternsw.com.au/water-quality/algae.

The red alerts have been lifted (13 January 2020) but it is advised to check the alerts regularly as algal concentrations can change rapidly.

Blue Green Algae updates are also provided on the WMI website and customers are sent SMS notifications. To receive SMS notifications directly to your phone please ensure we have your correct mobile number by calling the office on 5027 4953 or emailing enquiries@westernmurray.com.au

Climate Outlook: February to April 2020

The Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting warmer conditions for most parts of Australia with a more neutral outlook for rain:



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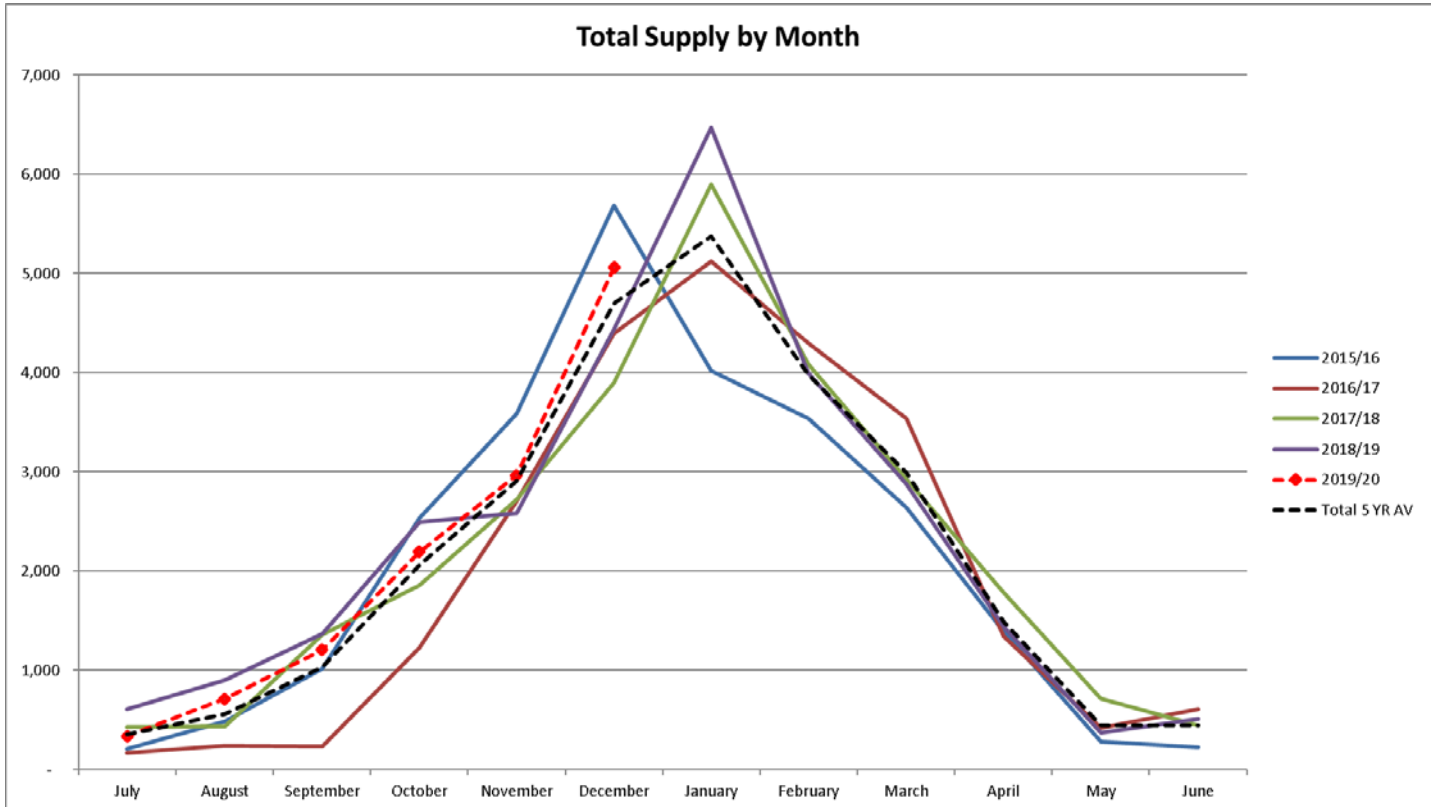
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Total Water Pumped over 5 Years



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