



Western Murray Irrigation Ltd

# Newsletter

August 2020

## From the CEO

Significantly high water allocation prices for most of last year and reasonable rain events in March and April contributed to a 4% decrease below the 5-year average of the volume of water pumped by WMI in 2019-20.

Coomealla decreased by only 0.5%, Curlwaa was down 8% and Buronga decreased by nearly 22%.

NSW Murray high security allocation for 2020-21 has been confirmed at 97%.

While many parts of NSW are still in drought there has been some promising signs of recovery. The climate outlook for August to October for most of NSW indicates a wetter than average period.

WMI has welcomed customers back to the office on 15 June 2020 following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in NSW. WMI is registered as a COVID Safe business with the NSW Government. We will continue to maintain a COVID-19 free workplace by using hand sanitisers; ensuring physical distancing; regular cleaning/disinfection of high touch areas and ask that you do not visit if feeling unwell.

## Discovery of illegal works – update

As you are aware illegal works tapping into a WMI pipeline were discovered earlier this year.

WMI regards interference with our water management works and taking water without lawful authority as very serious matters.

As a result of the investigation the customers concerned have accounted for the water taken and delivery charges among other things.

WMI has sold this water on the temporary trade market late in the 2019/20 season in order to return those funds to eligible Coomealla customers.

Eligible Coomealla customers will receive these funds as additional credits on their final quarterly invoice for 2019/20.

WMI's and the NSW Natural Resource Access Regulator's investigations into these matters are continuing.

## Meter upgrade & telemetry project update

WMI has completed the installation of Siemens meters and telemetry poles at all eligible outlets in Coomealla and is part way through the Curlwaa installation.

While telemetry system checks and tests continue the new meters are ready for immediate use.

A quick-start user guide (available on the website) plus meter changeover documentation has been sent to those customers. The new meter has additional benefits including the customer resettable totaliser.

Access to real-time data will be available later in the year through a refreshed online water order/customer portal.

We would like to thank all those customers for their on-going co-operation during this project.



Final Quarter Invoice 2019/20  
Due for payment:  
By 4.30pm on  
Monday 7 September 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

T: (03) 5027 4953  
F: (03) 5027 4880

www: [westernmurray.com.au](http://westernmurray.com.au)  
E: [enquiries@westernmurray.com.au](mailto:enquiries@westernmurray.com.au)

Upcoming office closures:  
**The office re-opened to the public on  
15 June 2020 with continued  
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**Labour Day NSW**  
Monday 5 October 2020



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The first 300mm meter & telemetry installation in Coomealla is complete.

- Cathodic protection maintenance (complete)
- Calibrate sensors and fail-safes (August)

## Curlwaa

- Balance tower inspection (complete)
- Cathodic protection maintenance (complete)
- Calibrate sensors and fail-safes (September)

WMI endeavours to minimise any interruptions and will alert customers to any planned or unplanned events.

## Winter maintenance program 2020

We have our scheduled winter maintenance program planned for the 2020 winter period, larger tasks including:

### Buronga

- Pump station walkway (complete)
- HV/LV Electrical checks (complete)
- Calibrate sensors and fail-safes (in-progress)

### Coomealla

- Balance tower inspection (complete)
- Downsize Davies Shepherd mechanical meters for low water usage (in-progress)
- Replace pump B with new KSB replacement (August)
- HV/LV Checks (complete)
- Genset bunding install (complete)



Specialist electrical contractors completed all high voltage/low voltage electrical checks at the Buronga and Coomealla pump stations.

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## Buronga walkway completed

The new Buronga pump station suction jetty walkway and stair access is now complete. This provides safe and efficient access to the suctions for maintenance works.

Thanks to local firm DWM Engineering who designed, manufactured and installed on time and budget to a quality finish.



## 2019/20 Surplus allocation trade result

The total volume traded was 1,135ML with nearly \$217,000 returned to customers after WMI costs were deducted.

Eligible customers will see that their final WMI bill for 2019/20 will return these funds to their account.

## Fourth quarterly invoice due for payment

The final quarterly invoice for 2019/20 is now available and is due for payment on or before Monday 07 September 2020.

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

## Delivery Entitlements can be temp traded

The annual temporary transfer of Delivery Entitlements (DEs) from one customer in the same irrigation area to another customer in the same irrigation area is possible.

A temporary transfer means the customer who receives the DEs enjoys the reduced cost of using water (for one season) by avoiding or reducing the impact of the higher Casual Users Access Fee, while the customer who acquires the DEs enjoys a reduced overall WMI bill (for one season).

WMI staff are happy to assist customers understand the costs and benefits of any such temporary transfer and can help facilitate the transaction.

Transfer forms must be lodged by Friday 25 September 2020, with the transfer applying for all of the 2020/21 season.

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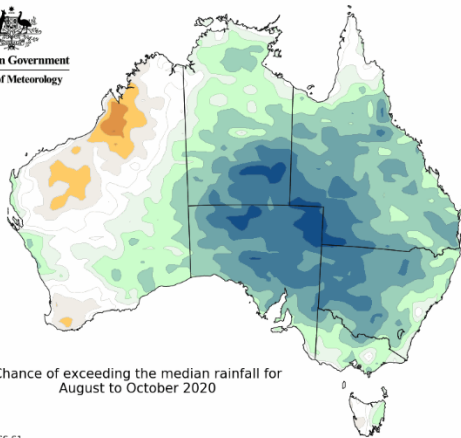
**Labour Day NSW**  
Monday 5 October 2020



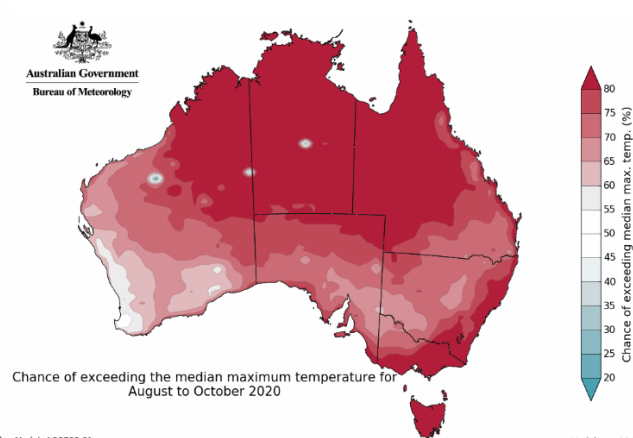


### Climate Outlook: August to October 2020

The Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting warmer and wetter conditions for many parts of Australia:



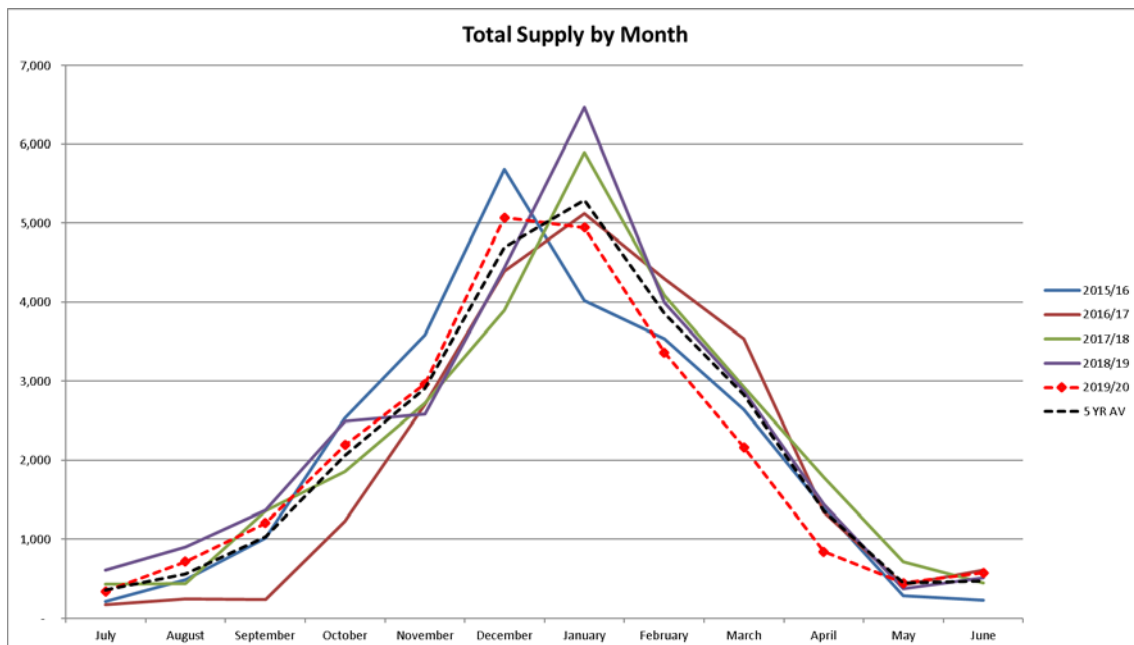
Model: ACCESS-S1  
Base period: 1990-2012



Model run: 27/07/2020  
Issued: 30/07/2020  
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### Total Water Pumped over 5 Years



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